

Insignia

by **S.J. Kincaid**

Before Reading:

- If you could enhance your intelligence and/or performance by having a computer processor installed in your brain, would you do so? Why or why not?
- Do you think it would be a good idea for countries to fight against each other in outerspace rather than on Earth? Why or why not?
- Should we use our war heroes to help promote wars? Would using war heroes and giving them celebrity status increase patriotism?

After Reading:

- As a teacher, I have a problem with Tom's online teacher, Ms. Falmouth. How could she have made school easier or more engaging for him? What could she have done to make school easier for him considering his home circumstances?
- Do you blame Tom's mom for running away from him and his dad? How do you think this affected Tom?
- Do you think Tom gave in to agreeing to the neural processor too easily? Would you have been more suspicious?
- When Tom first saw Medusa fight, what do you think most appealed to him: her mystery or her fighting abilities? Why?
- Why do you think it mattered so much to Tom when he was trying to determine if Medusa was a girl?

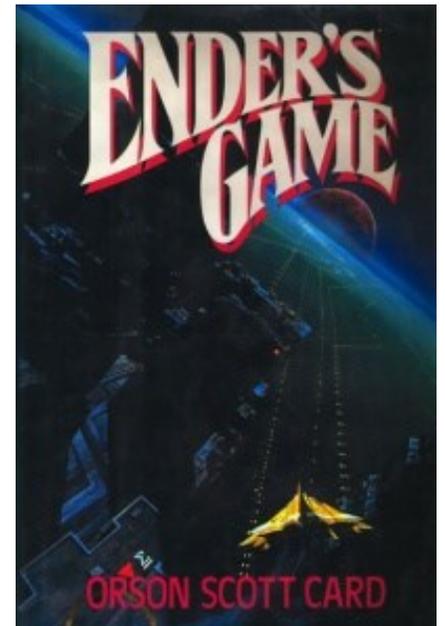
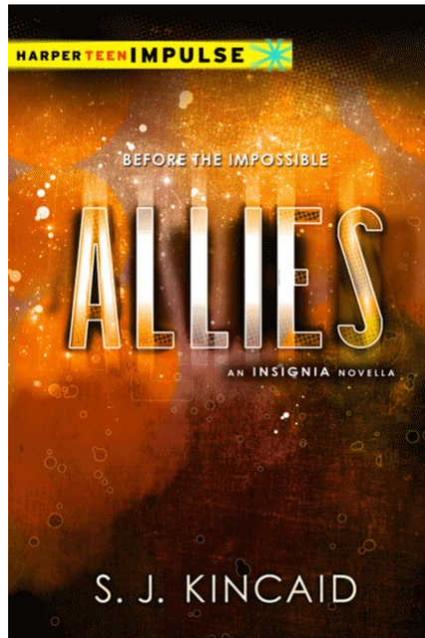
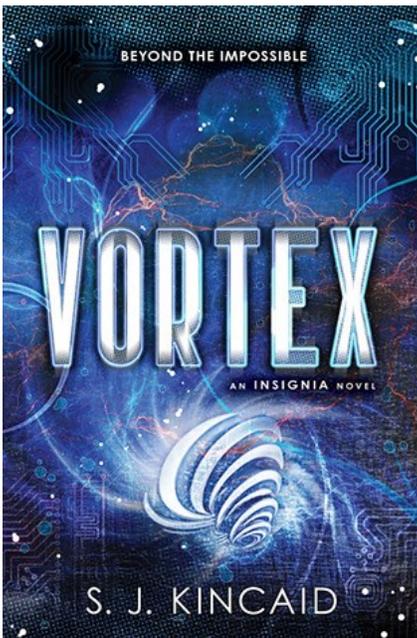
Questions continued on back...

After Reading, Continued:

- How did you feel when you realized what Dalton was doing to Tom? Do you blame Tom for letting this happen?
- Medusa helped Tom pick the alias, Mordred. In King Arthur mythology, Mordred is the character that single handedly brought down the kingdom of Camelot. Do you think this foreshadows actions that will occur in the sequel with Tom , Medusa, and the Camelot Company (CamCo)?
- What do you think of the method Tom used to win against Medusa? Do you think taking a personal blow at her appearance was the right choice? Was it worth losing her friendship to win the battle?
- How do you think Medusa felt about Tom’s personal attack? Would you have talked to him later and tried to be friends again?
- Did you know that S. J. Kincaid is a female? What do you think about a female author writing about gaming which is traditionally a male dominated field?

Activity:

Design a virtual reality video game that represents your life. Write a brief description of the heroes, enemies, quest, and game objective. Don’t forget to give it a cool name!



If you enjoyed this book, try reading other S. J. Kincaid Insignia stories, *Vortex* and *Allies*. Also, try reading *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. It is considered a must-read, classic science fiction novel.