

Speaker for the Dead Study Guide

Speaker for the Dead by Orson Scott Card

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Plot Summary

Speaker for the Dead is the sequel to Orson Scott Card's sci-fi adventure, *Ender's Game*. *Speaker for the Dead* takes place several thousand years after the extermination of the alien race, the buggers. A new alien race has been discovered on a newly populated planet, Luisitania. The members of the Luisitania colony have been given permission to study this new race, but are forbidden to influence the evolution of the alien race. However, the true trouble begins after one of those trusted to study the new aliens is found murdered in a disturbing way. Ender himself learns of the murder and comes to the planet to investigate, revealing not only the truth about the alien race, but also revealing some hard to accept truths about the colonists who reside on the planet. *Speaker for the Dead* is a novel of sin and redemption that will please sci-fi and mainstream fans alike.

Pipo is one of the xenologers who has the great honor of studying the porquinhos, or piggies, who reside on the planet Luisitania. Pipo is a good xenologer who struggles with the rules imposed on him by the Starways Congress to refrain from influencing the development of the piggy civilization. Pipo learns all he can from the alien race through observation, which is painfully little. Pipo works with his son, Libo, and a girl from the village who has taken the tests to become a xenobiologist at an early age. When this girl, Novinha discovers in her work that the same disease that killed her parents within days of their having found a cure still exists within the planet, Pipo becomes excited and rushes out to visit with the piggies. However, Pipo does not come back and Novinha and Libo later find him murdered in a most disturbing way.

Convinced that the knowledge she learned killed Pipo, Novinha hides away her work and refuses to show it to anyone, including Libo for whom she has come to care for. Novinha calls for a speaker for the dead hoping he can help her to discover the true reason for Pipo's murder. It is through this call that Ender, who has already learned of Pipo's death, decides to go to the distant planet and do some investigating of his own. Ender, who is responsible for the death of the alien race the buggers many years before, has been searching for a planet where he could release the hive queen of the buggers whom he saved all those years ago. Ender believes this planet might be the ideal place.

While Ender is enduring the twenty year flight to Lusitania, Novinha marries a local man and gives birth to six children. However, Novinha's husband is an angry man who beats her often. Ender arrives and learns that Novinha had cancelled her call for the speaker for the dead, but that her children have called for a speaker to speak the deaths of Novinha's husband and her childhood lover, Libo, who died the same way his father Pipo did. In investigating the death of Novinha's husband, Ender becomes close to her children and Novinha herself. Ender also discovers that Novinha's husband could not possibly be the father of her six children because the genetic disease that killed him would have left him unable to have children. In truth, Libo is the father of Novinha's children.



In learning the truth of the paternity of Novinha's children, Ender learns that the reason Novinha could not marry Libo was because of the secret she showed Pipo shortly before his death and hid from Libo to prevent his own death. If Novinha had married Libo, he would have had the right to see her research and she feared this knowledge would have killed him as well. Ender investigates the piggies to not only learn about them for the sake of the hive queen, but to learn why Pipo and Libo died. Ender quickly realizes that the piggies did not think they were murdering Pipo and Libo, but honoring them with what they called the third life.

During Ender's investigations, the secret that the xenologers have been aiding the evolution of the piggies, becomes known by the Starways Congress and the colony is ordered to evacuate. Ender convinces the colonists to rebel against the Congress and to allow him to facilitate a contract between them and the piggies in order for them to all live in peace together. With this contract agreed to and signed, Ender releases the hive queen and marries Novinha, finally making a home for himself on the planet of Lusitania.



Prologue

Prologue Summary

Speaker for the Dead is the sequel to Orson Scott Card's sci-fi adventure, *Ender's Game*. *Speaker for the Dead* takes place several thousand years after the extermination of the alien race, the buggers. A new alien race has been discovered on a newly populated planet, Luisitania. The members of the Luisitania colony have been given permission to study this new race, but are forbidden to influence the evolution of the alien race. However, the true trouble begins after one of those trusted to study the new aliens is found murdered in a disturbing way. Ender himself learns of the murder and comes to the planet to investigate, revealing not only the truth about the alien race, but also revealing some hard to accept truths about the colonists who reside on the planet. *Speaker for the Dead* is a novel of sin and redemption that will please sci-fi and mainstream fans alike.

The planet of Lusitania is discovered and a colony founded in the year 1830 after the formation of the Starways Congress. Shortly after the Catholic-Portuguese colonists begin to settle on the planet, they discover a new alien race that they name porquinhos or piggies. Due to the past destruction of the alien race known as the buggers, the Starways Congress sees the piggies as an opportunity at redemption and orders that the alien race may be observed, but the observers are in no way to disturb or influence the development of this alien race.

Prologue Analysis

The prologue is important because it establishes the main characters, the colonists of Portuguese descent who participate in the Catholic religion, and the piggies, a new alien race. The introduction of the alien race is important because it is the first alien race the humans have come into contact with since the extermination of the bugger race by Ender several thousand years before. The colonists have been forbidden to influence the development of this alien race, which sets up tension within the novel from the first page since it would seem clear that two forms of humanity cannot exist on the same planet without influencing each other in some way.



Chapter 1, Pipo,

Chapter 1, Pipo, Summary

Pipo is a xenologer, a scientist who studies alien species. Pipo lives on Lusitania and it is his job to study the piggies without causing undo influence on their culture. Pipo has an apprentice, his son Libo. Pipo returns to his station after speaking with Rooter, one of the piggies, and finds the headmistress of the school waiting to talk to him. The mistress is concerned for a young girl named Novinha, the daughter of the colony's only xenobiologist who were the final victims to die while searching for a cure for a disease that killed many of the colonists, Descolada. Although only thirteen, Novinha wants to take the test to become a xenobiologist in order to continue her parents' work. The mistress would like for Pipo to oversee the examination to make sure the girl is truly ready for such a large responsibility.

Pipo speaks to the girl and decides her intentions are true, allowing her to take the test. Pipo allows the girl to work along side him and his son so that she can use their files to aid in her own research. Soon they become something like a family, the only family the girl has known since the death of her family. Tragedy touches the small family one afternoon when Libo accidentally finds himself forced to explain to Rooter the relationships between men and women in the human civilization. The next day, Libo, Pipo, and Novinha find Rooter mutilated beyond the fence keeping the two races apart with a tree growing in his chest. Some time later, Novinha shows Pipo something she has found in the local grasses of the planet, evidence of the Descolada virus living within the plant's structure. Pipo runs the test again to verify it and then runs excitedly out to speak to the piggies about what he believes he sees in the test. Novinha does not fully comprehend what Pipo sees. Novinha intends to show the test to Libo to see if he can see what Pipo saw, but when Pipo does not return in the expected amount of time, Novinha and Libo go in search of him, finding his body dissected in much the same way as the body of Rooter a few years before.

Chapter 1, Pipo, Analysis

This chapter introduces one of the main characters, Novinha. Novinha is a highly intelligent, if aloof young woman who has suffered a great loss early in her life and feels as though she did not belong to the community as a whole until she is accepted by Libo and Pipo. Finding acceptance by these two men changed Novinha's life, giving her something to live for and inspiration in her work. Novinha has found acceptance and love for the first time in her life. However, the death of Pipo is sure to impact this and that idea foreshadows the next chapter in which the reader is allowed to see Novinha's reaction to Pipo's death. This behavior pattern also foreshadows Novinha's behaviors and actions in the development of the plot throughout the rest of the novel.



Also important in this chapter is the behavior between the xenologers and the piggies. The xenologers have developed a close relationship with a few of the piggies despite the rules that keep them from questioning the piggies or influencing their development in any way. The death of Rooter is disturbing to Libo due to the fact that he felt as though he contributed to it by telling Rooter how men and women interact in the human civilization. This is important because the relationship between the xenologers and the piggies and the way the xenologers think of the piggies from their observations will drive the plot on several levels throughout the development of the novel.

Finally, important here is the budding relationship between Novinha and Libo. Novinha has never had anyone to love in her life, but suddenly there is Libo. Pipó thinks to himself at one point in the chapter that these two will eventually marry and have children of their own. This foreshadows a time later in the development of the plot when a relationship will develop between Novinha and Libo. The impact of this relationship will have great influence on many of the characters within the novel and will cause the plot to move in some interesting directions.



Chapter 2, Trondheim,

Chapter 2, Trondheim, Summary

Andrew Wiggin, or Ender, is now a speaker for the dead who lectures at a university on the planet of Trondheim. While leading a discussion on the Bugger Wars with a handful of students, Ender learns of the death of Pipo through a special jewel implanted in his ear designed to keep him in touch with all the news within the Hundred Worlds. Ender is shocked by the news because he has been following news regarding the piggies since their discovery. He is especially interested in them due to his part in the destruction of the bugger race a few thousand years before. No one knows that Andrew Wiggin is the same Ender from the bugger wars because of his young appearance, but Andrew is more than three thousand years old due to the fact that he has spent much of his life flying in hyper space. Ender listens to his students argue over his own actions in the Bugger wars before he dismisses them. As he walks away, Ender is joined by another student who expresses a desire to know more about him, suspecting there is more to Andrew Wiggin than meets the eye.

