

The Westing Game

by Ellen Raskin

Teacher's Guide

Written By Mary Ellen Snodgrass

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

As a messenger delivers letters from Barney Northrup to potential tenants of Sunset Towers on Lake Michigan, a selected group of families learn about the neighborhood awaiting them. Barney conducts six pre-chosen families through apartments. The first family examining 3D consists of Grace Windsor Wexler, a social climber and snob, her husband Jake, a podiatrist and bookie, Angela, a beauty engaged to Denton Deere, and Turtle, a bratty whiz kid.

The second prospect, Sydelle Pulaski, a mousy secretary, gets a good view of the Westing estate, which has been vacant for fifteen years. With her signature on the papers, Barney completes his sales pitch and secures an office for Dr. Wexler, a coffee shop in the lobby for the Theodorakis family, and Shin Hoo's Restaurant on the fifth floor.

Chapter 2

By September 1, Sunset Towers is filled. On September 2, the restaurant opens, but does less business than the coffee shop. Other regular faces include Sandy McSouthers, the doorman; Otis Amber, the delivery boy; and Crow, the cleaning woman. On Halloween, Turtle spies smoke coming from the estate chimney. Otis tells of a bet the previous October 31, which concluded with the trespasser being chased by a ghost and dying on the rocks below the cliff. The victim's accomplice went insane. Turtle takes a dare from track star Doug Hoo to visit the haunted mansion. Chris Theodorakis, a devoted bird watcher despite severe seizures, observes a person entering the

estate and waits for his brother Theo to bring him dinner so he can describe the limping figure.

Chapter 3

Flora Baumbach, a dressmaker, follows Grace's direction as she fits Angela's wedding dress. The bride-to-be quarrels with Turtle, who denigrates Dr. Denton Deere, Angela's future husband. In the podiatrist's office, Crow allows Jake to cut a corn from her little toe. She believes that Westing's corpse remains in the mansion. In the restaurant, Mr. Hoo chides Doug for shirking his studies. Meanwhile, Sandy delivers J. J. Ford, the first black female judge in the state, and asks her opinion of the ghost. Sydelle limps through the lobby unnoticed, thinks about Chris, and plots revenge on people who ignore her.

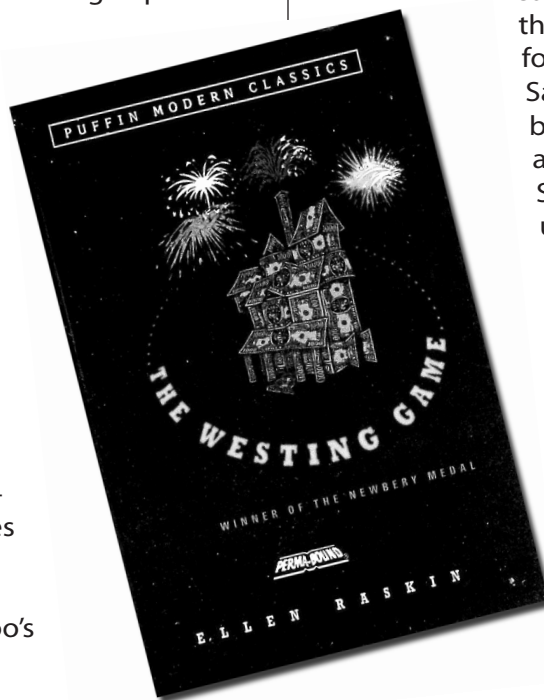
Chapter 4

Turtle takes the bet to earn money to subscribe to the *Wall Street Journal*. After eleven minutes, she sees a waxy corpse in a four-poster bed and runs. The morning paper on November 1 confirms Samuel Westing's death and reveals his love of Fourth of July parties, the drowning of his daughter

Violet, and his rise to chairman of Westing Paper Products. By noon, Attorney E. J. Plum invites residents, Sandy, Crow, Otis, and Denton to the reading of Westing's will on November 2 at 4 P. M. at the Westing south library. Grace immediately envisions herself as an heiress.

Chapter 5

In the room lies Westing, garbed like Uncle Sam, in his coffin. The others join Grace, who feigns sadness. Denton sits with Angela. Sydelle limps in on purple crutches.



