“The Westing Game”
By Ellen Raskin
Reading/Writing Interactive Notebook
Plus: Enrichment Project Menu

51 Page Complete Literature Guide
Grades 4th-8th
By Gina Kennedy
Ellen Raskin

Ellen Raskin was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and grew up during the Great Depression. She was educated at the University of Wisconsin in Madison with a major in fine art.

Ellen Raskin married Dennis Flanagan, a magazine editor and had one daughter, Susan Metcalf. Raskin was an author and illustrator for children’s books from 1966 to 1984 when she died of complications from connective-tissue disease on August 8, 1984.

In 1976 Raskin started writing The Westing Game as an idea related to the United State’s Bicentennial. The novel was also inspired by the city of Sheboygan, north of Raskin’s hometown in Milwaukee. Sheboygan is a factory town, dominated by Kohler Company, and Raskin has stated that the character Sam Westing, is intentionally based on “Old Man Kohler” who owned the large company. However, in the middle of writing the novel, the famous reclusive Howard Hughes died and there was a huge fight over his will...and the story grew from there.

The Westing Game won the Newbery Medal and was adapted into a movie titled, “Get a Clue” based on the story in the novel.

The Westing Game

By Ellen Raskin

Sixteen people, all tenants in the Sunset Towers, brought there by Barney Northrup to this apartment building on the shore of Lake Michigan, are named as heirs in the will of the self-made millionaire, Samuel W. Westing. Sunset Towers, despite the name, faces east, where the sun rises. The will is structured as a puzzle, with the heirs divided into eight pairs, and challenged to find the solution, each pair is given $10,000 cash and a different set of clues which, when reassembled, form nearly all of the lyrics to the first verse of “America the Beautiful.” The pair that solves the mystery will inherit Westing’s entire $200 million fortune and control of his paper products company. Past and present secrets about the heirs begin to emerge as the game progresses.

When people die, they generally have a will. Think of a creative way that you could have people (or your heirs) compete over your belongings when you die. Describe the competition below.

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If you inherited $200,000,000, and you had to donate it to a charity, who would you give it to and why?

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Describe what was unusual about the way the tenant’s apartments were chosen. 

Use chandelier, exclusive and gruesome in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 1-2.

chandelier: 

exclusive: 

gruesome: 

What was unusual about Sunset Towers?

What did Grace W. like about Sunset Towers? Cite evidence from the text.

Describe Chris Theodorakis’s handicap.

What was his hobby?

What did Barney Northrup say that caused Jake to wonder?

What point of view is this story being told from? How do you know?

Vocabulary:
chandelier- a decorative light fixture that hangs from the ceiling
exclusive- only available to a privileged group
gruesome- causing great horror
hassock- a thick firm cushion used as a footstool
hoist- to lift up
luxurious- fancy and extravagant
tenant- someone who rents a house or apartment
Describe the setting of Chapters 1-2. Cite details from the story in your answer.

What did Turtle Wexler see coming from the Westing House?

Describe what happened to two “unfortunate fellows” from Westing town.

Describe the bet that Turtle made.

Use hassock, hoist, luxurious, and tenant in four sentences referring to the events in Chapters 1-2.

What did the doorman complain bitterly about?

Illustrate below what Chris saw through his binoculars that he told Theo about.

Illustration
Directions: Imagine you are one of the tenants of Sunset Towers. Write a journal entry describing how you feel about your apartment and how you feel about having to be there. Pretend you’ve met one of the other residents in your journal entry and discuss that experience.

Dear Journal,

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Chapter 3

Vocabulary:
- **devoured**: to eat quickly as if starved
- **façade**: an illusion of something
- **grappling**: to grab a hold of something
- **nape**: the back of neck
- **rational**: very sensible
- **rigid**: serious and strict looking

How did Turtle treat people who were mean to her?
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Describe three inferences you could make about Mr. Westing based on what you have read in Chapter Three.
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2.
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How could you know that Mr. Hoo was acquainted with Mr. Westing?
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Describe Chapter Three using just three main ideas.
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3.
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Use **devoured**, **façade**, and **grappling** in three sentences referring to the events in Chapter Three.
**devoured**:
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**façade**:
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**grappling**:
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What was special about J.J. Ford from the other characters? __________________

How did Turtle feel about wedding dresses? Cite evidence from the text. ________________

How did she solve it? ___

What was Sydelle Pulaski's problem??________

What fantastic story did Theo tell Chris in Chapter Three?