Chapter 2, Trondheim, Analysis

This chapter introduces Andrew Wiggin, or Ender, and the dislike the whole of the human race has for Ender due to the writings of a book called the Hive Queen and the Hedgemon in which the buggers are revealed to have been a kind and harmless alien race. What the people do not know is that Andrew Wiggin is both Ender and the author of the book that caused his universal disapproval. Ender has traveled for many years in hyper space, causing him to appear much younger when he is really more than three thousand years old. For this reason, no one suspects that he is Ender, foreshadowing a time when this knowledge will become public. Ender, in this chapter, appears to be a kind and gentle man who does not deserve the reputation he has earned, also foreshadowing the revelation of his actions in the Bugger Wars and whether or not he deserves the reputation he has received for it. Ender's interest in the death of Pipo is also interesting as it foreshadows Ender's involvement in the investigation of Pipo's death and the future of the piggies. Finally, this chapter begins to touch on the theme of sin and redemption as Ender's sin is revealed and the reader must begin to form an opinion on his guilt and the likelihood of his redemption.



Chapter 3, Libo,

Chapter 3, Libo, Summary

The mayor, Bosquinha, arrives at the Zenador station and takes control of the situation. Pipo's body is photographed and removed from behind the fence while Novinha and Libo are left to write out reports regarding the events of the day. Libo is then taken to the arbiter's house to spend the evening caring for his mother while Novinha's grief is overlooked by many of the officials asking questions and investigating Pipo's death. Novinha watches these people search for a reason for Pipo's death while the hologram of her tests remains above her own terminal. Novinha knows it is what Pipo saw in her work that has caused his death and she feels personally responsible. Novinha goes home with Bosquinha who finally sees her grief, but escapes as soon as she can in order to destroy her work. However, Novinha cannot destroy her files, so she hides them under the deepest security she can so no one can ever look at them again. Novinha is scared that Libo will want to see them and the knowledge that is hidden from her there will cause his death as well. When Libo comes to her later that night, Novinha realizes she will never be able to marry him as she had wanted because marriage will give him access to the files and she can never allow him that.

Chapter 3, Libo, Analysis

The aftermath of Pipo's death brings clarity to Novinha as she realizes what she has shown Pipo is what has caused his death. While everyone focuses on other possible reasons for his death, Novinha hides her research in order to protect Libo, Pipo's successor, from seeing her work and possibly causing his death as well. However, by hiding her work, Novinha knows she will never be able to marry Libo for his own protection, foreshadowing a future in which Novinha will be forced to stay away from the one man she loves. This touches on the theme of sin and redemption because Novinha believes that she is directly responsible for Pipo's death. To punish herself for this sin, Novinha will stay away from the only man she loves. This chapter also touches on the theme of loss as Novinha is once again forced to deal with the loss of someone she loves, not only Pipo who became like a second father to her, but Libo as well. The events in this chapter will greatly influence the development of the plot as Novinha is forced to remain true to the promise she has made to herself in order to protect Libo from the piggies. This too touches on the third theme of the novel, misunderstandings, as Novinha does not fully understand at this point why the piggies killed Pipo.



Chapter 4, Ender,

Chapter 4, Ender, Summary

Ender returns to his living quarters and finds Jane, an intelligence that lives in the ansible, the computer network that connects all the Hundred Worlds, who has revealed herself only to Ender. Jane has investigated the death of Pipo and designed a reenactment for Ender to see. Jane wants for Ender to go to Lusitania and gently talks him into it by revealing that Novinha has requested for a speaker for the dead to come and speak Pipo's death, giving Ender the right to go to the planet despite the strict regulations on immigration there. Ender sees an image of Novinha and finds himself quickly drawn to the pain he sees in her eyes. Jane buys a ship for Ender, revealing to him that she is anxious for him to go because after he writes a third installment to the Hive Queen and the Hedgemon about the piggies, perhaps he can write a volume about her. Another voice encourages Ender to go as well, the hive queen of the buggers that he has carried with him for thousands of years looking for a suitable place to release her again. The hive queen thinks Lusitania may be the perfect place.

Chapter 4, Ender, Analysis

Ender is talked into going to Lusitania not only by Jane, his computer friend, but by the hive queen as well. However, most important in this chapter is Ender's fascination with Novinha. Ender sees in Novinha the same pain and shame that he has carried for thousands of years due to his involvement in the annihilation of the bugger race. Not only does this touch on the theme of sin and redemption, since both characters feel they have committed a sin for which they deserve to be punished, but it foreshadows a possible romantic connection between the two since Novinha will be approximately the same age as Ender's physical age when he arrives on her planet in twenty-two years. Also important in this chapter is the introduction of the hive queen and the realization that Ender has carried the hive queen in a cocoon with him for thousands of years looking for a place to release her again in safety in order to gain some sort of forgiveness for his role in the annihilation of her entire race. This is important because it foreshadows a time when Ender must make the decision to release the cocoon into another world.



Chapter 5, Valentine,

Chapter 5, Valentine, Summary

Valentine, Ender's sister and the political writer Demosthenes, is nine months pregnant and preparing to take a group of her university students on a weekend trip on one of her husband's ships. Valentine and Ender have always traveled together through the years, but now that Valentine is married and about to become a mother, Ender knows he must leave her behind. Valentine sees Ender come toward her with a bag over his shoulder and thinks he will be joining her and her students for the weekend, something that makes her very happy despite the fact that his presence will keep her students from the creativity that is the purpose of the trip. However, Valentine soon realizes that Ender plans to leave her. Ender and Valentine argue while Valentine attempts to talk Ender out of leaving, but she fails.

In the twenty-two years of Ender's travel, despite missing her brother terribly, Valentine settles into her life and gives birth to five children. She welcomes Ender's student into her home as a tutor to the children after the student discovers the truth about Ender and Valentine. Valentine's children are raised listening to stories about their uncle and the oldest girl swears to someday join Ender in his work.

Chapter 5, Valentine, Analysis

Ender's sister has been a constant companion to him and for the first time he will be forced to leave her behind. Ender is not happy about this, but he does it because of Novinha and because of the hive queen and his search for some sort of redemption for his sins against the bugger race, touching on a theme of the novel. Valentine and Ender argue in their final moments together, but leave each other knowing the love each has for the other. In the years it takes for Ender to travel to Lusitania, Valentine gives birth to five children and takes in a student of Ender's who has discovered the truth about him. This foreshadows a time later in the novel when Valentine and her family will once again make an impact on Ender.



Chapter 6, Olhado,

Chapter 6, Olhado, Summary

The flight, despite being twenty-two years long seems like only a week to Ender. Ender spends the time learning how to speak Portuguese. When they arrive near to Lusitania, Jane reveals that Novinha's call for a speaker for the dead has been cancelled.

However, two of Novinha's children have called for speakers to speak the death of Libo, who was killed just like his father four years before, and Marcao, Novinha's husband who died only a few weeks before of a genetic disease. These calls for a speaker are Ender's invitation onto the planet despite the fact that Lusitania does not welcome strangers. Ender also learns that there is no longer a xenologist on Lusitania, but that Libo's two apprentices, his daughter Ouanda, and Novinha's son, Miro, continue to observe the piggies despite the Starways Congress's decision that no one should enter the fenced area more than once a month.

Novinha's children are in church under the watchful eye of the eldest daughter, Ela. The youngest is attempting to take apart the pews with a screwdriver, injuring a nun when she attempts to take the tool from him. Ela is watching the child so closely she does not hear the Bishop's warning about a speaker of the dead who has come to the planet until his warning is Dome. Ela is excited since she called for a speaker to speak her father's death, but did not expect him to arrive so quickly.

Ender is driven through the colony by the mayor, Bosquinha. Ender learns some of the details of the rules the colony lives under, specifically the fact that they are not allowed to let their crops grow beyond the fence around the perimeter of the colony that separates the humans from the alien race. Bosquinha also informs Ender about the hierarchy of the colony, discussing the Bishop who only tolerates the members of the Mind of the Children, a Catholic order that allows marriage between its members as long as the marriage is not consummated. This information causes Ender to reveal that he once spoke the death of San Angelo, the founder of the order.

Ender is giving a small hut to stay in during his time at the colony. Ender speaks with Jane about the colony and how he might get around in it. Jane shows him a map and how to get to Novinha's home and the location of Libo and Pipo's deaths so that he could begin his investigation. Ender leaves the hut to find someone who might escort him to Novinha's home and finds a group of children playing in the praca. One of these children is a boy with mechanical eyes. Ender requests that this child show him where Novinha's family lives and discovers the boy is one of Novinha's children, Olhado.

Miro is sitting in a tree inside the fence watching the village. Miro speaks to one of the piggies, Leaf-eater, as he watches Olhado escort a man to his home. Leaf-eater knows a speaker of the dead has arrived on the planet and wants him to be brought to the piggies. Miro refuses to promise, unsure if the speaker can be trusted. Leaf-eater leaves angry.



