

IRB BOOK REVIEW

The first book I read was called Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card, it was about the maturing and development of a child prodigy used by the military to defeat a hostile alien threat. The book was encompassed by the theme Coming of Age and is a book I would recommend to anyone. The book follows Ender, the young genius/prodigy, as the military attempt to recruit him to come to a training facility. He struggles with being bullied, forced into leadership roles, and missing his sister who remained at home. He eventually proves himself at the training facility, and is taken, along with a couple of friends, to another more advanced training facility. Here they practice day and night, training day after day on simulators, until finally it all culminates in one battle that Ender believes is his ticket to the next step of training. After he wins he is informed that these last simulations were not just practice, but were indeed real fights with the alien threat. Stricken by the guilt of pushing a species to extinction and sacrificing many human pilots Ender becomes physically and mentally ill. Needing to take a break from reality Ender and his sister depart, leading a handful of colonists to settle alien planets in space. Ender stumbles upon the last egg of this alien civilization while on one of these planets, and is determined to find a planet where he can revive this alien species. I thought that although this book is a fantastical situation, it represents a lot of real world problems. It brings up the concepts of bullying, family, the guilt associated with taking a life, the hardships associated with leading a group, and the emotional toll of being pushed past your limits. I loved how this book was a great story, yet still managed to tie in all of these important concepts and life lessons. In the end this is a great book, both for its amazing, twisting plotline, and the lessons it teaches to children, teenagers, and adults, I think that that this book has a little bit of something for everyone, and would recommend it to anyone.

The book I read was called The Absolutely True Diary of A Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, it was the biography of a boy who grew up with a physical disability on a native american reservation. This book is focused on the concept of alienation and belonging. The story follows the boy as he changes schools to a racist white high school in search of a better education and future. At first he feels alienated at school and at home, but eventually his classmates come to accept him. He even meets a pretty popular girl who he ends up going out with. But at the res he is faced with a lot of hate. His old best friend pretends he doesn't exist and his neighbours treat him like a disgrace. Along the way his sister, father's friend, and grandma all die alcohol related deaths, forcing him to grieve and blame his misery on booze. In the end everyone learns to accept him, even his neighbours and his best friend. I thought it was a pretty good book, with a mix of story, down-to-earth realizations, and comedy. I thought it was a good book and definitely helped paint a picture of the bias faced by American Indians in modern society. I thought it was a pretty good book and would recommend it to most adults and young adults, but most small children would find it too intense.

The last book I read was Night by Elie Wiesel, it's about the true story of one boy's journey through the holocaust. This book was about love, hate and, separation. In the beginning

Elie and his family were informed of incoming invasion but thought nothing of it and assumed it would never make it to them. When it did reach them their family was brought into a ghetto. They lived there for a while, and were even given multiple opportunities to escape, but turned them down. Eventually, the ghettos were moved and all the Jews were forced to go to one of the concentration camps. The men and women were separated, and that was the last time Elie would see most of his family. The Jews were forced to work in terrible conditions, and much of the book talks about the pain and suffering experienced by these people while under Hitler's rule. In the end the camps are liberated, but not before Elie's mother, father, and one of his sisters die. The other thing that dies is Elie's faith in God. This book taught me a lot about the holocaust and made me grateful for what I have. This was an amazing book and I would recommend it to all adults and most teenagers. It is very intense and inappropriate for young children.