

Quiz 12 (Oct. 18)

1. The “true-name” of the main character in *A Wizard of Earthsea* is Ged. His birth name was Duny. What is his “use-name”?
2. Who gives Ged his “true-name”?
3. What is the name of the island that Ged is from and which is famous for wizards?
4. Why does Ged go to Roke Island?
5. Ged and Jasper engage in a wizarding duel. What does Jasper dare Ged to do?
6. What happens to Archmage Nemmerle after he saves Ged by driving off the shadow creature?
7. After leaving Roke, Ged accepts a post at the isle of Low Torning to protect the islanders from the Dragon of Pendor. What happens in Low Torning that shakes Ged’s confidence?
8. How does Ged defeat the Dragon of Pendor?
9. What happens to Ged’s little otak, Heog?
10. What is the gebbeth /shadow creature that Ged has unleashed, that pursues him, and that he later pursues and confronts?

Quiz 12 (Oct. 18)

1. The “true-name” of the main character in *A Wizard of Earthsea* is Ged. His birth name was Duny. What is his “use-name”? **Sparrowhawk.**
2. Who gives Ged his “true-name”? **Ogion the Silent.**
3. What is the name of the island that Ged is from and which is famous for wizards? **Gont.**
4. Why does Ged go to Roke Island? **To attend the school for wizards.**
5. Ged and Jasper engage in a wizarding duel. What does Jasper dare Ged to do? **To summon a spirit from the dead.**
6. What happens to Archmage Nemmerle after he saves Ged by driving off the shadow creature? **He dies.**
7. After leaving Roke, Ged accepts a post at the isle of Low Torning to protect the islanders from the Dragon of Pendor. What happens in Low Torning that shakes Ged’s confidence? **He is unable to heal the son of his friend, Pechvarry the boatmaker, and the child dies.**
8. How does Ged defeat the Dragon of Pendor? **By speaking its true-name, Yevaud.**
9. What happens to Ged’s little otak, Heog? **He dies, apparently in the skirmish between Ged and Skiorh (i.e., the gebbeth / shadow) on Osskil.**
10. What is the gebbeth / shadow that Ged has unleashed, that pursues him, and that he later pursues and confronts? **It is Ged’s own dark side. Could also be his own death.**



Ursula K. Le Guin

A Wizard of Earthsea is based on two earlier short stories by LeGuin published in the British magazine *Fantastic*:

“The Word of Unbinding” (January 1964)