Use nape, rational, and rigid in three sentences referring to events in Chapter Three.

napa:

rational:

rigid:
**Story Board Recall**

**Directions:** Recall the six most important events that occurred in Chapters 1-3. Illustrate each event and then write a short caption to describe what happened.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event #1:</th>
<th>Event #2:</th>
<th>Event #3:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caption:</td>
<td>Caption:</td>
<td>Caption:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event #4:</td>
<td>Event #5:</td>
<td>Event #6:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caption:</td>
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<td>Caption:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chapters 4-5

Vocabulary:
- **audible**: something you can hear
- **beneficiary**: someone who receives benefits
- **benefactor**: someone who gives to others
- **beneficial**: something that is helpful
- **helm**: to be in control of something
- **salve**: a medicinal ointment

Why did Turtle take the dare to go into Mr. Westing’s house?___
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What important information did the newspaper article omit about Mr. Westing? Why?
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Describe what happened to Turtle in Mr. Westing’s house.
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Use **audible**, **beneficiary** and **benefactor** in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 4-5 of the novel.

**audible:**
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__________________________________________________________
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**beneficiary:**
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**benefactor:**
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Grace Wexler wrote **housewife** on her receipt then crossed it out and wrote **heiress**. What do you think this said about her personality? Cite evidence from the text.
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How did Chris sign the receipts?____________________

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Where was the beneficiary suppose to go? What were they going to do there?____________________

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If you were to ask other residents at the Sunset Tower to describe what two character traits they would use to describe Turtle, what might they say? Explain each one.

A. Character Trait:____________________
   Why?

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B. Character Trait:____________________
   Why

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Why was Grace sure that she was the only heir? How did she treat Judge Ford? Cite evidence from the text.

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Describe what confused Dr. Deere about Sydelle’s symptoms.____________________

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Use beneficial, helm and salve in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 4-5 of the novel.

benificial:____________________
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helm:____________________
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salve:____________________
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Brainstorm three possible reasons that Westing may have had to bring these characters together other than the money:

1.____________________

2.____________________

3.____________________
"Milwaukee"

**Directions:** The Westing Game takes place in the city of Milwaukee. Research the city of Milwaukee and fill in the report template below. *(Use Complete Sentences)*

Write three interesting facts (complete sentences) for each category below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History of Milwaukee:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Tourist Attractions in Milwaukee:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Lifestyle in Milwaukee, jobs, events, festivals and etc.:</th>
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</table>

**Writing:** Pretend you had one day to spend in Milwaukee. Write a one page journal entry stating what you visited, what you did, what you ate and what transportation you used. Make sure that all of the information in your journal entry reflects the information you learned about the city of Milwaukee.
How many players were there in the game? Name the pairs below. ____________________________
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Who knew about chess? How did the author let the readers know who had chess experience?__________________________
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What was the Westing game? What conditions did Mr. Westing set up to keep everyone playing?__________________________
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What was unusual about the clues? Cite evidence from the text. ____________________________
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Use **appalled**, **apprehension**, and **corrupt** in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 6-7 of the novel.

**appalled:**
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**apprehension:**
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**corrupt:**
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Describe why an autopsy couldn't be held.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Why did Judge Ford want to drop out of the game? Who persuaded her to stay?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>What did Turtle and her partner do to make sure no one saw their clues?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Who didn't look at their clues and what did they do instead?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>What does the TENTH set of instructions say counts in this game?</strong></th>
<th><strong>What did Turtle do with her clues?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Use eccentric, tentative, and verify in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 6-7 of the novel.</strong></th>
<th><strong>When will the heirs be able to see a copy of the will?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Summarize Chapters 6-7 below.</strong></th>
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Directions: Think about what you’ve learned so far about Mr. Westing. Write a character sketch of the man based on what you’ve learned from the text and your imagination.

A character sketch is a short essay that informs others about a character in a book. When you write a character sketch, you want the reader to have a strong mental image of the person including how the person talks, acts and thinks.

Consider the following about your character:
- gender, age and name
- appearance
- physical and personal strengths and weaknesses
- likes and dislikes G feelings and behaviors towards other characters
- feelings of other characters towards the character
- feelings of character towards himself/herself
- personality at the beginning of the novel
- changes in personality as story progresses
- your opinion about the character
Chapters 8-10

Vocabulary:
- abstention - refusing to vote
- ailment - a physical disorder or illness
- bigoted - intolerant of other's differences
- humiliate - to cause a person to lose their respect and dignity
- infirmity - a physical condition of weakness
- pretentious - exaggerating someone's importance

What was special about the candles that Turtle was selling to the tenants?

