

Activities

□ Activity 1: Adaptations

Ender's Game has been adapted into other formats, including a full-length movie and comic book series. In the comic version, words are replaced with images, and descriptions of action scenes are sometimes shortened to **onomatopoeias**. (An onomatopoeia is a word that has been constructed to recreate the sound it is meant to signify; examples include *buzz*, *thump*, and *swoosh*.)

In this activity, you will explore either the movie or comic book adaptation. Read over the options and choose one to complete. (Talk to a parent before completing either option.)

Option 1: Movie

Ender's Game was adapted into movie form in 2013. Watch the movie (available at various streaming services). As you watch, choose a scene to compare to the book's version. Re-read the scene in the book, and then re-watch the scene in the film. Take notes on the differences. Consider what information or dialogue was omitted or changed. Which version of the scene do you find more effective? Why? Discuss your notes with a parent.

Amazon Prime Video — Ender's Game

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/10493/

Amazon is one option for streaming the movie. Get a parent's permission before renting the movie.

Option 2: Comic Book

Remember when you performed a close reading of an action scene and turned it into movement with the pipe cleaner figures? This exercise will show you how Marvel Comics performed that task with still pictures in its adaptation of *Ender's Game* in comic book format.

Read the first ten pages of the adaptation, and then use the "Comic Adaptation" activity page to compare Card's original novel to Marvel's adapted version.

NOTE: The first ten pages of the comic book are no longer available online. You may be able to find the comic book at a local library or comic book store.

Activities**Activity 1: Adaptations**

Students will compare the novel to one of its adaptations, either in movie or comic-book form. The first ten pages of the comic book were previously available in an online article but are now more difficult to find.

If students would like to complete the comic book option and the comic is not available at a library or comic book shop, they may be able to locate the pages at the following website.

Ender's Game Club

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/10492/

Some of the posts on this fan page contains images from the comic book.

Option 1: Movie

For this option, students will watch the 2013 movie adaptation of *Ender's Game*, choose a particular scene, and compare the movie's version with the version in the book. They should take notes on information or dialogue that was omitted or changed and determine which version they think is more effective and why. Encourage students to share their thoughts with a parent.

NOTE: The movie is available from online streaming services (one link is provided). Students should ask parent permission before purchasing the movie.

Option 2: Comic Book

Student used the "Comic Adaptation" activity pages to compare the comic version to the novel. The answer key provides some possible answers, but other answers may also be correct.

Answer Key:

Answers will vary. These are sample answers only; there is more narration and dialogue in the novel that is not included in the Marvel adaptation. Additionally, the right-most column is the student's own opinion. Sample answers for the first two rows were provided to students.

Answer Key		
	What narration or dialogue was omitted or changed? List one.	Did Marvel communicate through pictures the message of the omitted words? If not, was that a mistake?
"I've watched through his eyes...." ..."All right...Take him."	No differences.	Not applicable.
"I suppose by now you're just absolutely sick of having that horrid monitor."..."Some people say...That feeling will pass."	Quoted Passage: It was a lie, of course, that it wouldn't hurt a bit. But since adults always said it when it was going to hurt, he could count on that statement as an accurate prediction of the future. Summary: Ender considers the way Peter would react to the absence of the monitor. This line of thinking was not included in this scene in the comic.	The glowing eyes of the adults indicate that they cannot be trusted. In this way, Marvel included the tone of the original novel. Marvel did not indicate the fact that Ender thinks about Peter when his monitor is removed. It is an important plot point that is missing.
"HNN! ..."..."We could have unplugged his brain for all time."	Quoted Passage: Ender felt a needle enter his back just above the neck of his shirt. The doctor thinks Ender may not recover. He tells the nurse to call if Ender does not regain his ability to speak.	The images of Ender writhing in pain replace the narration. Marvel was able to communicate the violence and danger through pictures.
"Are you all right, Andrew? ..."Quiet, Mister Stilson."	Passage: The teacher would know, of course, that he wasn't paying attention, but she wouldn't bother him. He always knew the answer, even when she thought he wasn't paying attention. Summary: Ender does not pay attention in school, but he does not need to. He is smart, and the teacher likes him.	This section of the adaptation does not tell us that Ender is an exceptional student. This is an important plot point that is missing. However, the comic will probably find a way to let us know soon, so this omission is acceptable.
"Hey, Third! ..."..."Lost your birdie, thirdie!"	Passage: They could say what they liked. They might even hit him now – no one could see them anymore, and so no one could come to Ender's rescue. Summary: Ender is afraid because without the monitor, he is truly alone.	The Marvel comic does not make it clear at this point that the monitor made Ender feel protected. This is an important plot point that is missing.

<p>"See-saw..."..."He's about as strong as a far —"</p>	<p>Marvel changes Stilson's quote from, "We're people, not Thirds, turd face. You're about as strong as a fart!" to "It's okay. Let him go. He's about as strong as a far —"</p>	<p>The way Stilson and the others gang up on Ender and harass him for being a Third is captured successfully in the comic.</p>
<p>"—HUUUT!!" "Huk...Huk..."</p>	<p>Passage: "But they let go of him. And as soon as they did, Ender kicked out high and hard, catching Stilson square in the breastbone. He dropped."</p>	<p>The way Ender surprises Stilson with a kick in the chest is communicated through the pictures. Marvel's adaptation here does not miss anything.</p>
<p>THUD WHUMP "You may be thinking about ganging up on me...It would be worse."</p>	<p>Passage: "Ender knew the unspoken rules of manly warfare, even though he was only six. It was forbidden to strike the opponent who lay helpless on the ground. Only an animal would do that." Summary: Ender knows that he shouldn't kick someone when he is already on the ground. He knows that the other kids will be shocked.</p>	<p>The fact that Ender knows how shocking it will be to the other kids when he kicks Stilson as he is down is not communicated in the Marvel adaptation. This is an important omission, but it does not do much to detract from the overall theme of the chapter.</p>
<p>"Geez. Look at him."... "I am just like Peter."</p>	<p>Passage: "Ender leaned his head against the wall of the corridor and cried until the bus came."</p>	<p>The stress and sadness Ender feels after the fight is well communicated by the pictures. The fact that Ender does not feel triumphant after beating up Stilson, but rather, he is depressed by the similarities between his behavior and Peter's, is captured successfully in the adapted Marvel pages.</p>
<p>"I'm sorry Ender."... "Ah. They took out his monitor."</p>	<p>Marvel added a line of dialogue to Peter's role, "What's he babbling about Valentine?"</p>	<p>The added dialogue shows that Peter is mean. It fits with the tone of the story as Card wrote it.</p>

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- Graff and Mazer both make Ender believe that great teachers have adversarial relationships with their students. Do you think that is true? (Answers will vary.)
- (For students who completed Option 1) Which was more effective — the scene from the movie or the version in the book? Why?
- (For students who completed Option 2) Did the comic book pages make you want to read more of the comic book series? Did you think their adaptation of Chapter 1 was effective? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)
- Once Ender finds out he was used for something he did not agree to, is it his responsibility to look for ways to make up for it? (Answers will vary.)