Chapter 6

Lawyer Plum names the attendees as Westing's nieces and nephews and claims that one of them murdered him. His body will be cremated on November 3 and the ashes scattered. The will urges them to find the culprit and to play the Westing game.

Chapter 7

The group gathers in the game room to learn of a game that will stake each to \$5,000. They are paired in unlikely duos: Sun Lin Hoo and Jake, Turtle and Flora, Chris and Denton, Sandy and Judge Ford, Grace and James Shin Hoo, Crow and Otis, Theo and Doug, Sydelle and Angela. Each pair receives a set of senseless clues. The will remains unfiled until January 1. Sydelle copies the proceedings in shorthand.

Chapter 8

A blizzard that night temporarily confines players to the Towers. All but Madame Hoo and Jake set out to uncover the name of the murderer. Someone steals Sydelle's notes.

Chapter 9

As the heirs study each other, they guess at a solution. Angela is ambivalent about the wedding; Grace prefers her to Turtle, a lively scamp. Judge Ford learns that James once sued Westing for stealing plans for a disposable diaper. The judge posts an invitation to a party that evening at 8 P. M.

Chapter 10

Guests mingle in the judge's apartment. Madame Hoo remains isolated because she speaks little English. Angela dashes to the kitchen to cry. The guests depart after they realize they will get no answers.

Chapter 11

On November 5, the group meets in the coffee shop. Flora grooms Turtle's hair and recalls her deceased daughter Rosalie. Theo suggests sharing clues. Mr. Hoo returns Sydelle's notes, which are written in Polish. Only James knew Mr. Westing.

Chapter 12

Exploding tomato sauce damages the coffee shop. Judge Ford gains more information about Violet and the four people who had ties with Westing. She dials a private detective and hears a familiar voice.

Chapter 13

Grace takes a job as hostess of Shin's restaurant, where Chris dines with Sydelle. Theo reveals to Angela that he has a scholarship for the next year, but that he must pay for Chris's operation. Angela wanted to be a doctor, but the Wexlers have less money than they pretend. Flora and Grace discuss wedding gowns. Otis announces that the roads are clear; a gas explosion interrupts him. An ambulance arrives for Sydelle, who sustains a fracture; Angela accompanies her. Grace plans a party for Angela.

Chapter 14

The residents move more freely as the snow melts. Pairs struggle to know each other and solve the puzzle. An argument between Angela and Denton forces her to admit that she wants out of the engagement. Angela calms Sydelle and finds a letter containing two clues.

Chapter 15

By Friday, the residents are back to normal. In the driveway, Turtle, Sandy, Doug, and Theo discuss the murder. Sandy recalls that Otis and Crow were the only residents who left on Halloween before Turtle and Doug trespassed on the estate grounds. The judge studies the detective's information about the Westings. A photo of Violet resembles Angela. Sandy is the only witness who can help the judge link residents to the Westings.

Chapter 16

At a party for Angela, only Grace's friends are invited. Angela opens a box that explodes, injuring her hands and cheek. The police captain can't link the event to the two earlier bombs. Angela lies in a hospital bed alongside Sydelle and tries to remember the incident. Turtle thanks her for taking the box, which would have exploded in her hands. She suspects that Angela is the bomber.

Chapter 17

The bomb squad checks parcels as residents study the clues. Sandy links James Hoo with Westing. Crow plays for Theo.

Chapter 18

Flora reads that Julian Eastman now heads the Westing Corporation. The heirs are invited to the estate on Saturday night. Judge Ford concludes that Sydelle has no connection with the Westings.

Angela recovers. Denton takes Chris to a neurologist who may cure him.

Chapter 19

On Thursday, Otis concludes that James is the bomber. In the restaurant, James gives Crow some innersoles he invented. Chris finds more clues. The judge reveals to Sandy her distaste for Westing's bribery and mistreatments of workers. She learns that Grace's maiden name—Windkloppel—is the same as Crow's married name. A letter indicates that Westing unintentionally contacts Sydelle rather than Sybil Pulaski.

