Keeley September 17, 2015

When you are born to a family with a very evil and insolent brother, and a sister who is full of compassion and pacific, you might often find yourself wondering if you are good or evil. Ender Wiggin in Orson Scott Card’s novel Ender’s Game is in the same situation, battling good like his sister Valentine and evil like his brother Peter. He wants to be good, but is his bad side too much? Is he truly evil? No. Ender can be evil occasionally, but overall he is mainly good. He is good because he gives credit to his troops, he hates himself when he is evil, and he does not cheat during battles. That overtakes the evilness in him. Ender is good for several different reasons. First, he gives his troops credit and power. He listens to their thoughts and ideas. As the commander of the Dragon Army, Ender made small groups for his soldiers and made his best soldiers “toon leaders” (small leader) of the groups, he gave his team power. In a conversation Graff and Ender had Ender gave his troops credit, “’To what, commander of Dragon Army do you attribute your remarkable success? ‘You gave me an army that does whatever I can think of it to do’” (228). That proves Ender is good because he doesn’t not only give power and credit to himself but also gives it to all of his troops. He is not selfish and insolent like Peter. Another reason Ender is good is that he hates himself when he is evil like Peter. For example, when Ender first got his monitor off, he thought he was going to be left alone for the first time in his life, but that did not happen. Stilson, a boy that is known for being mean to him, started making fun of him. Ender wanted to end Stilson as a bully! Ender hurt Stilson so bad he could have died. The look in Stilson’s face was so horrible, and miserable “Ender couldn’t help it he was afraid, too ashamed of his own act; though he didn’t want to, he cried again” (49). A mean person wouldn’t hate being mean. They would like it the way Peter does. Ender wouldn’t be ashamed of what he did. Even though it was not okay for Ender to do that, and even though it was an evil act, he did not mean to hurt Stilson. Ender only wanted Stilson to leave him alone. Ender used self-defense, and that does not make him evil. The final proof that Ender is good is he does not cheat during battles. He plays by the rules that they change just to beat him. He is good enough, that he could win by cheating without being caught, but Ender is too good to cheat. “They were one unfairness to many” (267). Graff is the unfair one, not Ender. He could cheat, but he wouldn’t do that. Instead he uses his intelligence to win. Ender is not as good as Valentine, but he is not as evil as Peter. He falls somewhere between the two. Ender is not a saint, but he is also not a Hitler. He cannot stand himself when he is evil, he gives credit to his troops, and he does not cheat during a battle. Ender participates in a lot of battles, but his biggest battle is between good and evil. In the end most people want to be good even though we are sometimes tempted to be bad. Will Ender Wiggin end up fighting for good against evil? Time will tell the truth, but at this point in the novel, Ender’s good side is proving to be stronger than his evil side.