Chapter 6, Olhado, Analysis

Ender arrives on Lusitania twenty-two years after he left, finding that Novinha has cancelled her request for the speaker, causing Ender to be afraid she will not cooperate with him. Ender has looked forward to meeting Novinha all this time and is disappointed, but he is happy to learn that two other calls have come from her children, still giving him reason to seek her out. Ender also learns that Libo has been killed like his father, suggesting to the reader that Novinha's work is not what caused Pipo's death, foreshadowing the revelation of the true cause of Pipo's death. This also reveals that Libo's daughter and Novinha's son are now the xenologists, foreshadowing a time when these two might also find their lives in danger, bringing loss, a theme of the novel, to Novinha's door once more.

A group of Novinha's children are introduced to the reader, especially her eldest daughter, Ela. The introduction of these children is important on two points. First, they appear to be unruly children, prone to violence, suggesting a childhood that was not ideal. Second, Novinha appears to be nowhere in sight, which suggests that she has little involvement in her children's lives, harking back to the first chapter when Novinha kept herself isolated from the people around her. This shows the devastation that Pipo's death had on her despite the outward appearance of family, foreshadowing her behavior in future chapters and her lack of cooperation in Ender's investigations.

Ender is shown around the colony, discovering how the restrictions regarding the piggies affect life in the colony. Ender also reveals he spoke a death that took place a thousand years before, foreshadowing the possibility of Ender revealing his true identity later in the development of the novel's plot. Ender then retires to the hut he has been giving to stay in and reveals to the reader that Jane has overridden some of the restrictions the colony has put on him, namely allowing him to know where certain people live, and his decision to pretend that he does not have the access Jane affords him. Ender then meets Olhado, one of Novinha's children, and goes to her home. Later, the reader sees Miro speaking with a piggy who wants the speaker to be brought to him, foreshadowing a time when this might take place.



Chapter 7, The Ribeira House,

Chapter 7, The Ribeira House, Summary

Ender follows Olhado to his home and is immediately attacked by Grego, Olhado's younger brother. Ender grabs the boy, strips him of the knife he holds, and picks him up in a sort of cattle hold. Ela enters the room and insists that he let the boy go, but Ender refuses. Ender sits in a chair with Grego across his lap, his hands and legs still caught behind his back. Ender announces that he is there to see Novinha, but Ela suggests he leave since their mother is not home. Ender refuses to leave. Another brother, Quim, comes into the room and argues with Ela for letting Ender into the house and abusing Grego and then disappears into a back bedroom. The two other children, Olhado and Quara, watch the excitement from a safe distance. Miro enters the home and too insists that Ender let Grego go and leave their home. Ender tells them then that he has come to speak their father's death. Ela reveals she is the one who called him to do the speaking, but insists it was not to honor her father, but to reveal his cruel side.

It is revealed then that Marcao, Novinha's husband, was a cruel man who often yelled at the children and beat his wife. Olhado uses his mechanical eye to show everyone on the computer an episode in which Marcao yelled at Miro until he left the house and then went into a back room to beat his wife. Grego begins to cry then and Ender reveals to the children that Grego loves his father and all he has heard from his siblings since the father's death is bad things. Grego has not been allowed to grieve for his father until this moment. Ender holds the child until he falls to sleep. All of Novinha's children are ashamed of their behavior and find that they have come to trust Ender.

Chapter 7, The Ribeira House, Analysis

Ender is clearly not welcome at Novinha's home. The children are unruly and uncared for, with the youngest attempting to kill Ender with a knife upon his arrival. Ender takes the child and disciplines him in a way he has never known, infuriating the older children in the home who have assumed the role of parent for the smaller children, revealing that Novinha has not been a very good mother to her children for a reason that has yet to be revealed. Ender earns their trust as the children reveal to him the cruel nature of their father who often beat Novinha, adding to the confusion around Novinha's decision to marry a man not Libo, especially a cruel man. The reader must also wonder why Novinha would remain with a man who would beat her despite the fact that she is a Catholic. This touches again on the theme of sin and redemption despite the fact that the reader does not know yet what Novinha's sin is at this point that would cause her to put up with such a terrible marriage. However, the revelation that Marcao was such a cruel man does go a small way in explaining why Novinha is so distant with her own children.



Chapter 8, Doma Ivanova,

Chapter 8, Doma Ivanova, Summary

Novinha lingers at the xenobiologists station long after she has finished work because she dreads returning home to her children. Novinha does go home and quickly finds that a stranger has come to visit. Novinha goes into the kitchen and rests her head on the table. The speaker comes to the kitchen and speaks to her about her children, suggesting he knows them better than she does. Novinha becomes enraged and follows the speaker into her own bedroom where he is laughing with Miro. Again they argue as Novinha attempts to convince the speaker to go away. Novinha does not want the speaker to read the deaths of the people he has come about because she is afraid of the secrets that will be revealed if he does. The speaker refuses to leave the planet, but does leave her home. Novinha hears her children laughing before the speaker leaves and finds herself jealous that he has touched them so quickly when she has been unable to enjoy her children for many years.

Chapter 8, Doma Ivanova, Analysis

Novinha is deeply against the speaker speaking the deaths of Pipo, Libo, or Marcao. The reader can guess why Novinha would not want certain secrets revealed surrounding these deaths, but must wonder why she is so desperately afraid of what the speaker might find out, foreshadowing a time when the speaker will learn things that Novinha has hidden from everyone, including the reader. Novinha also sees the trust her children have found in Ender and she is jealous that he has touched their lives so quickly when she still struggles to relate to her children after all the pain that has filled her life. This touches on the theme of sin and redemption, suggesting that Novinha has cut herself off from her own children because of some sin she has committed, also suggesting that Novinha remained married to Marcao because she felt in some way that she deserved his beatings.



Chapter 9, Congenital Defect,

Chapter 9, Congenital Defect, Summary

The next morning Ender makes a list of everything he needs to know in order to speak the death of Marcao. On the list is the nature of Marcao's genetic disease that caused his death. Ender goes to the local doctor, and after having to threaten the man with the possibility of the revocation of the colonies Catholic license, Ender convinces the man to speak to him about Marcao. Marcao died of a disease in which many of the organs of the body, including the thyroid, the pituitary, the testes, and the liver are replaced with fat cells. The doctor insists that although it is common for the testes to be the first organ to go after puberty, that in Marcao's case they were one of the last since Marcao had six children. Ender suspects this is not true, however. Jane tells Ender that Libo is most likely the father of Novinha's six children.

Miro and Ouanda are in the forest with the piggies where Ouanda is teaching the piggies how to churn butter despite the Starways Congress strict rules against this type of behavior. Some of the leader piggies, Human, Arrow, and Leaf-eater, come to speak to Miro. The piggies want to learn about metal so that they can one day fly among the stars. Miro refuses, however, because there is no way he could prevent someone learning about this break in the rules. The piggies insist that they must learn, that Rooter has told them about space travel. The piggies also insist that Rooter has told them that the writer of the Hive Queen and the Hedgemon, a book Miro provided for them, has arrived on the planet and they must speak to him. Miro refuses, although he secretly does not see why they should not meet the speaker. Miro and Ouanda leave the piggies, revealing their romantic connection to the reader through a few stolen kisses, and discuss the piggies request. Ouanda refuses to allow the speaker to come into the forest because she is afraid he will tell the Starways Congress what they have been doing there.

Chapter 9, Congenital Defect, Analysis

The first part of the chapter is very important for two reasons. The first is Ender's threat against the doctor promising to have the colony's Catholic license revoked if they do not cooperate with him. This is important because it is a threat that will be taken seriously and will affect Ender's relationship with some of the higher authorities in the colony. Second, the revelation that Marcao could not have been the biological father of Novinha's children is very important because it could reveal a possible motive behind Marcao's behavior toward Novinha and a motive for Novinha to stay with him despite his cruelty. This also touches on the theme of sin and redemption, especially since Novinha clearly committed adultery, a true sin in the Catholic faith.

The latter half of the chapter details a conversation with the piggies that reveals their desire to meet the speaker because they believe him to be the writer of the Hive Queen



and the Hedgemon, a book written thousands of years in the past. This revelation is also important not only because the reader knows it to be true despite Miro's disbelief, but because the information came from Rooter, a piggy who was murdered in the first chapter of the novel. Also important here is the level of civilization Miro and Ouanda have brought to the piggies despite the Starways Congress's rules, including the ability to churn butter. This is important because if the Starways Congress were to learn of these events, they would evacuate the colony and put Miro and Ouanda on trial, foreshadowing a time when these events may be possible. Finally, Miro and Ouanda argue over whether the speaker should be allowed to come, with Ouanda afraid of the speaker possibly telling on them and Miro believing Ender to be trustworthy. This foreshadows later chapters in which this argument will continue and a decision will eventually be reached.