Chapter 20

On Friday, Turtle studies the stock market and impels Flora to sell Westing stock, which rises to \$52 a share. An exploding fertilizer experiment injures Theo. The judge asks George about Violet, his childhood sweetheart who killed herself rather than formally reject a sleazy state senator. The judge concludes that one of the heirs must be Mrs. Westing.

Chapter 21

Theo borrows Turtle's bike and follows Crow and Otis to a soup kitchen. Sandy forces the judge to admit her tie to the Westings: her parents were Westing's servants and Westing paid for her education so that he could have a judge in his debt. A bomb in the elevator singes Turtle's braid. The bomb squad finds a note naming Turtle as the bomber; Judge Ford believes that Turtle is shielding the real bomber. Turtle confesses that she saw Westing's corpse on Halloween. Angela and Sydelle realize the clues come from "America the Beautiful."

Chapter 22

On Saturday, Turtle posts a confession in the elevator. Madame Hoo revels in her son's track awards. The Judge determines that Sam lost his real face fifteen years earlier. Sandy, recently fired by Barney Northrup, announces that Otis has to be Westing's new identity. Crow fears that she is in danger.

Chapter 23

On Saturday, Plum reconvenes the heirs to present each \$10,000. Chris deduces that Westing paired them to produce friendships. Grace announces that Hoo's On First, the Chinese restaurant, will reopen the next day. Other players fail to solve the

puzzle; Sydelle sings "America the Beautiful." Following Westing's will, Crow prepares refreshments and fills Sandy's flask. Plum directs the players to the library.

Chapter 24

Plum distributes more instructions, which push players to work toward the grand prize and the Westing fortune. The words they are missing spell Crow's name. When Sandy suddenly dies, the sheriff investigates the cause. Plum reads Westing's admission that his name is really Windkloppel and that players have five minutes to finish the game and win \$200,000,000. Crow wins and divides her inheritance between the soup kitchen and Angela.

Chapter 25

The sheriff arrests Crow for poisoning Sandy. Judge Ford recognizes that Theo has been playing a secret game of chess and has fallen for the queen's sacrifice, which proves that Sandy and Westing are the same person and are still alive. On November 15, Crow's birthday, Turtle recalls selling Sandy a striped candle.

Chapter 26

Testimony reveals that Dr. Sikes limps and aided in the game. Otis admits posing as the delivery boy while investigating for Ford, Westing, and Northrup. He searched for Crow twenty years earlier and spied on her for Westing. Turtle concludes that Westing was alive and disguised as Sandy when the will was read.

Chapter 27

Otis leads Crow into the room. Theo determines that the coroner was part of the plot. Plum resigns. Fireworks light up the lawn. In 20 minutes, the mansion burns. Turtle hurries to the home of Julian Eastman, the new chairman of the board and greets her friend Sandy.

Chapter 28

Turtle conceals the identity of Sandy/Eastman, whom she meets every Saturday. Crow and Otis marry; Judge Ford abandons the Westing puzzle. James patents his innersoles; Sydelle returns to her secretarial job. Jake becomes a consultant to an inquiry on a state lottery. Grace takes over the Chinese restaurant. Angela enters medical school and helps Crow and Otis at the soup kitchen. Denton remains a bachelor.

Chapter 29

James grows rich and donates to the poor. Doug wins an Olympic medal. Sydelle is engaged to marry her employer. Chris has improved. Judge Ford is appointed to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Turtle goes to college.

Chapter 30

Turtle remains loyal to Julian as company lawyer and eventual board chair. On July 3, as Sandy slips toward death, she lies that Otis and Crow are still alive and helping the poor. The other data are true: Sydelle has moved to Hawaii. Angela became an orthopedic surgeon, married Denton, and has a daughter named Alice. Chris married and teaches ornithology. Doug became a sports announcer. Flora moved in with Turtle. Grace runs a chain of restaurants. Jake is state crime commissioner. Turtle, married to Theo, teaches her niece Alice to play chess.