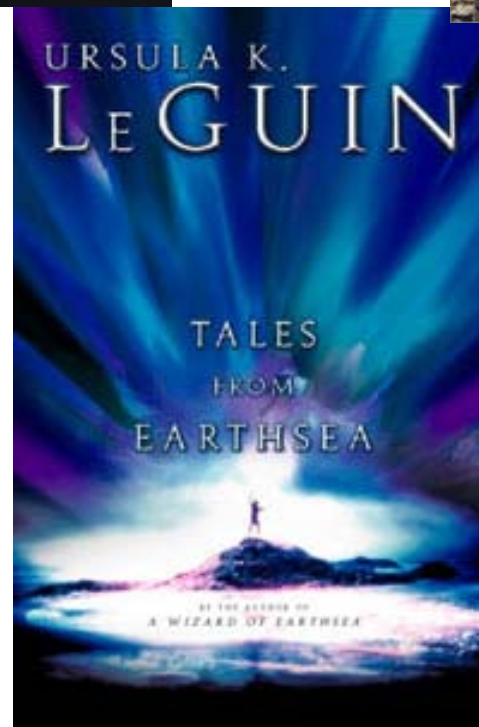
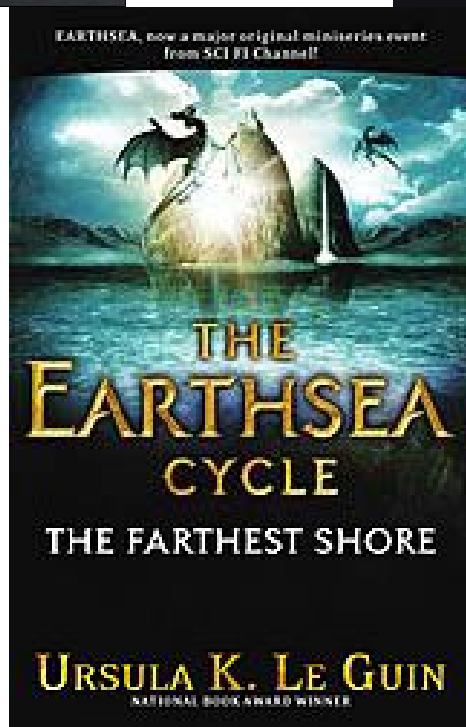
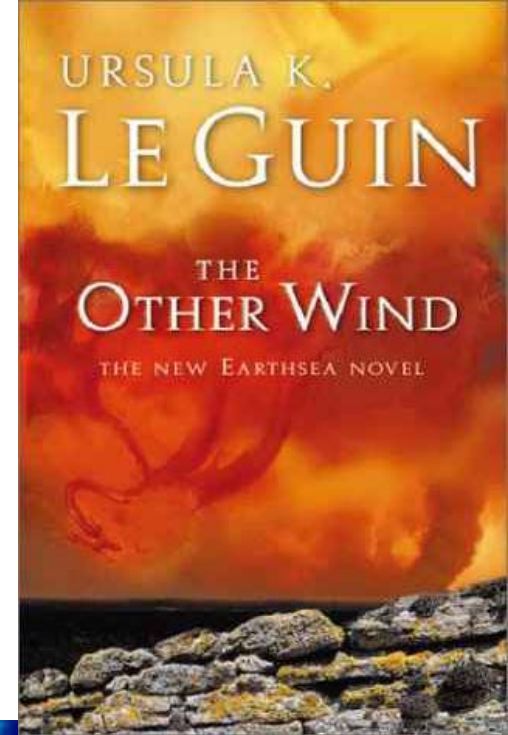
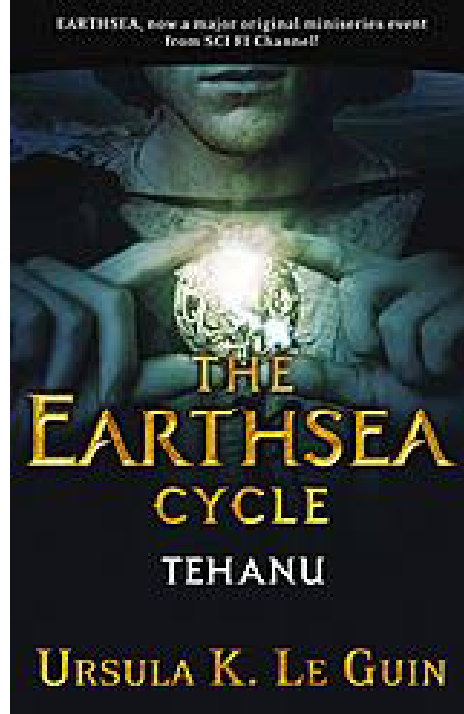
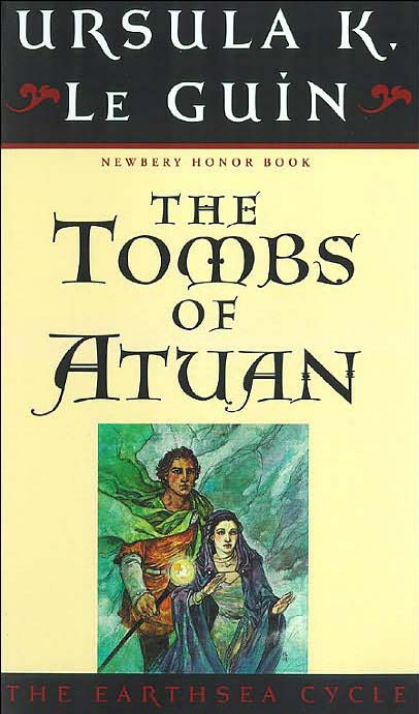
“The Rule of Names” (April 1964)

On her web site, Ursula K. LeGuin says that “Earthsea really does go in order, because it is all one story: *A Wizard of Earthsea* [1968], *The Tombs of Atuan* [1971], *The Farthest Shore* [1972], *Tehanu* [1990], *Tales from Earthsea*, *The Other Wind* [2001].”