Describe why Sydelle suddenly disappeared.

Use abstention, ailment and bigoted in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 8-10.

abstention:

ailment:

bigoted:
Explain why Sydelle kept talking about twins.

Citing evidence from the text, explain why Angela was upset.

Why did Turtle react so violently to her mother’s statement about her inheritance?

What is meant by the figurative language, “fashionably late” as used in the text?

What about “social climber”? What does it mean and who do you think it is referring to?

Explain why Judge Ford decided to give a party.

Use \textit{humiliate}, \textit{infirmary} and \textit{pretentious} in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 8-10.

\textit{humiliate}:

\textit{infirmary}:

\textit{pretentious}:
Directions: Choose two characters from the novel and write two journal entries about the events in Chapters 8-10 from each character’s point of view. Have the characters express any concerns that they may have about the other characters in the novel.

Dear Journal,

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Sincerely,

Dear Journal,

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___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sincerely,
Chapters 11-12

Vocabulary:
adjourned - suspended, postponed, finished
alibi - excuse or defense
functional - very useful and practical
paraphernalia - personal belongings, equipment
tapestry - embroidery on canvas
sprawling - spreading quickly
wary - very cautious

Use adjourned, alibi, and functional in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 11-12.
adjourned:

alibi:

functional:

Summarize Chapters 11-12 using just three main ideas.
1. 
2. 
3. 

Why did the heirs write out their questions?

Which heirs have actually met Sam Westing?

Why do you think Angela stopped wearing her engagement ring?

What was Turtle’s last name? What new thing did you learn about Turtle in Chapters 11-12?
How did Turtle feel about her mother? Why do you think Turtle acted so tough?

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Who did the judge think was the victim of Sam Westing’s revenge? Why?

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Explain what Sydelle meant when she said, “Then Turtle’s crutch is her big mouth”?________

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Explain your reasoning citing evidence from the text.

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Illustrate a mysterious scene from Chapters 11-12. Describe your drawing in the caption below.

Caption

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Use paraphernalia, tapestry, sprawling and wary in four sentences referring to the events in Chapters 11-12.

paraphernalia:

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paraphernalia:

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tapestry:

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spawling:

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wary:

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Sunset Towers

**Directions:** Illustrate a map below of Sunset Towers. Include the five stories and the occupants of each. Add at least one fact about each character on the map.
What’s the unexpected results of Grace’s seating plan?

What important clues or facts did you uncover in these chapters?

What did Theo and Angela confide in each other?
Why couldn’t Angela answer Theo’s question?

Use **chide**, **defiant** and **obsequious** in three sentences referring to events in Chapters 13-16.

**chide:**

**defiant:**

**obsequious:**

Vocabulary:
- **chide**: to express your disapproval of
- **defiant**: challenge authority
- **obsequious**: obedient, following rules
- **opt**: to choose
- **protruding**: to thrust forward or stick out
- **remission**: period where things change for the better
- **soothsayer**: a person who foretells events
How did Sydelle happen to get in the way of the bomb? Cite evidence from the text.

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According to the doctor, why did Sydelle invent her story about having a crippling disease?

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What new responsibilities did Grace now have?

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What suggestion did Grace have for renaming Hoo's restaurant?

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Use **opt**, **protruding**, **remission**, and **soothsayer** in four sentences referring to events in Chapters 13-16.

**opt:**
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___________________________________________________

**protruding:**
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
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**remission:**
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**soothsayer:**
___________________________________________________
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According to gossip, why had Violet Westing killed herself?

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___________________________________________________

According to Sandy, if Sam Westing wanted to replay that terrible drama (involving his daughter), who would have to die? Why?

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
Describe how Angela was injured at her own party.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What two reasons did Otis offer for suspecting Mr. Hoo of killing Sam Westing? Cite evidence from the text.

1._____________________________________________________________________

2._____________________________________________________________________

How did Turtle know that her own sister was the bomber? Who else found out in Chapter 16?

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What surprising information did Sydell learn when she was supposed to be sleeping?

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Write a note to your favorite resident below telling them what you know that might help them.
“Fortunately/Unfortunately”

Directions: Create five sets of “fortunately/unfortunately” situations using events that have taken place in Chapters 1-16. You may exaggerate and use humor if necessary.