Timeline

- 65 years earlier** Samuel Westing/Sandy McSouthers is born in Edinburgh.
- 62 years earlier** Otis Amber is born. Sandy emigrates to Wisconsin.
- 60 years earlier** Flora Miller Baumbach is born.
- 57 years earlier** Berthe Erica Crow is born.
- 50 years earlier** James Hoo and Sydelle Pulaski are born.
- 45 years earlier** Jake Wexler is born.
- 42 years earlier** Josie-Jo Ford is born.
- 41 years earlier** Berthe marries Windy Windkloppel.
- 40 years earlier** Violet Westing is born.
- 30 years earlier** J.J. is sent to boarding school.
- 28 years earlier** Sun Lin Hoo is born in China
- 25 years earlier** D. Denton Deere is born. Sydelle goes to work as secretary of Conrad Schultz, owner of a sausage factory.
- 22 years earlier** Grace Windkloppel marries Jake Wexler.
- 20 years earlier** Angela is born. Sam hires Otis to watch Crow and keep her from using the Westing name.
- 18 years earlier** Doug is born to James Hoo and his first wife. Violet commits suicide on the eve of her wedding to a dissolute state senator.
- 17 years earlier** Windy divorces Crow because she is an alcoholic. Theo is born.
- 15 years earlier** Chris is born. Westing, sporting a Vandyke beard, has his photo made.

- 13 years earlier** Westing sues James Hoo over rights to a disposable diaper. After a car accident on the way to court, Samuel W. Westing disappears. Julian Eastman succeeds him as company president. Westing's companion, Dr. Sidney Sikes, returns to duties as coroner. Turtle is born.
- 5 years earlier** James Hoo's first wife dies of cancer.
- 2 years earlier** Sun Lin Hoo comes from Hong Kong to marry James.
- March** Sydelle begins to save for her first vacation in 25 years.
- August** Otis delivers messages to six potential residents of Sunset Towers.
- September 1** Residents move into the Towers.
- September 2** James Hoo's restaurant opens, but does less business than the first-floor coffee shop.
- October** Dr. Sidney Sikes certifies Sam Westing's sanity.
- October 31 morning** Sandy tells Otis a story about a person killed the previous year while trespassing at the Weston mansion.
- afternoon** Chris Theodorakis observes a figure limping toward the Westing mansion.
- that night** Turtle takes a dare from Doug to visit the haunted mansion, then flees at the sight of a waxen corpse in a four-poster bed.
- morning of Nov.1** The newspaper confirms the death of Samuel Westing. Judge Ford pays \$5,000 to an investigator.
- noon** Attorney E. J. Plum invites heirs to a reading of the will.
- 4 p.m. November 2** Plum reads the will to potential heirs gathered in the Westing library. The group moves to the game room to receive instructions for the Westing game.
- that night** A blizzard strikes the Lake Michigan area.
- November 3** Westing's remains are to be cremated and his ashes scattered.
- 8 p.m.** Judge J. J. Ford hosts a party for Towers residents.
- 10 a.m. November 6** The group meets in the Theodorakis' coffee shop. James is the only player who admits he knew Westing. An explosion ends the gathering. J. J. calls in a private investigator.

	The bomb squad searches for a perpetrator.
November 7	J. J. notices that Violet resembles Angela. Turtle studies WPP stock.
November 10	The stock market falls six points.
November 12	Sybil Pulaski acknowledges knowing Erica Crow. Otis delivers invitations to the second meeting at the mansion.
November 14	Turtle instructs Baba to sell WPP stock. Doug tracks Otis Amber to a rooming house. Doug then seeks advice from Dr. Wexler about blisters. Theo receives emergency treatment for a glass wound in the shoulder.
November 15	Turtle posts a confession in the elevator. Doug delights his mother by winning a track award. Crow fears an unnamed danger. Judge Ford pays a second installment of \$5,000 to an investigator.
that night	The heirs return to the Westing game room to receive checks for ten thousand dollars each. Players return to the library for a second set of instructions. Judge Ford finds a receipt canceling her debt to Sam Westing for her education. Madame Chin returns stolen items. The sheriff arrests Crow for poisoning Sandy. Turtle proves Crow's innocence. Fireworks celebrate Crow's birthday.
20 minutes later	The Westing mansion burns.
Sunday	Turtle solves the puzzle and reunites with Sandy at Four Sunrise Lane.
four years later	Turtle enters college.
five years later	The Hoos build a lake-front house. Doug wins an Olympic medal. Otis thanks the Hoos for a donation to the soup kitchen. Theo works as a cub reporter. Sydelle is engaged to Conrad Schultz. Judge Ford serves on the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.
10 years later	Alice is born to Dr. Angela Deere and Dr. Denton Deere.
18 years later	Otis and Crow die.
20 years later	Turtle sits by Sandy's deathbed and tells of the successes of the Westing game players.

