Ender’s Game

Library Work- Allusions

Students are assigned, by pod, to a topic below. Gather information for one day individually. Each topic should have a paragraph worth of information and a citation for the source you found it on (URL acceptable). You will present your information to the class on Tuesday.

1. Warsaw Pact; Soviet Union; Cold War
2. NATO; SEATO; OAS; Arab League
3. John Locke; Demosthenes
4. Pericles; Philip II of Macedon; Alexander the Great; Julius Caesar; Napoleon; Otto von Bismarck; Vladimir Lenin; Thomas Paine; Benjamin Franklin
5. Geneva Convention’s rules of warfare
6. US military service academies: US Military Academy (West Point); US Air Force Academy; US Coast Guard Academy; US Naval Academy; US Merchant Marine Academy
7. Military boarding schools, such as the Army and Navy Academy in California, the Randolph-Macon Academy in Virginia, and the New York Military Academy in NY
8. Nuremberg Trials
9. Einstein’s special theory of relativity
10. Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945

In addition to Locke and Demosthenes, Card included allusions to historic leaders and thinkers. The quotations below and brief biographies can serve as a basis for comparisons between these leaders and the book’s characters. Once we’ve completed the library research above, now we can analyze and explain the allusions below. For each quote, explain the allusion from Ender’s Game to history.

1. “Ender did not see Peter as the beautiful ten year old boy that grownups saw, with dark, thick, tousled hair and a face that could have belonged to Alexander the Great” (10).
2. “We need a Napoleon. An Alexander. Except that Napoleon lost in the end and Alexander flamed out and died young. We need a Julius Caesar, except that he made himself dictator, and died for it” (34)
3. “But shouldn’t they still act like children? They aren’t normal. They act like-history. Napoleon and Wellington. Caesar and Brutus” (67).
4. “There are times when the world is rearranging itself, and at times like that, the right words can change the world. Think what Pericles did in Athens and Demosthenes” (128).
5. “… [T]here are times when the world is in flux and the right voice in the right place can move the world. Thomas Paine and Ben Franklin, for instance. Bismarck. Lenin” (128).
6. “[Peter] thinks he’s Alexander the Great. And why shouldn’t he be?”

“Why shouldn’t you be, too? “

“We can’t both be Alexander. Two faces of the same coin. And I am the metal in between” (236).

1. “The little village that had grown up between the Giant’s ribs was composed of buggers now, and they saluted him gravely, like gladiators greeting Caesar before they died for his entertainment” (282).