For Example:
Fortunately, Turtle’s confident in their stock choices, because she thinks Westing picked them.
Unfortunately, their stocks went down $3,000 and they were scared to death.

1. Fortunately, ____________________________________________________________

Unfortunately, ____________________________________________________________

2. Fortunately, ____________________________________________________________

Unfortunately, ____________________________________________________________

3. Fortunately, ____________________________________________________________

Unfortunately, ____________________________________________________________

4. Fortunately, ____________________________________________________________

Unfortunately, ____________________________________________________________

5. Fortunately, ____________________________________________________________

Unfortunately, ____________________________________________________________
Who agreed to help Grace Wexler and Jimmy Hoo with their clues and not to take a share in the inheritance if they won? Why did they agree to help them? ____________________________
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Why did James Hoo add Shin to his name? ____________________________
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__________________________________________
__________________________________________

How did Angela respond when they ask her about plastic surgery? What question did Turtle ask Angela? What was her response? ____________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

Use *burly*, *chronic* and *covetousness* in three sentences referring to events in Chapters 17-19. 
*burly*: ____________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

*chronic*: ____________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

*covetousness*: ____________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

Where was Theo trying to go in the middle of the night? Who did he end up finding? What instructions was Theo given? ____________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

Vocabulary:
*burly* - large in body size
*chronic* - happening constantly, a bad habit
*covetousness* - greedy, wanting money for the wrong reasons
*culled* - to choose, select or pick over
*eluding* - to avoid or escape with speed
*grimace* - an ugly facial expression
*penance* - a punishment
Why was Denton visiting Chris? Where were Denton and Chris going? ____________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Who did Otis Amber think was the bomber? Why did he think that? ____________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Why was Crow so angry at all of the people in Mr. Hoo’s restaurant? What made Crow decide that Mr. Hoo was not the bomber? ____________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

How did Sybil describe Crow? ____________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Who was Sam Westing’s mistake? How was she a mistake? ____________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Use culled, eluding, grimace and penance in four sentences referring to events in Chapters 17-19.

culled: ____________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

eluding: ____________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

grimace: ____________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

penance: ____________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
Directions: The reasons behind people's actions, is an important part of detective work. List eight characters, illustrate a facial photo of how you visualized each character and then describe their motives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #1:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #2:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #3:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #4:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Character #5:</td>
<td>Describe their motive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #6:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #7:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character #8:</th>
<th>Describe their motive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile Picture:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapters 20-21

Vocabulary:
- arsenal: collection or storehouse of weapons
- composure: calmness
- derelicts: people who are "down on their luck" and have no money to live on
- distracted: diverted, turned aside, puzzled
- faltered: stumbled, hesitated
- meticulous: extremely careful, especially about details
- shard: piece or fragment of glass or pottery

What was George Theodorakis’s connection to the Westings?

What conclusion did the judge reach concerning Mr. and Mrs. Theodorakis?

What did we find out about Mr. Theodorakis’ relationship with Violet Westing?

What did Violet want to be when she grew up? How did Mrs. Westing react to Violet’s death?

Use arsenal, composure and derelicts in three sentences referring to events in Chapters 20-21.

arsenal:

composure:

derelicts:

What surprising fact did Sandy discover about the judge?

How did Chris react to the medicine?
What was Judge Ford’s connection to Westing?

Who was injured by the fourth bomb?

How did Angela and Sydelle finally get some privacy? Who did Angela get a note from?

Illustrate below who finally solved the clue. Add a caption to explain your drawing.

Use **distracted, faltered, meticulous** and **shard** in four sentences referring to events in Chapters 20-21.

**distracted:**

**faltered:**

**meticulous:**

**shard:**
Directions: By now you’ve gotten to know many of the characters very well. Choose two characters from the story and compare their similarities and differences below.

Character #1:

Character #2:

ALIKE

DIFFERENT
Chapters 22-23

Vocabulary:
- derisive: mocking or making fun of someone
- diagnosed: to determine an illness
- furious: extremely angry
- improbable: most likely won’t happen
- pompous: thinking one’s self is overly important
- reluctant: not sure about something

Use derisive, diagnosed and furious in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 22-23.

derisive:

diagnosed:

furious:

Why did Angela laugh after leaving her parents at the apartment?

What did Grace mean when she said that she was the mother of “Cain and Abel?”

Why did Jake think of himself as a loser?

What did Turtle confess to in the message posted in the elevator? How was Turtle going to be able to afford the dinner for everyone?