Author Sketch

Best known for award-winning illustrations and graphic arts and a flair for young adult mystery, Ellen Raskin enjoyed the wit of subtle word associations and the craft of a tight plot. In an interview with Jim Roginski in *Behind the Covers*, she admitted keeping even herself in suspense about the ending. She was born March 13, 1928, in Milwaukee to Sol and Margaret Goldfisch Raskin. She received a B. A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1950 before launching a career as author and cover designer. Over a period of fifteen years, Raskin served as an instructor in illustration at Pratt Institute and Syracuse University and was guest lecturer at the University of Berkeley. In addition to her production of children's books and over a thousand book jackets, she participated in groups shows with the AIGA in New York and Czechoslovakia.

Wife of Dennis Flanagan, editor of *Scientific American*, Raskin was the mother of a daughter, Susan Metcalf, made her home in Greenwich Village, New York, and enjoyed the challenge of the stock market as an unfulfilled side interest. Despite poor health, she enjoyed appearances at conventions and book shows and modestly spoke about others' works that inspired her. On August 8, 1984, she died of a painful auto-immune disease that had plagued her with recurrent flare-ups. Milwaukee's Ellen Raskin Lecture Symposium honors her work; the University of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Public Library both house collections of her papers.

Critic's Corner

Raskin's work remain favorites among young readers, parents, librarians, and teachers. Among the many commendations she received are the Distinctive Merit Award from the Art Directors Club, the Silver Medal, the 1975 Newbery Medal from ALA for *The Westing Game*, Best Fiction Award from *Boston Globe-Horn Book*, an American Book Award nomination, and the *New York Times* Ten Best Books award. For her considerable artistic talent, she received citations from the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Biennale of Applied Graphic Art, the *New York Herald Tribune* Spring Book Festival Award, and Contemporary American Illustrators of Children's Books as well as honors from the Society of Illustrators.

Other Books By Ellen Raskin

Nothing Ever Happens on My Block (1966)
Silly Songs and Sad (1967)
Spectacles (1968)
And It Rained (1969)
Christina Rossetti's *Goblin Market* (adaptor) (1970)
A & THE; or, William T. G. Baumgarten Comes to Town (1970)
The World's Greatest Freak Show (1971)
The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon (I Mean Noel) (1972)
Franklin Stein (1972)
Moe Q. McClutch, He Smoked Too Much (1973)
Who, Said Sue, Said Who? (1973)
Moose, Goose and Little Nobody (1974)
Figgs and Phantoms (1974)
The Tattooed Potato and Other Clues (1976)
Twenty-Two, Twenty-Three (1976)

Related Reading

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Ray Bradbury, *The Electric Grandmother and Something Wicked This Way Comes*
Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *And Then There Were None*
Robert Cormier, *I Am the Cheese* and *The Chocolate War*
Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
Virginia Hamilton, *The House of Dies Drear*
E. L. Konigsburg, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
Robin McKinley, *Beauty*
Robert C. O'Brien, *Mrs. Frisbee and the Rats of NIMH*
Alby O'Shea, *The Mensa Think Smart Book*
Charles Portis, *True Grit*

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General Objectives

1. To discuss sibling rivalry
2. To describe the physical, mental, and emotional effects of coping alone in a hostile environment
3. To characterize the value of reason and objectivity in solving puzzles
4. To acknowledge the importance of cooperation
5. To discuss the causes of suicide, business failure, attention seeking, and petty theft
6. To characterize persistence
7. To discuss human foibles
8. To explain why greed is a key motive