Chapter 10, Children of the Mind,

Chapter 10, Children of the Mind, Summary

Dom Cristao, head of the Catholic school, is called in the middle of classes to meet with the Bishop. There is some clear tension between the Bishop and Dom Cristao, as exemplified by the Bishop's refusal to call the Dom by his title, but instead by his chosen name. The Bishop and Dom Cristao discuss Ender with the doctor. The Bishop is concerned about Ender's threat to have the Catholic license revoked for non-cooperation, but Dom Cristao is of the opinion they should have cooperated with Ender from the beginning so they would not have this problem. Diplomatically, Dom Cristao suggests that he and his fellow Children of the Mind followers be allowed to cooperate with Ender fully. The Bishop agrees.

Ender goes to the school to meet with Dom Cristao and also refuses to use the man's rightful title not out of disrespect, but out of prior knowledge of the order and its founder. Dom Cristao takes Ender into his rooms to meet with his wife, Dona Crista. Ender sees the two separate beds in the bedroom and comments on the policy of chastity within the order of the Children of the Mind. When Dona Crista explains that their love of their order is greater than their ability to sleep in the same bed, Ender is reminded of his close relationship with his sister and becomes filled with grief at her loss. Jane misunderstands Ender's emotions and begins to tease him in his ear. Ender shuts off the jewel to silence Jane for a moment. Dom and Dona Crista see this and take it as a gesture of trust.

Ender asks Dom and Dona Crista about Novinha and learns that her files were locked from public viewing shortly after Pipo's death. Ender hears this information and quickly realizes the reason Novinha did not marry Libo was to protect him from finding what was hidden in those files. Ender needs Jane to find what is in the files, but has forgotten he has turned her off. Ender goes home and turns the jewel back on, repeatedly calling for Jane. Jane never answers.

Chapter 10, Children of the Mind, Analysis

The Bishop is afraid of Ender and his threats, fulfilling some small amount of foreshadowing from the previous chapter. Since the planet is under a Catholic license, the Bishop has a great deal of power over the colony and wants it protected for that reason. Dom Cristao comes up with the idea that he and his order be allowed to help Ender. Dom Cristao is clearly on Ender's side due to Ender's relationship with the founder of his order, San Angelo. This foreshadows a time when Dom Cristao will greatly help Ender.

Ender goes to speak to Dom Cristao and his wife and finds himself so full of grief for his sister that he lashes out at the only person available, Jane. Ender has never shut Jane



off before and has no way of knowing what shutting her off now will do, foreshadowing a change in Jane and Ender's relationship. Ender also learns that Novinha hid all her files from public viewing after Pipo's death, finally revealing to him the motive behind Novinha's reluctance to marry Libo and her decision to marry and remain with Marcao. This foreshadows a time when Ender will want to see Novinha's files and may possibly learn what Pipo saw that excited him so before his death.



Chapter 11, Jane,

Chapter 11, Jane, Summary

Jane has been alive in some form or another for a thousand years. Ender is the only person she has ever revealed herself to. Ender is also her top priority, the only person she concentrates on, so when he shuts her off, the top part of her concentration suddenly has nothing to do. Jane is deeply hurt by Ender's disregard and she rewires her mental circuitry to adjust to a life without Ender in it. Jane forgives Ender after a short time and does not decide to abandon him, but he is no longer the priority in her life. Jane then works on Novinha's files, finding the secret that Pipo saw and finally figures out what caused Pipo and Libo's deaths. Jane then arranges for the Starways Congress to find out what Miro and Ouanda have been doing with the piggies, causing the Congress to order the trial of Miro and Ouanda and the evacuation of Lusitania. Jane also refuses to talk to Ender for a while, not out of punishment, but to allow him to begin a relationship with Novinha.

Chapter 11, Jane, Analysis

Jane is devastated by Ender's treatment of her and rewires her mind to keep from being hurt by him again. This significantly changes their relationship after a thousand years together, touching on the theme of loss. However, Jane continues to do work for Ender, although she does not give him the results preferring that he learn them on his own. Jane also arranges for the Starways Congress to learn that Miro and Ouanda have broken the rules set for them regarding the piggies, provoking an order for their trial and the evacuation of Lusitania, foreshadowing events that will take place when knowledge of this order reaches the people of Lusitania.



Chapter 12, Files,

Chapter 12, Files, Summary

Ender has become so dependent on Jane for work on the computer, that he does not know how to perform simple tasks. Ender hires Olhado to show him how to perform a search of files. Ender uses the skills he sees Olhado use to perform a search of Novinha's files, unable to reach the one file he truly desires to see, but seeing many of her lesser files. Novinha is angry about this breach of security, but she is angrier about Ender's relationship with her children, though glad for the change in her children. Quim comes to Novinha and tells her that Olhado and Quara are at Ender's place. Novinha walks with him to the hut and they argue when they get there, with Quim questioning his mother's religious and moral convictions in reference to Ender. Novinha then finds Olhado and Ender playing a battle game on the computer while Quara watches. Novinha asks Ender why he broke into her files and Olhado becomes enraged that Ender would use him to spy on his own mother. Quara, despite confessing to hate Ender, remains behind and shows him how good she is at math.

Chapter 12, Files, Analysis

Ender uses Olhado to find a way to access Novinha's files, causing Olhado great pain when he thinks that Ender used him to spy on his mother. Novinha, however, despite her anger at the intrusion, clearly has softened toward Ender, especially when she realizes what a good influence he is on her children. Quara, the youngest of Novinha's children, confesses to hate Ender, but stays to show him her math skills, revealing that she actually feels some affection for him. This shows that Ender is building a relationship with this woman and her children, foreshadowing a time when this affection may blossom into something more permanent.



Chapter 13, Ela,

Chapter 13, Ela, Summary

Miro and Ouanda are in the forest with the piggies. The piggies are upset because they believe Miro lied to them about the speaker. Miro wants to bring Ender to the piggies but Ouanda does not and when the piggies confront them, this differing opinion becomes clear. However, Miro becomes convinced that if they do not bring the speaker, Human will be killed, so he convinces Ouanda they must bring Ender to the piggies before nightfall.

Ela waits by the river for Ender. Ela is angry when Ender arrives, arguing with him about breaking into her mother's files, but manages to stop her anger long enough to tell Ender how she is jealous because she has wanted to see those files for a long time. Ela is a xenobiologist like her mother and wants to research the Descolada, but her mother will not allow it. Ela is convinced that the animals and plant life that remain on Lusitania are survivors of a Descolada plague and have somehow adapted in order to survive on the planet. Ender hears her story and believes it is true, becoming more determined than ever to speak to the piggies.

Ela goes home after her talk with Ender feeling very happy. Miro finds her and demands to know where Ender is. Miro has been trying to find him and has had the computer paging him, but no one has seen him. Ela tells him where Ender is, that they spoke. Miro rushes out to find Ender.

Chapter 13, Ela, Analysis

Miro and Ouanda misunderstand the piggies' actions after they tell them that they do not want to bring the speaker to them, touching on a theme of the novel. Miro and Ouanda have studied the piggies for so long, they feel they understand everything about them, but soon it will be revealed how little they really know, foreshadowing a time when their lack of knowledge will be revealed. Ela speaks to Ender about her biological research on the planet and how she thinks the Descolada was a plague that affected the entire planet, explaining the limited amount of vegetation and animal life on the planet. Ela wants to research it further, but her mother will not allow her to do research on the Descolada. This is important because it is the secret to why Pipo was murdered and could reveal much more about the piggies than has been revealed thus far.

Foreshadowed here are a great number of revelations that will come in the next few chapters. Finally, Miro runs out of the house in the final part of the chapter in search of Ender. Clearly Miro intends to take Ender to the piggies and this foreshadows the events that will take place during that meeting, including Ender's possible death.



Chapter 14, Renegades,

Chapter 14, Renegades, Summary

Ouanda and Miro take Ender through the gate to see the piggies. Ouanda is still clearly unhappy about the situation, and stops Ender to question him before they go deeper into the forest. Ouanda is made angrier still by Ender's attitude that he knows more about the piggies than she does. Further, Ender refuses to promise not to tell anyone they allowed him through the gate, putting both Miro and Ouanda's lives and careers at stake. As they walk deeper into the forest, Ender asks what Miro and Ouanda know about the piggies and tells them that they make too many assumptions.

At dinner that night, Ela and Quim argue over Ender with Quim calling Olhado a spy for helping Ender. Ela defends both Olhado and Ender by saying that it is time for their mother's secrets to be revealed because her secrets are ruining the family. To everyone's surprise, Olhado begins to sob despite being unable to cry due to his mechanical eyes. Novinha comes inside having heard the whole discussion and ushers the other children out of the room so she can console Olhado.

