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Writing Lesson

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Speaker for the Dead

Have you ever heard of a six year old boy going to space and training for battle? Well, in the book *Ender's Game* written by Orson Scott Card, a boy named Ender Wiggin is sent to battle school in space by a man named Graff who is the principle of the battle school. When Ender goes to space, he leaves his mom, dad, brother Peter, and sister Valentine. While training to defeat an alien race, Ender learns that the real bad guys are the humans, mainly because of the lack of communication between the humans and the buggers. Secondly, even though the buggers tried to invade earth, all they wanted was peace but it turns out that the buggers are more forgiving than the humans. Lastly, the humans find out that the buggers are nice after Ender almost wipes them all out. But even after that, they still forgave the humans.

If the humans tried to create a communication device to talk to the buggers, then the buggers would have forgiven them. But because they didn't understand them, this lack of communication lead to the near extinction of the buggers. Ender says, "so this whole war is because we can't talk to each other." Ender is literally saying that if there was some sort of communication method, the war would not have happened. Ender basically said they are fighting a war because they can't talk. This is just like during the Vietnam War, when Paul Potter says, "And yet in a world where dictatorships are so commonplace and popular control of government so rare, people become callous to the misery that is implied by dictatorial power." The humans

were like the dictators in Vietnam and didn't care enough to communicate because they just wanted to take over anyway. Ender says the war is because of miscommunication, and that makes the humans the bad guys because all the buggers want is to live in peace.

The mass-killing of the buggers is unfair because they only want peace. In chapter 15, Ender gets a mind message from the bugger queen that says "we are like you, we did not mean to murder, we thought we were the only thinking beings in the whole universe". They're saying we are sorry for any human deaths caused by them and that they hope the humans forgive them. But that was after the humans thought they wiped them out. This is just like during the Vietnam War, when Paul Potter says, "The pattern of repression and destruction that we have developed and justified in the war is so thorough that it can only be called cultural genocide." The humans in the novel commit genocide on the buggers. Ender had an idea that they weren't the bad guys, but was just going off what other humans were saying, who were the real bad guys.

The buggers were completely misunderstood, which led to their near extinction. When the humans talk about the buggers they describe them as terrible ugly mean creatures. But it turns out that they were peaceful creatures and all they wanted to do was live in harmony with the humans. Towards the end of the book, Ender can understand what the bugger queen is thinking and what she is thinking was not fear of the humans coming to kill them but she thought "they did not forgive us we will surely die". This is just like during the Vietnam War, when Paul Potter says, "Perhaps what the President means when he speaks of freedom is the freedom of the American people." Just like America in Vietnam, the humans in the book didn't even try to communicate with or befriend the buggers. When Ender finds the queen, he decides that he wants to help them recolonize.

The lack of communication between the humans and the buggers caused the humans to nearly wipe out the entire alien race. Only after this does Ender realize that the buggers are nice creatures, making him learn that he really does want to help them start over. As a result of the humans being narrow-minded, they just wanted to literally take the buggers out of the universe. This teaches that world leaders should always try to talk to an enemy before declaring war.