9. To differentiate between convergent and divergent thinking
10. To enumerate examples of manipulation and menace

Specific Objectives

1. To outline the interconnected lives of neighbors
2. To recount how Turtle solves the mystery
3. To explain how Sam continues to elude death
4. To account for the importance of the thermos
5. To evaluate changes in Sydelle's self-concept
6. To define the role of the blizzard
7. To analyze the scene in which the second bomb explodes
8. To justify Turtle's concealment of her friendship with Julian
9. To contrast the mansion and Sunset Towers as settings
10. To account for Grace's snobbery
11. To explain the role of gathering places such as the coffee shop
12. To define the role of Barney Northrup
13. To study the implications of "America the Beautiful"
14. To characterize Violet's tragedy
15. To contrast J. J., Sandy, Otis, and Turtle as investigators

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Ellen Raskin's writing, present the following terms and applications:

Climax: the height of an action, a crisis or turning point from which all behaviors or attitudes are permanently altered and nothing can ever be what it once was. The death of Sandy and Crow's arrest appear to alter the story irrevocably. By removing Sandy from daily contact with the potential heirs, the author isolates him so that he becomes Turtle's special friend. The relationship is good for both characters. The end of the puzzle and distribution of wealth to Crow frees the players to achieve their individual aims.

Motif: a pattern or predictable arrangement of elements to express an abstract theme in a story. The ingenious use of snatches of "America the

Beautiful" creates a cohesion in what appears to be scattered, unrelated clues. The snatches of color in amber and purple and the concrete objects, particularly waves and crown, enhance the creative possibilities of solutions and reflect on individual traits and experiences of the solution seekers. In the end, fireworks and the burning of the Westing mansion give closure to a lengthy effort to solve a faked murder.

Novel: an extended work of prose fiction that is carefully controlled and features a varied cast of characters, clearly defined setting, an historical or social milieu, sustained action, a complicated plot, and usually one or more subplots. The elements in the definition of novel suit *The Westing Game*, which is formed out of an unusually varied gathering of disparate people in Sunset Towers, a focal setting that keeps them close, yet distinctly separate. Sustained action toward the goal of winning the money produces a high number of plot complications and myriad subplots as the potential heirs work toward winning the money and solving their personal and financial problems.

The Importance of Setting

For the sake of mystery and suspense, the milieu of *The Westing Game* becomes as important as the characters. The use of Sunset Towers as a gathering spot provides a reason for daily interaction as the apartment dwellers ride the elevator to and from activities and meet in the coffee shop or restaurant or at the Judge's party or the wedding shower. The newness of the building puts everyone on equal footing as tenants accustom themselves to their environment. The addition of a blizzard heightens their dependence on each other, as do the explosions and the search for a perpetrator and clues to the mystery. The necessity for personal service and maintenance keep Otis, Sandy, and Crow in the action and in sight of the new tenants.

To keep the goal of solving the puzzle in the tenants' mind, Westing places Sunset Towers in sight of the mansion. The circulation of ghost stories and the horrific death of a trespasser over a cliff adds to the contrast between a bland, new apartment high-rise and the intriguing house with a past. By bringing the potential heirs together at the estate for reading of the will and distribution of money,

Attorney Plum holds their interest in Westing's murder and the imminent dispersal of his wealth. So long as the object is money, the characters seem locked in daily perusal of the place and its potential for crime.

Raskin extends the milieu of the story from the two facing buildings by sending characters out for individual pursuits and needs. By placing Sydelle and Angela in the hospital together, the author heightens Angela's difficult decision about marriage and warms her to a pleasant, but needy friend. In sending Doug out for athletic events and Otis and Crow to the soup kitchen, the author expresses the concerns and skills that make the characters both memorable and admirable. In the end, the characters move on to their respective milieus—the Westing corporation, Chinese restaurants, medicine, writing, ornithology, civil service, retirement, marriage. Otis, Crow, and Sandy die. The mansion remains in focus as Turtle, departing from her benefactor's funeral in black veil, hurries to the Wexler-Theodorakis mansion to challenge her protégé to a game of chess.

Cross-Curricular Sources

For more information about Ellen Raskin, mysteries, games, the stock market, "America the Beautiful," dilemmas, creative thinking, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

The Big Board: A Stock Market Simulation, J. Weston Walch

Game Theory, Innovative Learning Publications

The Golden Door: Our Nation of Immigrants, Knowledge

Unlimited

Marketplace: Explaining the Stock Market, Knowledge

Unlimited

Wall Street On-Line: An Investment Simulation for the Classroom, J.