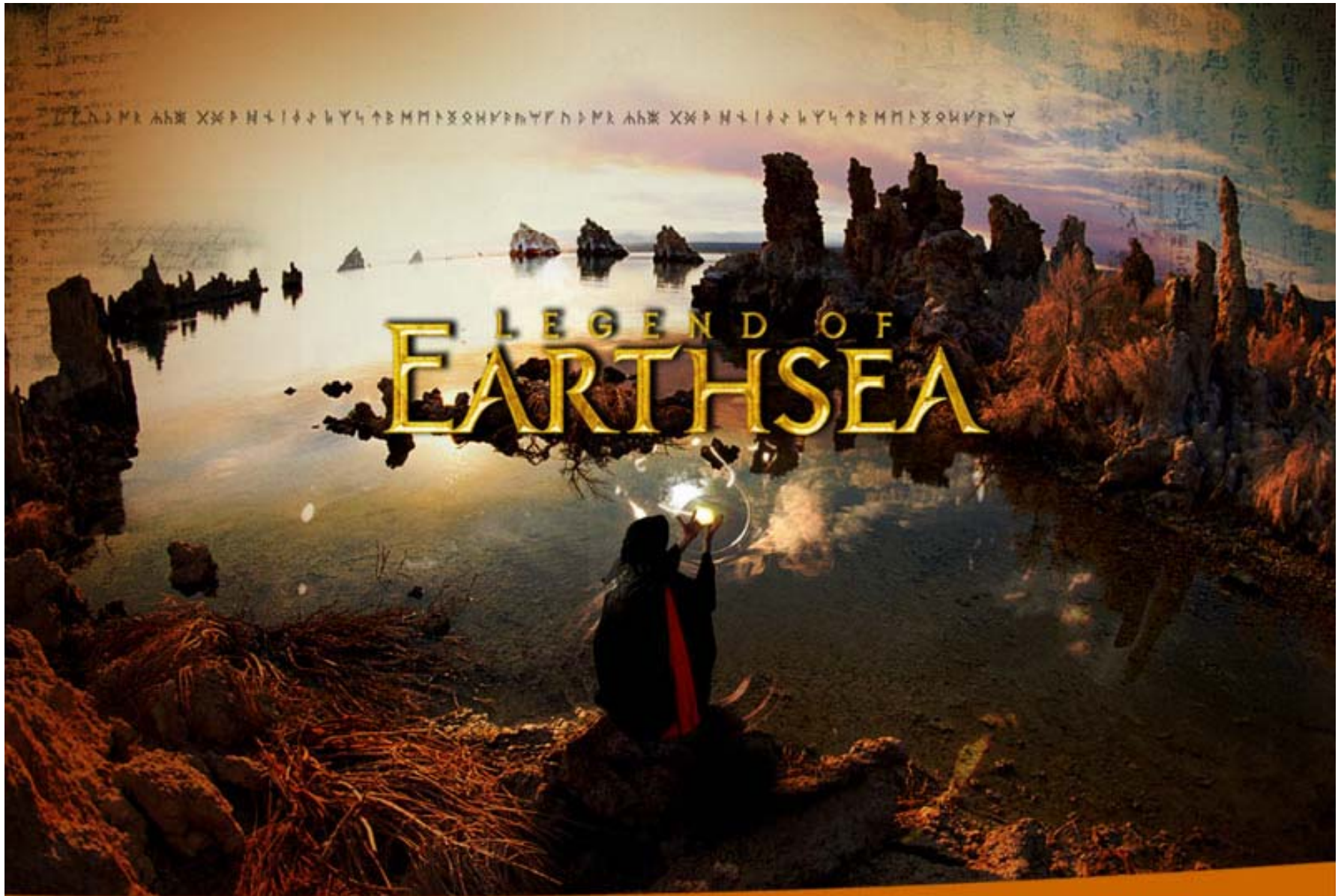
A Wizard of Earthsea won the Boston Globe-Hornbook Award for juvenile fiction in 1968.

The Farthest Shore won the National Book Award in 1972.

Tehanu won the Nebula Award in 1990.



The Sci-Fi Channel miniseries was broadcast in fall 2004 (and recently rerun on Oct. 7, 2007).



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“Ged and the Dragon” by
Jantner János



Ged confronts the gebbeth, his shadow self, his dark side. (Illustration by L.L. Prindle Design)



Bildungsroman:

“coming of age” stories

- German: "novel of education" (or "novel of formation") is a novel that traces the spiritual, moral, psychological, and/or social development and growth of the main character from (usually) childhood to maturity.
- Traditionally the main character is male, but more modern variations feature females as the main characters.

Components of a bildungsroman

- To spur the hero onto his or her journey, some form of loss or discontent must jar him or her at an early stage away from the home or family setting. **(separation)**
- The process of maturing is long, arduous, and gradual, consisting of repeated clashes between the protagonist's needs and desires and the views and judgments enforced by an unbending social order. **(quests, challenges, failures)**
- Eventually, the spirit and values of the social order become manifest in the protagonist, who is then accommodated into society. **(reconciliation/salvation)**
- The novel ends with an assessment by the protagonist of himself/herself and his/her new place in that society **(wisdom)**

Components of a bildungsroman

- Within the genre,
 - an **Entwicklungsroman** is a story of general growth rather than the self or culture;
 - an **Erziehungsroman** focuses on training and formal education; and
 - a **Künstlerroman** is about the development of an artist.
- Many other genres include a bildungsroman as a prominent part of their plot:
 - a military story frequently shows a raw recruit receiving his/her baptism by fire and becoming a battle-hardened soldier.
 - A high **fantasy quest** may also show a transformation from an adolescent protagonist into an adult aware of his/her powers or lineage.