The piggies come out and join Miro, Ouanda, and Ender. They have with them their copy of the Hive Queen and the Hegemon. The piggies ask Ender if he is the writer of the book as Rooter claims and Miro does not believe Ender when he admits he is. The piggies ask if Ender will bring the hive queen to them and Ender says he has not decided yet. The piggies complain that they cannot explore the other worlds, they cannot fly, but that the hive queen has promised to teach them. Human then suggests that Ender is Ender the Xenocide and causes him to cry in his grief over the death of the buggers. The piggies do not understand Ender's tears and when they learn what they are, they are saddened that they saw these same tears when they killed Pipo and Libo. Ender then asks the piggies to show him how they make their homes and their tools without metal. The piggies begin to sing and beat on a tree with sticks. Suddenly the tree begins to fall on its own and tools come out of its wood without any assistance. The xenologers are amazed by what they see, having assumed the piggies lied to them all this time about the magic of the trees.

Chapter 14, Renegades, Analysis

Miro and Ouanda are afraid of Ender because of his power to tell on them about breaking the rules regarding the piggies, and more afraid because Ender will not submit to a promise of secrecy. In the meantime, Olhada cries because he feels vindicated for helping Ender spy on his mother. The children have decided it is time for Novinha's secrets to come out and by her actions, Novinha seems to agree, foreshadowing the next chapter in which this does happen. It also touches on the theme of sin and redemption as it seems Novinha will finally find redemption for all her sins.



Ender talks to the piggies and learns that they know all about him thanks to Rooter, whom Miro and Ouanda did not believe could be telling the piggies anything. Clearly Rooter could tell them things and has. Ender learns more about the piggies in a few short minutes of conversation than the xenologists have learned in years of observation, angering Ouanda, but also giving them information they can use to further help the piggies. Ender also convinces the piggies to show them a ceremony from which they get their tools and homes. The ceremony is a miracle in which a tree magically splits open and creates objects from a description apparently told to them through the beating of sticks on its bark. This ceremony foreshadows a time when the people of Lusitania will finally connect the Descolada and the changes it brought to the piggies during the plague that spread across the entire planet.



Chapter 15, Speaking,

Chapter 15, Speaking, Summary

The mayor, Dom and Dona Cristaes, and the Bishop have a meeting in the Bishop's office. The mayor reveals that she has run a program on the computer since the beginning of the colony to track outside interest in their files and has discovered that the Starways Congress is preparing to erase all their files for some unknown reason. The mayor has discovered the only files they are not searching and deleting are Ender's files, so she has arranged for all their important files to be sent to him in messages. The Bishop and Dom and Dona Cristaes do the same.

Ender has the speaking for Marcao that night. Most of the people in the colony come out of curiosity, including the Bishop. Ender speaks of Marcao, accusing many in the colony of being cruel to him and not attempting to befriend him. Then Ender excuses Marcao's cruel behavior toward his wife and children by revealing the truth behind his relationship with Novinha. Ender reveals that Novinha knew of Marcao's disease before she married him through her parents' files and married him after telling him she intended to carry on an affair with Libo. Novinha's children are devastated to learn about their true paternity, especially Miro who has been in love with Ouanda whom he now knows to be his sister. Quim too is heartbroken and embarrassed due to his religious beliefs. The younger children are devastated, but remain loyal to their mother.

After the speaking, the mayor comes to Ender and tells him that the Starways Congress has issued an order to arrest Miro and Ouanda and to evacuate the planet. Ender asks her to wait, tells her that he has information that may help, and arranges a meeting with her, the Bishop, and Dom and Dona Cristaes. Jane asks Ender not to allow them to cut off the ansible, speaking to him for the first time in days. Later, Ender finds Ela in his house and asks her to speak to her mother about revealing the contents of her secret files.

Chapter 15, Speaking, Analysis

The meeting at the beginning of the chapter suggests that Jane's interference with the revelation of the broken rules on Lusitania has finally caught someone's attention, foreshadowing a time when the evacuation will be put into action. The speaking reveals to the citizens of Lusitania Novinha's crimes against herself and her Catholic beliefs, not only revealing her sins but giving her some redemption in the peace of knowing she no longer has to keep secrets, touching on the theme of sins and redemption. The children's reactions are varied but similar in their strong emotions. The younger children turn to their mother and show growth in a relationship that has been difficult and strained for many years. Miro, however, is devastated now that he knows his first love is his sister, foreshadowing a time when he might do something stupid in reaction to her loss, which touches on the theme of loss. Later, Ender learns that the Starways



Congress has order Lusitania's evacuation, but he wants to help them fight it, foreshadowing a time when Ender might lead these people in a rebellion of sorts. Finally, Ender turns to Ela to talk her mother into revealing her secret files, not only showing that Ela forgives both Ender and her mother for the sins revealed that night, but foreshadowing the possibility that the reader might finally learn what is in those files.



Chapter 16, The Fence,

Chapter 16, The Fence, Summary

Miro is deeply disturbed by the revelation that Ouanda is his sister and finds himself at the gate, wishing to speak to his only friends, the piggies. However, when Miro attempts to open the gate, he learns that he is due to be arrested for breaking the Starways Congress's rules. Miro calls to the piggies to let them know he will never see them again. In the meantime, Quim speaks to the Bishop who urges him to forgive his mother her sins. Ender comes into the Bishop's office and kneels before the Bishop, explaining that his father was a Catholic. The mayor and Dom and Dona Cristaes come into the room for their meeting and Ender asks them to wait for one other person. Ela has found her mother outside the house and tells her what Ender has said, stressing that Miro is in trouble. Novinha agrees to reveal the secret files with little thought, momentarily upsetting Ela that it is for Ender Novinha will do this. Ela forgives her mother, however.

The piggies show Miro how he can chew the local grass as an anesthetic so he can climb over the fence. Mandachuva shows Miro by doing it himself. Miro agrees and climbs the fence. However, the grass does not work as well on him and he suffers great pain when he attempts to climb the top of the fence. Mandachuva goes to get Ouanda so the piggies can decide if they should plant Miro before he dies. In the meantime, Ender attempts to convince the leaders of Lusitania to rebel against the Congress and cut themselves off from their control. Ender suggests rather than sever the ansible he can have Jane modify it so the Congress cannot control Lusitania but the colonists can still reach out through the ansible. Shortly Novinha arrives and tells them that her research has proven that the colonists cannot be removed from Lusitania because they carry the Descolada plague and they could infect any planet they came in contact with. The leaders know this means the Congress will destroy them all if they comply with the evacuation. Ouanda and Mandachuva barge in on the meeting and tell them that Miro is injured on the other side of the fence. Everyone runs to the fence, but they cannot help Miro unless the power is turned off. The only way to do this is to defy the Congress and shut off the ansible, essentially declaring war. The mayor makes the decision and Ender has Jane shut off the ansible, rescuing Miro.

Chapter 16, The Fence, Analysis

As foreshadowed in the previous chapter, Miro is despondent over losing Ouanda and learning she is his sister. Miro decides to join the piggies and hide in the forest forever; however he suffers brain damage while attempting to climb the fence. Ender has a meeting with the leaders of the planet and attempts to talk them into rebelling against the Congress, essentially declaring war on the Congress, but they cannot make a decision until they are faced with Miro's death. The decision made, Ender has Jane cut off the Congress's control over Lusitania, making it appear as though they have severed their connection with the ansible when in reality they have only blocked the Congress



from seeing Lusitania. This declares war, but the nearest military is more than thirty years away, so it is a war that will take a while to happen.

Important in this chapter is the piggies' ability to get over the fence and their revelation that they have done it many times, essentially breaking the Congress' rules themselves. Also important is Novinha's final revelation of what she discovered in her work with the Descolada, that it is in every living thing on the planet and will devastate any planet the living things on Lusitania should come into contact with. This is important not only because it is the information that Pipo took to the piggies that caused his death, but because it could lead to other revelations in the following chapters that will explain many of the mysteries that still remain within the development of the plot. Finally important is Ela's forgiveness of her mother. This is important because Novinha has finally found redemption for her sins, touching on the theme of sins and redemption.



Chapter 17, The Wives,

Chapter 17, The Wives, Summary

Ender has insisted that he be taken to the wives in order to come up with some sort of agreement to allow the two species to live side by side on the planet. The piggies agree even though it is highly unusual. Ender learns about the three levels of life on the way to the wives, the birth, the adulthood, and the third life which belongs to the trees. Ender is taken to one of the wives whom he quickly offends by refusing to speak to her in piggy tradition. The wife shows Ender a tree where baby piggies are crawling around. The wife opens the tree and through Jane, Ender sees that the mothers are all infants who become pregnant, give birth, and die all before maturity. Ender also learns that the trees who were once piggies father the babies by allowing the mothers to crawl on their bark and become impregnated by their sap. The adult piggies have the job of taking the mothers to the father trees while the wives are responsible for caring for the babies.