Weston Walch

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Ellen Raskin's *The Westing Game* should include these aspects:

Themes

- mystery
- intrigue
- competition
- friendship
- dilemma
- villainy
- conflict
- loss
- compromise
- loyalty
- reunion
- reward

Motifs

- manipulation of a large set of variables
- asserting self-control
- playing outside the rules
- depending on the hospitality of strangers
- saying farewell to a deceased friend

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each. Chapter and page numbers are provided so that you can reread the passage from which the item is taken.

1. Staring down at the fine lines of pink scalp that showed through the podiatrist's thinning light brown hair did nothing to ease her queasiness; so, softly humming a hymn, she settled her gaze on the north window. (Chap. 3, p. 11)
(Crow sees Jake, one of the tenants at Sunset Towers, who is a podiatrist. His profession deals with care of the feet, especially the treatment and prevention of growths, structural abnormalities, and foot disease. To conquer fear, she recedes into her characteristic religious fanaticism.)
2. The spectacular pyrotechnic display could be viewed thirty miles away. (Chap. 4, p. 19)
(According to the will, Samuel Westing enjoyed celebrating the Fourth of July, especially with grand displays of fireworks, a col-

orful, controlled form of explosive patterns that marked the annual event.)

3. "Traveling sporadic myositis," he pronounced quickly and glanced at Angela. (Chap. 5, p. 27) *(At a loss for a diagnosis, Denton Deere calls Sydelle's "wasting disease" with a made-up term he creates to explain why she limps on first the right and then the left leg. "Myositis" refers to an inflammation of the myelin sheath that encases nerves.)*
4. He had enough problems with the empty restaurant, a lazy son, and his nagging ulcer, now he has to put up with this bigot. (Chap. 8, p. 44) *(James Hoo is annoyed by racial prejudice, a slavish narrow-mindedness that Grace displays toward Madame Hoo, whom she typifies in hackneyed, stereotypical phrases.)*
5. In the morning the stock market rose three points. "Bullish," said Flora Baumbach. In the afternoon the market dropped five points. "Bearish," said Flora Baumbach. (Chap. 17, p. 100) *(To describe the fluctuations in stock values, Flora uses the contrasting adjectives drawn from nature to express optimism and pessimism in investment prospects.)*
6. She had a retarded daughter, Rosalie, a Mongoloid child. (Chap. 18, p. 104) *(Flora's daughter suffers from Down's syndrome. The unflattering descriptive "Mongoloid" is a vulgar term that characterizes the slanted eyes, broad face, short fifth finger, and mental retardation that accompany the syndrome.)*
7. Westing Paper Products had jumped four and a quarter, no, four and a half points. (Chap. 18, p. 106) *(Flora's perusal of the stock market quotations reflects a method of describing the selling price of stock on the exchange. The term "points" indicates dollars per share.)*
8. Look, there she is, the mother of Cain and Abel. (Chap. 22, p. 133) *(Grace casts herself in the role of Eve, mother of two sons who became the first murderer and the first victim as described in the book of Genesis. Her comparison of her children to victimizer and victim indicates the widely contrasting feelings she harbors for Turtle and Angela.)*
9. Those piercing eyes, the Vandyke beard, that short beaked nose (like a turtle's). (Chap. 22, p. 136)

(The "image of Sam Westing as he had looked fifteen years ago" features a closely trimmed beard that begins low on the face and reaches a distinctive sharp point below the chin.)

10. Ornithologist? His brother must have given him that fancy title when he filled in the receipt. (Chap. 23, p. 143) *(The designation of scientist who specializes in the study of the behavior and movements of birds suits Chris, who is locked in near the window by physical handicap and must occupy himself watching birds.)*

