

The product of a genetic experiment, Ender Wiggin was created for war. The government took him from his home at the age of 6 to begin training for the battle to save all humanity. This month his story will be told. Ender is the brainchild of author Orson Scott Card, and throughout September Columbia will be talking about *Ender's Game*, the novel that made them both famous, as part of this year's One Read program.

Set in the future, the book finds humans still recovering from a decades-long war with the Buggers, a threatening alien life form. The state creates Ender with the hope that he will become the perfect general to defend Earth against future attacks. He is subjected to a series of rigorous training exercises, which expose his young mind to sensationalized violence and teach him to view war as a game. His genetically

enhanced intelligence proves itself insurmountable to the combatants he faces in simulated battles, but Ender has to struggle to fight back his compassion toward his enemies. In the end, Ender must decide if the battle is worth fighting, and if so, how much of himself he is willing to give up for the fight to save his people.

The One Read program is responsible for a bounty of events being held this month in celebration of the novel. Coordinated by Daniel Boone Regional Library, One Read is designed to promote casual reading by having the entire community pick one book to read and discuss.

"Once you finish reading a book, you want to talk about it," explains Public Services Librarian Sally Abromovich. "We've had people tell us they were talking about it at weddings, at parties. It's a conversation piece, and it's just a lot of fun."

Previous book selections for Columbia's 4-year-old One

Read program include Kent Haruf's *Plainsong*, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*.

"We've done contemporary, classic, nonfiction and now, science fiction," says Doynce McKenzie, the library's collection development manager and One Read co-chair. "The rule for choosing a book is there is no rule."

Although the final book selection is decided by a public vote, both Abromovich and McKenzie are on the reading panel that decides which books will be eligible.

"People think, it's One Read; I'll give it a try," Abromovich says. "Then they're surprised to find that they can actually enjoy reading outside their norm."

"The object is to have a book that's accessible," McKenzie adds. "We want something people will want to read and talk about. A book can be just sweet, but what can you say? This book builds the community."

Ender's Game is expected to provide Columbians plenty of controversial material to fire up conversation. Some of the topics are being addressed in the October airing of July's National Radio Project commentary program "Making Contact: War/Games" on KOPN 89.5 FM.

"A lot of people think the book is fluffy the first time out," says KOPN Director of Development Julie Baka. "But it deals with some heavy issues: war, education, use of the media to sway public opinion. There's a lot of meat there."

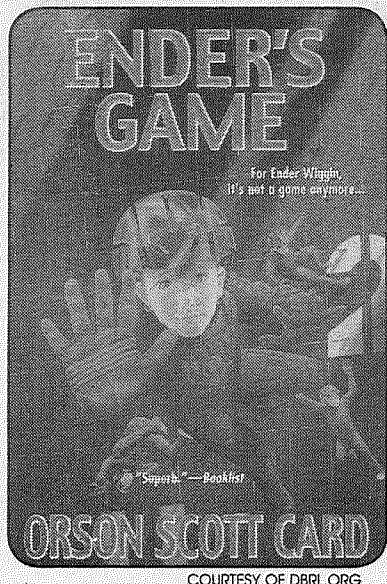
Although a handful of events have already passed, many more remain. The featured event for this year's One Read is an appearance by Orson Scott Card. On Thursday, Oct. 6, Card will be signing books from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Columbia Public Library Friends Room. At 7 p.m. he will offer his thoughts and take questions on the novel in Keller Auditorium on the MU campus. The lecture can also be seen via videoconference at the MU Extension Center in Fulton.

For those who enjoy Card's writing, *Ender's Game* is not the end of the story. It is the first in a series of eight novels dubbed the Ender Saga. The book won the Hugo Award in 1985 and the Nebula Award in 1986, which are both given for outstanding achievement in science fiction writing. Warner Brothers has a movie version of the novel currently in the works with director Wolfgang Petersen (*Troy*, *The Perfect Storm*). Despite the fact that it was written more than 20 years ago, *Ender's Game* is as relevant today as ever before. The contemporary feel and general appeal of the novel's topics make it an ideal selection for a community-wide book discussion program.

"Who you are, what your background is, it doesn't matter," Abromovich says about the upcoming discussions. "You have common ground here. You have something to talk about."

— CLINT CARTER

For a complete list of One Read events, please visit voxmagazine.com



Trudging through the endless footpaths cut into the corn, you start to wonder if the 13-acre corn maze has an exit. Family-owned Shryock Callaway Farms offers a corn maze each year for people of all ages to navigate. Lori Nethero, a senior at MU, says she visited the maze last year on a date. "The corn maze was hard, but it was fun," she says.

Mike Shryock, who designed the maze, cut a picture of Mount Rushmore into the center of the maze using global positioning technology located at the farm. He wanted a design with an impressive aerial perspective and one that people would recognize. This year the maze is more of a labyrinth, he says, because there are a few dead ends and numerous ways to finish.

Ten checkpoints are located throughout the maze, each with a different hole-puncher for participants' cards. Depending on the number of punches collected, participants can enter to win a variety of prizes.

Other fall activities offered at the site include a pick-your-own pumpkin patch. Groups of 25 or more can make reservations for a hayride that stops at a campfire. There's also a three-story gumball machine Shryock compares to the children's game Mousetrap. "People come for the maze," he says, "and leave talking about the gumball machine."

For more information, go to callawayfarms.com.

— NISA KORTE

Shryocks Great American Corn Maze

where: Shryock Callaway Farms
when: Aug. 19 - Oct. 30, Fridays, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. until dark
cost: Children ages 3 and under free; children ages 4-12, \$5; adults, \$6; groups of 20 or more, \$5; preschool and elementary groups, \$3
call: 592-0191

Free roasted chestnuts aren't the only reason to visit the Missouri Chestnut Roast this October. The Ironweed Bluegrass Band, a local music group, will provide entertainment. Chefs such as Craig Cyr will be conducting cooking demonstrations.

Cyr, executive chef and co-owner of The Wine Cellar and Bistro in Columbia, plans to prepare several dishes such as chestnut and apple ravioli, roasted leg of lamb with roasted garlic chestnut sauce, pancakes made with chestnut flour and a fall salad with caramelized chestnuts. Visitors can taste his creations, as well as sample wine from local Missouri wineries.

Sponsored by MU's Center for Agroforestry, the roast is designed to promote chestnuts, pecans, black walnuts and other local horticulture products.

The site of the roast is also home to the Thomas Hickman House, one of the oldest remaining brick homes in the state, says Julie Rhoads, events coordinator for the Center for Agroforestry. Built in 1819, the house is currently undergoing restoration to return it to its original façade.

Children's activities include a model farm, an antique manual corn grinder, a straw bale maze and crafts such as decorative chestnut refrigerator magnets. The event is fun for the whole family, Rhoads says. "There's something for everyone."

For more information, visit centerforagroforestry.org.

— NISA KORTE

Third Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast

where: MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin
when: Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
cost: free
call: 882-3234