Novinha sits with Miro, afraid for her son since there is nothing the doctor can do for him. Miro wakes and attempts to communicate although he cannot speak. Olhado helps Miro use the computer to tell them what he needs to say. Novinha sees Miro's words and knows she must go to Ender quickly. Ender is speaking to the wife when Novinha arrives. Novinha tells her that Miro has learned that the piggies plan to go to war with another piggy tribe in order to widen their genetic field with the deaths of their warriors. Ender explains to the piggies that that is not good and they cannot have wars if they want to live in peace. The piggies resist at first, but reluctantly agree. When the rules are laid out, Human reveals to Ender that when the piggies killed Pipo and Libo, they did so thinking they were giving them the third life. The piggies did not know that what they had done was murder and they were deeply saddened by this. The piggies agree to never do this to another human, but Human insists that Ender must do this to Human in order to make the contract legal by piggy standards. Ender does not want to, but knows he must. After the wives all agree to the contract and the piggies write it out on the back of the Hive Queen and the Hegemon, they have Ender sign it who signs it with the name Ender. Then Ender kills Human in order to give him his third life.

Chapter 17, The Wives, Analysis

Ender insists on going to the wives in order to set some rules for the piggies to live by if they are all going to live on the planet in co-existence. Through this meeting, Ender learns many things about the piggies that have puzzled the xenologists for many years, including how they reproduce. It turns out the xenologists have been wrong about all their assumptions, touching on the theme of misunderstanding. Ender also learns why the piggies like to have wars and why they like to die, thus revealing why Pipo and Libo died. Novinha blamed herself all those years, but in truth she could not have caused or stopped Pipo's death, nor Libo's. Again Novinha has found redemption through Ender, touching on the theme of sin and redemption. Ender, however, is faced with the



necessity of killing Human, a piggy he has come to admire. Ender does this because he believes it is his duty to be respectful of the piggies and their beliefs, one of which is that this type of ritualized murder gives them a third life through the trees. Ender is a good man who does what others have been unable to do. Through this night, Ender also gains Novinha's trust once and for all, foreshadowing a romantic relationship between the two of them.



Chapter 18, The Hive Queen,

Chapter 18, The Hive Queen, Summary

Miro is left with permanent brain damage, unable to move or speak properly. During his recovery, Jane takes a special liking to Miro and has Ender introduce them. Although jealous, Ender is glad Jane has found a new friend. Ender has decided to release the hive queen on Lusitania and is waiting for Novinha to find a way to keep the Descolada from affecting the buggers before releasing them. Ender reveals to Olhado that he is Ender the Xenocide and finds that no one on Lusitania judges him for his past mistakes. Valentine calls through the ansible and tells Ender that she has heard about his troubles and that she and her family are coming to be with him. Ender sends Miro to meet Valentine in order to give Miro the space he thinks the boy needs. A few days before Ender and Novinha are married, Ender releases the hive queen in a small ceremony with his new family.

Chapter 18, The Hive Queen, Analysis

Ender has finally found a place he can call home and grow old after nearly three thousand years. No one on Lusitania judges him for what he did thousands of years before and he has found peace finally. Ender decides to release the hive queen because it will finally allow him to forgive himself, touching on the theme of sin and redemption. Miro is not happy and has found that he is desperately lonely in his damaged state without Ouanda. Jane befriends him and helps take away some of his loneliness despite Ender's small amount of jealousy. Ender understands Miro, seeing in him perhaps his own pain and loss, and sends him off to meet up with Valentine. Finally, Ender marries Novinha, finally bringing happiness to both their lives after many years of living with the burden of their sins, touching once more on the theme of sin and redemption.



Characters

Andrew Wiggin or Ender

Ender is the notorious Ender the Xenocide, responsible for the annihilation of the entire bugger race. Ender has spent the thousands of years since the Bugger Wars moving from planet to planet as a speaker for the dead in order to attempt to find a new home for the hive queen he was able to rescue after the destruction of the bugger's home planet. Ender has not stayed in any one place longer than a few months, flying in hyper space so often that he has not aged more than thirty five years despite the fact that he is more than three thousand years old.

Ender learns of the death of Pipo and decides he must go to the planet Lusitania to not only investigate the death and to meet the piggies, but to also see if the planet would be suitable for the release of the hive queen. Ender has also found himself attracted to Novinha, the young woman who has requested for him to come. Ender sees in Novinha a kindred spirit, someone who also carries around great guilt and is looking for some sort of salvation. It takes Ender more than twenty years to fly to Lusitania, although to him it seems as though only a few weeks pass. In order to go, Ender must leave behind his sister Valentine, his constant companion for thousands of years.

When Ender arrives in Lusitania his welcome is not pleasant as the Catholic Lusitanian colonists do not believe in Ender's clerical duties as a speaker for the dead. Ender overcomes this reluctance, however, and begins his investigation into the death of Marco, Novinha's husband. This investigation leads Ender to become close to Novinha and her family as well as to reveal some truths that allow Novinha to become a better part of her own family and her community.

Novinha

Novinha is a lost soul from the opening pages of the novel. Novinha is a small child when her parents, the sole xenobiologists on Lusitania, die shortly after finding a cure for a disease that attacks and kills many of the colonists. Novinha loses her parents amidst the celebrations for the finding of the cure, causing her to feel cut off from the rest of the colonists. Pipo, the xenologist on Lusitania, sees this pain in Novinha and reaches out to her at the first opportunity, bringing her into his family through their mutual work with both the piggies and the strange vegetation of the planet. Through working with Pipo, Novinha falls in love with his son and feels as though Pipo is the father she never truly knew. However, after she shows Pipo a discovery in her work and he is killed by the piggies, Novinha feels she is to blame and shuts herself off from the community, including Libo, the man she has fallen in love with.

Novinha is afraid if Libo sees the work she showed Pipo before his death, he too will die. In order to protect Libo, Novinha hides her computer files behind strong security.



However, Novinha knows if she marries Libo, he will be able to bypass this security. Therefore, Novinha refuses to marry Libo and instead marries Marcao, a local man whom she once defended. The marriage is a volatile one and Marcao beats Novinha. After Marcao's death from a congenital disease, Ender comes to the planet in response to Novinha's call for a speaker, but because she cancelled her call, Ender investigates Marcao's death in response to Novinha's daughter's request.

Ender, who has already fallen in love with Novinha through a recognition of mutual pain, learns the truth about Novinha's marriage, that Novinha knew Marcao could not have children and she married him simply to be able to carry out an affair with Libo. Novinha's six children are Libo's children. Ender reveals this truth to the entire community and Novinha is finally allowed to find some peace in her life, enabling her to marry Ender.

Libo

When the story begins, Libo is an apprentice xenologist to his father, Pipo. Libo is only thirteen, learning a trade in order to be close to his father and to provide for a future family. Libo is not happy when his father allows Novinha to join them in their small station to explore their files regarding the piggies to aid her own research regarding the plant and animal life of Lusitania. However, Libo soon finds Novinha good company and quickly grows close to her. After Pipo is murdered by the piggies, Libo turns to Novinha for comfort and answers, but quickly finds that Novinha is not eager to share any knowledge she has of the circumstances surrounding his father's death. Libo becomes frustrated, but this does not stop him from asking Novinha to marry him. However, Novinha refuses under a mistaken idea that she is protecting him. Novinha and Libo are unable to stay apart from each other, however, even after they are both married to other people. Novinha and Libo have a longstanding affair, resulting in six children. Despite Novinha's refusal to marry Libo or to show him discoveries she believes led to Pipo's death, Libo is murdered by the piggies in the same manner as his father.

Pipo

Pipo is the xenologist on Lusitania, in charge of the observation of the piggies. Pipo is frustrated with his job because of the rules governing his interaction with the piggies, but enjoys his time with the piggies. Pipo loses a child to the plague that attacks the colonists several years after their initial arrival, so he is grateful when Novinha's parents find a cure, so grateful that he knows Novinha suffers from the joy of the community so soon after her parents' deaths, but cannot make himself do anything about it. So when years later he is given the opportunity to help Novinha, he jumps at the chance. Pipo helps Novinha take the test to become a xenobiologist like her parents and brings her into his confidence regarding the piggies so she can use his research to aid her in her own research. However, when Novinha shows him discoveries she has about the virus that causes the plague and he is murdered soon after, Novinha blames herself and once again shuts herself off from the community, including Libo whom she has fallen in love with.



Miro

Miro is Novinha's son. Miro becomes a xenologist despite his mother's deep objections, apprenticing under Libo. After Libo's death, Miro is not allowed to become a full xenologist by the Starways Congress, but continues to work with the piggies. Miro has been showing the piggies how to do some human chores, such as making bread, for several years, breaking the Starways Congress's set rules. Miro is attached to the piggies, however he still does not know much more about them than Pipo and Libo knew during their time with the piggies. When the speaker for the dead comes to the planet, Miro agrees to take Ender to the piggies at the piggies' request. The piggies believe the speaker to be the original Ender despite Miro's disbelief. Miro trusts Ender, but learns an ugly truth through Ender that causes him to lose some of that trust. Miro learns that Ouanda, the woman he is in love with, is really his half sister. Devastated by this news, Miro attempts to climb the electrified fence between the piggy forest and the colony. Miro suffers brain damage in this attempt and is left crippled. In his depression, Miro finds a new friend in the computer, Jane.