Why wouldn’t Grace go to the track meet? Why did Grace want Angela to marry a “real” doctor?

What new side of Grade did we see in Chapter 22? Cite evidence from the text.
Who gave the heirs their titles? Were they the same as the signatures on the original receipts? Why or why not? 

Cite evidence from the text for each answer. As of Chapter 23, which character.... Worries you the most? Why? 

Starts the most trouble? Why? 

Would most likely hurt someone else to make their life better? Why? 

Is the most honest? Why? 

What did Judge Ford do with her second check? 

Why did Theo change his mind at the last minute? 

Who went with Crow to the kitchen? Why? 

Use improbable, pompous and reluctant in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 22-23.

improbable: 

pompous: 

reluctant: 

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Directions: Pretend Grace, Theo and Turtle were exchanging text messages about the events in Chapters 22-23. What might the text messages look like? Write them below.

Theo: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Grace: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Turtle: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Theo: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Grace: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Turtle: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

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Chapters 24-26

Vocabulary:
apprehend - to take into custody
baffled - confused about a situation
fanatic - person with extreme enthusiasm
paranoia - hallucinating, not aware of reality
podiatrist - foot doctor
pretense - make believe
restrain - to hold back from action

Summarize Chapters 24-26 with just four main ideas in complete sentences?
1. ______________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________________________

Use apprehend, baffled and fanatic in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 24-26 of the novel.
apprehend: ______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________________________________________
baffled: ______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________________________________________
fanatic: ______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________________________________________

Why did the judge think Sandy was really Sam Westing? Cite evidence from the text. ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Who were the two strangers? What importance did they have to the novel? ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

What made all of the heirs decide to cooperate with each other? ______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

©GinaKennedy
Why was Angela indebted to her sister? Cite evidence from the text.

Who was the mystery chess person? What was the importance of this character to the story?

What similarities did the judge see between the “Westing Game” and a game of chess?

What did Turtle mean when she said, “for we all inherited something”?

Use paranoia, podiatrist, pretense and restrain in four sentences referring to the events in Chapters 24-26 of the novel.

paranois:

podiatrist:

pretense:

restrain:

Who wrote the receipt for checks that the judge found in the envelope? Did that surprise you? Why or why not?

Who was the “fourth”?
Who is the Culprit?

Directions: The climax of most mystery stories usually comes when the detective assembles all the suspects and prepares them for the solution. Who do you think is the culprit? Rewrite Chapter 26 below to show how you would have solved the mystery.
Chapters 27-30

Vocabulary:
arrogance- acting as though one is superior to others
correspondent- one who communicates with others
extravaganza- a huge festival or production
fragile- easily broken, shattered
taut- tightly drawn, tense
vengeful- characterized by a mean spirit

What name did Turtle call Mr. Eastman? Why?

Describe how Judge Ford repaid her debt.

Use arrogance, correspondent and extravaganza in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 27-30.

arrogance:

correspondent:

extravaganza:

What is meant by the statement that Jake had given up both private practices?

Why did Grace cover the liquor at the wedding?

When did Table #1 forfeit the check? Why did they forfeit it?
Select any three characters from the book and tell how each benefitted from playing the Westing Game.

Character #1: How?

Character #2: How?

Character #3: How?

What did Mr. Eastman know about Angela that surprised Turtle?

Who was the master chess player? Cite evidence from the text.

Why was it beneficial for Turtle to “fib” about Crow and Otis?

Approximately how many years after the game ended did the scene at Westing’s deathbed take place? How do you know?

Use fragile, taut and vengeful in three sentences referring to the events in Chapters 27-30.

fragile:

taut:

vengeful:
Directions: Create a plot chart of the novel. Identify the most important event in the novel (climax). Then identify the four most important events leading up to the climax (rising actions) and the four most important events that took place after the climax (falling actions).

Plot Chart
Rising Events

Climax:

Rising Event #1:

Rising Event #2:

Rising Event #3:

Rising Event #4:

Falling Action #1:

Falling Action #2:

Falling Action #3:

Falling Action #4:
The Westing Game
By Ellen Raskin

List and describe two ways the author’s writing style in this novel made the story more interesting.

1.___________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

Explain the author’s purpose for writing this novel: ____________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

Explain the general mood of this story, or how the author made you feel while you were reading this novel. Use mood words such as silly, angry and so on in your description to defend your answer.

__________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

Write a summary below for this novel using the “somebody wanted so but then” strategy.

