Firstname Lastname

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English 101

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<div align="center">From Oblivion to Euphoria</div>

Have you ever watched a movie that you were really excited about but then left the movie theatre disappointed? You leave wanting your money back and feeling that you shouldn't have gone to see the movie in the first place. I think everyone has at some point in their life. However, did this happen because you read the book first, and the movie was not at all what you expected? Well, that is exactly what happened to me for the first time in my life, and it may have changed my life forever.

I grew up never liking to read books. That's not saying I wasn't good at it, I just wasn't a fan of reading. Part of that was because, like most high school students, I was always told what to read. It didn't have to be something I was interested in. I just had to read what I was told to for school. That left a sour taste in my mouth. I went into every book I read with a bad attitude and not caring about what the book was actually saying. Now I'm sure that I had read (or was supposed to read) some very interesting books, but because I began them with such a negative attitude, I never got the message or enjoyed the story that was being told. I could honestly not tell you one book I read in high school, much less what it was about.

My enjoyment of reading didn't change much after high school. Less than three weeks after graduation I enlisted the Marines. My hatred of reading, and just school in general, was a big factor of my joining. I didn't want to go to college to be forced to read more books about things that I didn't care about. Little did I know the amount of reading and studying that I was

going to have to do. I read several books while in the Marines, but the one that really sticks out in my mind is *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. The scientific and futuristic nature of this novel allowed my imagination to run wild because my eyes had never seen some of the things that Card was describing. I was playing a movie in my head as I read. I couldn't believe it! For the first time, I was enjoying a book. I read several books after that, but I didn't enjoy reading them like this one. My attitude towards reading hadn't completely changed, but it was beginning to.

A few years pass, and one day I'm sitting on my couch watching TV. A commercial comes on and I recognize the trailer for the movie. Its *Ender's Game*! Finally, the book I had enjoyed so much was coming to the big screen. I couldn't wait to see it. I had my calendar marked and my plans were made. I sat down in the theatre with such anticipation. However, I left without the feeling of satisfaction I was hoping to have. The movie was good, and the director didn't change the movie too far from the book, but I realized something. I had imagined what things would look like in my mind completely differently, and I liked my rendering better.

I realized that my imagination was wild, creative, and that I liked it better than other people's imaginations. I also began to enjoy learning and questioning more things. Knowledge was becoming more important to me, and reading was one of the ways that I could obtain great amounts of it. I had a new understanding of what Mark Twain said, "The man who does not read has no advantage of the man who cannot read." This one movie changed my life in so many ways. I now enjoyed reading to use my imagination, and I enjoyed reading to broaden my knowledge. I will continue to see movies, but from now on if I get the chance I think I will let my imagination make my own movies for me.