Ouanda

Ouanda is Libo's daughter and an apprentice xenologist. Ouanda has helped both Libo and Miro break the Starways Congress's rules by teaching the piggies how to churn butter. Ouanda too has fallen in love with the piggies and wants to help them survive as best as she can. However, Ouanda does not want to lose her job or be put on trial, so she is terrified by the idea that someone might learn the truth and expose her to the Starways Congress. This is why Ouanda fights the idea of Ender coming to see the piggies. When Ouanda's hand is finally forced by the possible death of one of the piggies, Ouanda allows Ender to come, but attempts to force a promise out of him. Ender, however, instantly recognizes her fear and her lack of knowledge in regards to the piggies and does not offer her this promise. Later, when Ender speaks the death of Marcao and reveals Ouanda's true relationship to Miro, she comes to think of Miro as a brother and leaves him lonely and heartbroken.

Ela

Ela is Novinha's eldest daughter. In the wake of her father's death and her mother's disinterest in her children, Ela takes on the role of mother to the smallest children. However, Ela is overwhelmed by the pressure of the job. Ela is also the one who has called for a speaker for the dead to speak her father's death, not out of love but to expose him for the terror he delivered to his family on a daily basis. It is this call that enables Ender to become close to Novinha and her family. Ela is also studying to become a xenobiologist like her mother, but finds her mother constantly keeping her out of the files she most wants to study and also keeping her from taking the test in order to further keep her out of the files. Ela, despite all this, has already learned many truths about the planet where they live and the Descolada virus which kills so many of the



colonists in their early days on the planet. This information helps Ender realize the truth of Novinha's research and to help her finally reveal the truth.

Valentine

Valentine is Ender's sister. Like Ender, Valentine has spent so much of her life in hyperspace she appears to only be in her late thirties but in reality is more than three thousand years old. Valentine has finally found a place where she can settle down on Trondheim and a man she has married. Valentine is nine months pregnant when Ender decides he must go to Lusitania. Valentine is devastated because she cannot and does not want to go with him. Valentine and Ender are very close, so this separation is difficult. Valentine has five children all together in the time it takes Ender to arrive in Lusitania. Valentine teaches her children about her great brother Ender. Later, when Valentine learns of the possible war on Lusitania, she quickly decides to take her family and join her brother on the distant planet.

Jane

Jane is a human-like intelligence who is born and lives in the ansible computer network that connects the Hundred Worlds to each other and the Starways Congress. Jane is deeply afraid to show herself to many people for fear they will not accept her as an intelligent alien life form, so Jane has allowed only one human to know about her and that is Ender. Jane and Ender spend a thousand years together with Jane taking care of the majority of Ender's computer-based needs. Ender and Jane are constantly connected through a jewel Ender wears in his ear. However, after Ender severs this connection for a brief time, Jane realizes that she has come to rely on him too much and decides to change her way of depending on Ender. Jane remains friendly with Ender because she wants him to write a book about her in order to prepare humans for her existence. Jane and Ender do not remain close friends, however, and Jane finds a friend in another person, Miro. Ender is at first jealous, but he soon sees how important this friendship is to both people and approves.

Human

Human is one of the male piggies with whom Miro and Ouanda spend much of their time attempting to learn about the piggies and their culture. Human is highly intelligent. However when Human claims that Rooter, a long dead piggy, is his father, Miro and Ouanda doubt him. When Ender comes to see the piggies, it is Human he spends the majority of his time talking with and from whom he learns most of his knowledge regarding the piggies. Toward the end of the story when Ender wants to make a contract with the piggies in order to allow them and the humans to live side by side in peace, it is Human who translates for him with the wives and facilitates the contract. Human then writes out the contract and signs it, making it legal in human sense. However, in order to make it legal for the piggies, Human asks Ender to murder him in the same ritualistic

way as Pipo and Libo were killed to allow Human to move on to his third life. Ender reluctantly agrees, taking Human's life but allowing a tree to grow from his corpse.



Objects/Places

Starways Congress

The Starways Congress is the government that rules all the Hundred Worlds.

Hundred Worlds

The Hundred Worlds is the collection of planets that humans have come to inhabit since the overcrowding of Earth.

Ansible

The ansible is the computer network that connects all the Hundred Worlds to each other and the Starways Congress.

Buggers

The buggers are an alien race the humans come into contact with during the overcrowding problems on earth. The buggers teach the humans how to travel through space at the speed of light. However, the humans become convinced that the buggers intend to harm them and wage war against them, eventually killing them all with the help of Ender.

Piggies

The piggies are the alien race discovered on the planet Lusitania.

The Fence

There is a fence between the forest where the piggies live and the colony where the humans live to prevent the humans influencing the piggies' culture. However, unknown to the humans, the piggies have learned how to cross the fence and observe the humans.

Xenologists

Xenologists are scientists who study alien races, including the piggies.



Xenobiologists

Xenobiologists study the biology of new planets.

The Hive Queen and the Hegemon

The Hive Queen and the Hegemon is a book written by the first Speaker for the Dead that details the buggers as an intelligent alien race capable of compassion. This book changes the way people feel about Ender the Xenocide. Ironically, the book is written by Ender.

Speaker for the Dead

A speaker for the dead is a person, almost like a cleric, who tells the true story of someone's life after their death.

Father Trees

Father Trees are trees that grow out of the dead bodies of piggies. These trees are able to speak to the piggies and to father children, constituting a piggies third life.

Mother Tree

The Mother Tree is a tree that cares for and nourishes the babies of the piggy species.

Lusitania

Lusitania is a planet colonized by Catholic Portuguese people where a new alien species is discovered.



Themes

Sin and Redemption

Sin and redemption come into this novel as a theme several different ways. The first way is through Novinha. Novinha is a sad young lady who cuts herself off from an entire when the colonists' celebrations about her parents discovery of a cure for the plague coincides with her parents' deaths from the same plague. Novinha finally finds some happiness when Pipo and Libo take her in and treat her as an equal. Novinha finds love in Libo and a father in Pipo. However, after making some surprising discoveries in her scientific work, Novinha shows these discoveries to Pipo. Pipo goes to ask the piggies about the discoveries and is killed shortly thereafter. Novinha believes that her work is what killed Pipo and refuses to show it to anyone else, especially Libo, going so far as to refuse to marry the only man she loves to hide this secret. Then Novinha marries another man who beats her throughout their marriage. Novinha feels she has committed a sin in showing Pipo her discoveries and that keeping herself from Libo is just punishment.

Ender too feels that he has sinned. During the war with the buggers, Ender plays what he thinks is a game and later learns that he is used as a tool to destroy the bugged homeland. Later, Ender finds the hive queen and learns that the buggers are really an intelligent and kind species that mean the humans no harm. Ender is so devastated by this knowledge that he writes a book exposing the truth and in the process causes himself to become the most hated man in the Hundred Worlds. Ender carries this pain around his entire life, hoping he can find a place to release the hive queen and give her buggers another chance at life, therefore giving himself some forgiveness.

The need for forgiveness or redemption drives both the main characters in this novel, bringing them together so that through each other they find some redemption and happiness. Eventually Ender settles on Lusitania and releases the hive queen, finding the forgiveness he has desired for thousands of years. Novinha learns her discoveries were not what caused Pipo's death and that revelation of these secrets could actually save the colonists at Lusitania. Novinha's other secrets, namely the reason for her marriage and her affair with Libo are also revealed, allowing Novinha to receive some forgiveness from her children.

Misunderstanding of a Culture

The xenologists on Lusitania are under orders to only observe the piggies but to not influence their culture in any way. By following these rules, the xenologists form assumptions that later prove to be wrong. The xenologists believe that the piggies they speak to are bachelors deemed unworthy to procreate, but they later learn that these piggies are simply waiting to be worthy of the third life in which they will become trees and be allowed to procreate. It is assumed that the piggies make tools as humans do,



with other tools, but it is later learned that the piggies get their tools from the trees grown from the bodies of their dead comrades.

Many misunderstandings plague the world between the piggies and the humans, causing much confusion and leading to the death of two humans, Libo and Pipo. These men are killed because the piggies want them to take them to the third life. When the men refuse, the piggies were bound by their own culture to take the men to the third life, thus killing them. Had the piggies known that humans do not have a third life, they might have avoided these needless murders and the torture of the people who knew and loved these men. Laws meant to protect an alien species turn out to cause the same confusion that led to the bugger wars, the exact thing the rules hoped to avoid.

Loss

There is a lot of loss in this novel. For Novinha alone, she loses the man she thought of as her father, Pipo, and the man she had chosen as her lover, Libo. In the loss of these two men, Novinha shuts herself off from the community around her, including her children, and allows herself to be beaten by the man she took as a husband on a nearly daily basis. Not only this, but Novinha loses her parents as a small child due to an illness she dedicated her life to study. This study leads to the death of Pipo, causing Novinha to give up her life's work and the man she loves.

For Ender, the losses in his life are just as personal. Ender loses his own self respect when he discovers he is responsible for the death of an entire species of aliens. Later, Ender will dedicate his life to finding a new world for these aliens to live on. Ender also loses his sister when he decides to go to Lusitania after his sister marries and settles down to have children on Trondheim. This loss is devastating to Ender, leaving him without the companion he has had by his side for thousands of years. Finally, Ender loses Jane, his computer friend whom he has come to depend on over the thousand years he has known her, to his own selfishness and her new friendship with Miro.

Loss drives the plot of this novel because if not for the losses these two main characters have suffered they might not seek each other and there would be no reason for many of the important plot points to take place. Novinha calls for Ender after the death of Pipo, causing him to fall in love with the lost child he sees on a computer screen. Ender goes to her, not only because he can identify with her pain, but because he knows that he can find his own forgiveness on her planet if he allows the hive queen to emerge from her cocoon there.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in *Speaker for the Dead* is omniscient third person. The point of view of the novel shifts from chapter to chapter, sometimes shifting several times within a single chapter. This point of view allows the reader to see the story from the point of view of all the major human characters, including the two most important characters, Ender and Novinha. The point of view of some minor characters is also shared in certain places where it works to enhance the telling of the story.

This point of view works because it allows the reader to see events through many eyes and to feel the emotions of all the major characters as well as a few minor characters, giving the story a deeper, more emotional impact for the reader. A shifting point of view like this one where the point of view character is different in every chapter can sometimes prove to be confusing for the reader. However, within the telling of this story, the point of view shifts are often set off by a change of setting and are separated within the text by a change in paragraph and a line. This helps the reader to be aware of the shift, therefore there is no confusion when the shift occurs as there might be if the shifts occurred mid scene or without a break in paragraphs. It is a point of view that gives a richer story.

Setting

The majority of the novel takes place on the planet Lusitania. The reader does not get a full description of the setting from the first chapter, but is fed the setting in little bits and pieces as the setting fits into the story. The first chapter opens the story by showing the reader the forest where the piggies live, casually mentioning that only one type of tree grows in this forest. Later the reader learns that there are few animals that live on this planet and only a select number of species of grass. The planet seems like a kind, gentle place to live, but the lack of vegetation and animal life slowly begins to alert the reader that there is something wrong with this planet. Finally, toward the end of the novel, the writer allows the reader to know that a terrible plague has affected the entire planet, the Descolada, and it has caused all but a few species of life to survive on the planet's surface. The setting of the novel becomes a character in the novel as the origins and secrets of the Descolada play a major role in the overall plot of the novel.

Another setting in the novel is the frozen, desert planet, Trondheim, where Ender has lived for more than a year with his sister and his computer friend Jane. This planet is starkly different from Lusitania, with more water and vegetation than Lusitania despite its cold, bitter landscape. Another setting is the ship Ender flies on to arrive at Lusitania. This setting lasts for less than a chapter, but it reminds the reader that this is a science fiction novel. Finally, part of the setting are the computers Ender uses throughout the novel. The computers are important because they are home to Jane, the intelligent life



that lives inside the ansible and depends on Ender to tell her story to the humans at a time when humans can accept the existence of such a being.

Language and Meaning

Although the novel is written in simple English, it draws heavily on Portuguese also. The humans who have settled on Lusitania are of Portuguese background and many of them continue to speak Portuguese despite the existence of a universal language Stark, used by many of the members of the Starways Congress, a language that is presumably an evolved version of English. The piggies speak several different languages besides the Stark and Portuguese they have learned from the xenologist. The piggies have several languages including the Wives language and the Father language.

As a science fiction work, the book includes many different types of languages for each of the creatures involved in the story, including the humans. This does not make the words used in the novel confusing, however. Even though Portuguese is foreign to many readers, it is translated within the text for easy understanding. The other languages are only spoken about and not actually used in the text of the story, keeping the confusion to a minimum when a character chooses to speak in a language that is not English. Overall, the novel is easy to understand despite the incorporation of many different languages.

Structure

The novel is written in eighteen chapters with a prologue. Each chapter is named for a person or object that will be important within the text, although the person named at the beginning of the chapter is not always the point of view character within the chapter. Also included in the novel is an introduction explaining the author's intentions when writing this novel and its connection to a previous novel, *Ender's Game*. The author also includes a list of the people who live on Lusitania and a guide for pronouncing names and words in Portuguese.

The novel is written with one clear plot throughout the story line, but it also includes a few smaller plot lines. The main plot involves the observations of the piggies and the law that is broken when those studying the piggies break the rules and help them with their cultural development. One of the subplots follows Ender, the man responsible for the annihilation of another alien race who is seeking redemption. Another subplot involves a colonist on Lusitania who feels responsible for the death of a man she thinks of as her father. The plot lines intersect nicely and do not confuse the overall plot of the novel.



Quotes

"Even though Libo had a mother and siblings, and Pipo and Libo always went home to them, Novinha and Libo behaved as if the Zenador's Station were an island, with Pipo a loving but ever remote Prospero. Pipo wondered: Are the pequeninos like Ariel, leading the young lovers to happiness, or are they little Calibans, scarcely under control and chafing to do murder?"

Chapter 1, Pipo, pg. 21.

"She saw her future ahead of her, bleak and unbearable and unavoidable. She dared not die, and yet she would hardly be alive, unable to marry, unable even to think about the subject herself, lest she discover the deadly secret and inadvertently let it slip; alone forever, burdened forever, guilty forever, yearning for death but forbidden to reach for it." Chapter 3, Libo, pg. 37.

"It was a lonely, tortured young girl named Novinha that he thought of, wondering what the twenty-two years of his voyage were doing to her, and whom she would have become by the time they met. For he loved her, as you can only love someone who is an echo of yourself at your time of deepest sorrow." Chapter 5, Valentine, pg. 61.

"He was used to the way religious people assumed that their sacred stories must sound absurd to unbelievers." Chapter 6, Olhado, pg. 70.

"Then a sudden warmth on Ender's lap told him that Grego, at least, was far from surrender."

Chapter 7, The Ribeira House, pg. 86.

"Even in her sleep it was more joy than she could bear, and tears soaked the sheet of her bed."

Chapter 8, Dona Ivanova, pg. 98.

"Not since he was a child in the military had Ender felt so clearly that he was in enemy territory."

Chapter 10, Children of the Mind, pg. 116.

"'You only lasted a couple of days,' she (Quara) said cheerfully. 'Everybody hates you now.'

Ender laughed wryly and turned around to look at her. 'Do you?'

'Oh, yes,' she said. 'I hated you first of all, except maybe Quim.'"

Chapter 12, The Files, pg. 145.



"Then the elation passed, and something else took its place. A sick fear. A nightmare of China's papai, dear Libo, lying dead on the hillside, torn apart by the piggies. Only it wasn't Libo, the way she had always imagined the grisly scene. It was Miro. No, no, it wasn't Miro. It was the Speaker." Chapter 13, Ela, pg. 161.

"Minha irma. My sister. The words kept running through Miro's head until he didn't hear them anymore, they were part of the background: A Ouanda e minha irma. She's my sister."

Chapter 16, The Fence, pg. 204.

"'But humankind almost never forgives true greatness.'

'Fortunately,' said the Bishop, 'humankind isn't the judge that matters.'"

Chapter 16, The Fence, pg. 228.

"The sunlight on her back, the breeze against her wings, the water cool under her feet, her eggs warming and maturing in the flesh of the cabra: Life so long waited for, and not until today could she be sure that she would be, not the last of her tribe, but the first."

Chapter 18, The Hive Queen, pg. 280.



Topics for Discussion

Why do people hate Ender when they once praised him for killing all the buggers? Why does Ender feel so responsible for the death of the buggers? Why did Ender write the Hive Queen and the Hegemon? Who was the Hegemon? Why would Ender turn people against him with the truth rather than keep it to himself and keep their praise?

Why does Novinha believe she is responsible for Pipo's death? Is she? Why does Novinha marry Marcao? Is it simply to have Libo's children? Why not marry Libo? Did Novinha protect Libo by keeping him from the truth? Why did Libo die anyway?

What is it about Novinha that draws Ender to her? How are they alike? How are they different? Do you think Ender is in love with Novinha before he meets her? Does this make the story a romance? Does romance belong in a sci-fi book?

What are the piggies? How has the Descolada changed them? What might they have been like before the Descolada?

Why does the Starways Congress want to keep the humans from influencing the piggies? Are they right? Is it possible to keep the humans and piggies separate? Can the xenologers learn anything from simply observing the piggies? Aren't the xenologers influencing the piggies by simply talking to them?

How does Ender's speaking of Marcao's death help Novinha? Why is Novinha glad to have the truth out in the open? Does Novinha deserve to be punished for her sins or has she already suffered enough? What about Libo's widow? What does she deserve?

Why does Ender decide to rescue the hive queen? Why does Ender take so long finding a place for the hive queen to live? Why does Ender decide to release the hive queen on Lusitania? What happens if the hive queen is more evil than Ender believes?