

Ender's Game: Demosthenes & Locke (Chpt. 9)**DEMOSTHENES (384-322 BC)***

When Demosthenes was a youth in ancient Athens, no one could have believed that he would become ***the greatest of the Greek orators***. He had a speech impediment, and people jeered at his stammering when he addressed his first large public assembly.

Demosthenes, the son of a wealthy sword maker, was orphaned when he was only seven. His guardians so misused his estate that little was left when Demosthenes came of age. Seeking justice, he boldly pleaded his own case and won some damages. He was not yet an outstanding speaker, however. To learn to speak distinctly, he talked with pebbles in his mouth and recited verses while running. To strengthen his voice, he spoke on the seashore over the roar of the waves.

Demosthenes' diligent work was successful. By the time he was about twenty-five he had entered public life. He had won popularity and power when King Philip of Macedonia was beginning the conquest of Greece. Realizing the peril, Demosthenes made eloquent appeals for his countrymen to unite and preserve their freedom. These powerful orations against Philip were known as philippics, a term still in use to describe any impassioned denunciation or tirade.

The Athenians were too late in heeding Demosthenes' warnings. Then, he was falsely accused of taking a bribe. He was fined and imprisoned but escaped into exile. After his final effort to obtain freedom for Greece failed, he swallowed poison from his pen.

* This information was taken from
<http://www.crystalinks.com/demosthenes.html>

Ender's Game: Demosthenes & Locke (Chpt. 9)**JOHN LOCKE (1632-1704)****

Locke studied and wrote on philosophical, scientific, and political matters throughout his life. With the *Two Treatises of Civil Government* (1690), Locke established himself as a political theorist of the highest order. The following are his main points of his theory about how a society functions:

- People have a vested interest in something they've worked for.
- Governments and/or societies only have as much power as you the individual will allow them.
- In order for a government/society to work it must gain the support of a majority of the people.
- If an individual doesn't like what's happening then he or she should start a revolution.

* This information was adapted from
<http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/lock.htm>

Questions—Write your answers the following questions.

1. What aspects of Demosthenes' life might Peter respect?
2. How is the political position that Valentine is writing similar to Demosthenes' actual life?
3. What aspects of Locke's philosophy might Peter respect?
4. How is the political position that Peter is writing similar to Locke's actual beliefs?
5. What significant event in American history happens less than one century—1776—after Locke's death? Note Locke's beliefs played a significant role in the founding of this country.