__________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

Based on what you have read in this novel, what two conclusions could you draw about Turtle’s life ten years after the end of the novel?
1.___________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

2.___________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

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Directions: Each of the following themes are among those used in The Westing Game. Read the themes below and provide an event from the story to support how each theme was included by the author in the novel.

Appearances:

Wealth:

Society and Class:

Patriotism:

Identity:

Lies and Deception:
Persuasive Essay: Mr. Westing decided to have one of his heirs inherit his fortune. Many millionaires feel they should give their money to charity when they die and not give it to their children because they want their children to understand the hard work involved in making money on their own. Do you think millionaires should leave their money to their children (heirs)? Or do you think they should give it to charity? Write a one page essay below persuading others to think like you do. Provide at least three reasons to defend your opinion.
Directions: Conflict in literature refers to the clash opposing forces. There are three major forms of conflict. Use the chart below to record how each is evident in the novel. (Include two examples for each section.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person Vs. Person</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person Vs. Nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person Vs. Self</td>
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</table>
"The Westing Game"
Character Analysis

Choose one character trait to describe each character below. Use evidence from the novel’s text to defend each choice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Trait Description</th>
<th>Why?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turtle Wexler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Windsor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theo Theodorakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Theodorakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy McSouthers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Judge Ford:
Why?

Otis Amber:
Why?

Sydelle Pulaski:
Why?

Flora Baumbach:
Why?

Madame Hoo:
Why?

Barney Northrup:
Why?
The Westing Game: Figurative Language

Directions: Explain how each form of figurative language below could be related to an event in The Westing Game.

1. "A good thing is all the sweeter when won with pain": 

2. "No man is an island": 

3. "A bully is always a coward": 

4. "Manners make the man": 

5. "No man is worse for knowing the worst of himself": 

6. "Every cloud has a silver lining": 

7. "Hope for the best and prepare for the worst": 

8. "He who laughs last, laughs longest": 

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Your Last Will and Testament

Directions: Create a will below telling who will receive your most cherished belongs.

The Last Will and Testament of

I hereby leave the following items to the people listed below.
Directions: You will be designing a new book jacket for the book, The Westing Game. You will need to decide what image you would like to have on the cover. On the back, you will need to write a summary of the book and two “one paragraph” reviews.
### The Westing Game “End of the Book” Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Make three “Wanted” posters for three of the Westing heirs on 8” x 11” papers. Illustrate your posters using physical descriptions from the text, and include information on your posters about what makes each character suspicious. Add a reward on each poster for determining what each character is guilty of.**

- **An obituary is an article written on the occasion of a person’s death. Write such an article about Samuel Westing, including information you gathered from the novel and adding your own thoughts about Samuel Westing as well. Be as complimentary as you can, which is a characteristic of an obituary.**

- **Create a set of The Westing Game trading cards using 5” x 7” index cards. On the front of each card list the character’s name and illustrate a picture of the character. On the back of each trading card list the approximate age of each character and four important facts about each character. Bind the trading cards in an organized way with a title trading card.**

- **Write a six stanza poem about the heirs and their antics throughout the novel. Write the poem as if you are Turtle from her perspective. Include at least two illustrations with your poem. Glue your poem and illustrations on a poster for display.**

- **The Westing Games was recreated into a movie called, “Get a Clue.” Create a full sized poster that would have advertised the movie when it was first produced. On the poster include a full sized illustration, main stars of the movie and two critics’ reviews.**

- **Write a two page mystery about the heirs of a millionaire who will do anything they can to be the beneficiary of the millionaire’s will. Add an illustration to your mystery to add interest to the story.**

- **Pretend that ten years have gone by since the end of the novel. Write a two page sequel to The Westing Game, telling what has happened in the lives of the major characters. Add an illustration to accompany the sequel.**

- **Create a 3-D model of the Sunset Towers. Use recycled materials or any materials you’d like. Add a front sitting area and show a few characters in front of the building or in the windows. Be creative and make the model as life-like as possible according to the facts in the novel.**

- **Write a twenty question true or false quiz about the text in The Westing Game for another student to take. Include an answer key.**

Complete three projects in tic tac toe order.

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“The Westing Game” Project Rubric:

The projects were complete and all of the necessary components were included........................40 Points

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar...........................................20 points

Creativity and Originality......................................................20 Points

Projects are Attractive and Organized.................................20 Points

Total Possible.........................................................................100 Points

Student’s Name:

Total Points:

Grade: