

They say nobody controls their own life. If you don't think for yourself, you can't be your own person. In Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card, Ender learns what disasters can strike if you don't think for yourself. You could be killed, or even become a killer. You could find yourself agreeing with the things you always hated. You could wake up and find that WWIII is taking place right outside your bedroom window.

Ender doesn't know when to think for himself. He just goes along, playing the games of the government officials until he can't take anymore. Then he does what he thinks is right. But unfortunately, Ender doesn't always stop in time. In Command School, he just goes along, playing games on the simulator, not realizing that his simulated battles are real until too late. Too late to save the billions of innocents (Buggers (aliens)) he slaughtered on the "simulator." I know that Ender was being controlled when on page 160, Colonel Graff says, "That Demosthenes and Locke aren't as under our control as the Wiggin." This means Graff believes Ender (the Wiggin) is under his control. If Ender had noticed this, he might not have wiped out the Buggers.

Valentine is becoming her own worst nightmare. She has been going along, playing the twisted games of her older brother Peter, helping him by writing to change the world under the pseudonym "Demosthenes." But Valentine knows that Peter only wants to keep the world in one piece, because he thinks it'll help him dominate it

faster. Valentine knows this, and so she can avoid being drawn into her brother's temptations... right? After writing Demosthenes for years, Valentine is able to know what he would say without Peter's consent. She even finds herself agreeing with what she writes as Demosthenes, while finding the things Peter writes with the pseudonym "Locke" weak and close-minded. I know that Valentine wasn't thinking for herself when she started agreeing with Demosthenes because, on page 163, Val thinks, "Perhaps it's impossible to wear an identity without becoming what you pretend to be." This means Valentine thinks that she is becoming Demosthenes, agreeing less and less with herself as she begins to agree with her counterpart and opposite.

To sum it all up, be yourself. You should never let yourself be controlled by someone else, no matter what. Though the consequences won't always be as bad as they were for Ender, they won't be good. You might be like Val, and start agreeing with the things you always hated. Val, who lived 3000 years before she felt she had done enough good to settle down and raise a family. But the point is, you never know what will come from not being your own person, and you don't want to find out. So always think before you do something, *Am I choosing to do this? Is this the right thing to do?* You'll know the difference.