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the novel.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How does Turtle's partner effect a change in her? *(Turtle Wexler, whose mother rejects her because she cannot be the perfect child, at first challenges others with kicks in the shin and smart words. As she matures, she finds love and acceptance elsewhere. She exults in knowing Flora Baumbach, whom she lovingly renames "Baba," which is an Eastern European name for "Granny." As they invest their money, monitor the stock market, and pursue the puzzle, they form a fast friendship that resembles a true mother/daughter relationship, something Turtle has been missing. Flora is able to change her foster daughter by boosting her self-esteem as a means of quieting the rebellion and hostility. She emphasizes strong points, particularly Turtle's hair, which is more feminine and flattering after it is unbraided and trimmed. Turtle shows devotion to Flora by taking her into her home after the old dressmaker retires.)*
2. Why does Madame Hoo feel guilty during the last meeting of the heirs? *(Madame "Sunny" Hoo interrupts Judge Ford during the examination of evidence to reveal some facts of her own. Although she speaks little English, Madame Hoo manages to confess her thefts and explain in few words: "For to go to China." The pitiful collection of booty—a watch, necklace, cuff links, pin and earrings set, and Mickey Mouse clock—are the treasures she had hoped to cash in for the ticket home. After James Hoo's death, Sunny visits her homeland, but she returns to carry on the family business selling Foot-Eze, her husband's invention.)*

3. Describe Chris' major pastime.
(Chris is the most home-bound of the characters. Because of the limitations of his wheelchair, he spends his days at the window in Sunset Towers observing the estate and watching birds, which he views through binoculars. He memorizes the biological classifications and becomes so familiar with birds that, after his partial recovery from the debilitating effects of a birth defect, he makes the information useful. He finds challenging employment as a teacher of ornithology at a university.)
4. Why does James Hoo hate Samuel Westing?
(James Hoo's attempt to profit from his idea for a disposable paper diaper results in the loss of a lawsuit against Westing, who claims to have originated the idea. The division between the two men results in a longstanding vendetta between Hoo and his rich, influential rival. After Westing's death, James expresses his antagonism with open hostility: "That cheating moneybags got what he deserved.")
5. What inaccuracies does Turtle deliberately include in her summary in Chapter 30?
(Turtle alters her descriptions of the heirs as she shares Sandy's final moments. She pretends that Crow and Otis Amber are still working at the soup kitchen, although they died within weeks of each other two years earlier. She glosses over the fact that James Hoo is also dead. When Sandy inquires about offspring from Turtle's marriage to Theo, Turtle again evades the truth that they have decided against having children because of their fear that Chris's disease may be passed on to their prospective family. Her motivation is admirable, for Turtle has loved and served Sandy well and wants to spare him sad news.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretive Level)

6. How does the author use chess as a unifying agent in the story?
(Theo notices the ongoing game of chess when the heirs reassemble in the game room during their first meeting. With the move of a white pawn, Theo counters by advancing the black knight. As the meeting progresses, so does the chess game, although no one overtly assumes the role of opponent. Since chess-playing does not seem to be strong evidence of culpability, Theo and Doug overlook its importance to their investigation. At the final meeting of heirs, the phantom chess game proceeds with Westing's favorite ploy—the queen's sacrifice, which Judge Ford remembers from many games she lost to Westing. In the end, Turtle, a lover of logic and puzzles, replaces the Judge as Westing's protégé. She spends each Saturday playing chess with her beloved "Sandy." After his death, she pursues her interest in chess with her niece Alice.)

7. How does Westing overcome needs in the heirs' lives by his insightful game?
(The ingenious alliances of complementary personalities proves beneficial to all parties. As Chris haltingly states: "He g-gave everybody the p-perfect p-partner to m-make friends.")
 - Flora and Turtle form a winning team and become like mother and daughter.
 - Denton Deere learns something about compassion when he searches for a cure for Chris' birth defect.
 - The Judge and Sandy renew an old acquaintance, although J. J. fails to understand the significance until the end.
 - Grace, with the assistance of Hoo, abandons lofty pretensions and develops a down-to-earth interest in restaurants while Hoo frees himself from worries about the food business long enough to revive an interest in his invention.
 - By marrying, Crow and Otis cement a longstanding devotion to each other and to their mutual mission to the poor.
 - Doug and Theo lend support to each other's ambitions to excel in sports and journalism.
 - Angela finds the freedom from Grace's overmothering in her friendship with Sydelle, who also gains confidence and blossoms as wife of Schultz, the sausage maker.
As the words of the will indicate, "It will be up to the other players to discover who you really are.")
8. How does the mistake in Sydelle's identity prove beneficial to the other heirs?
(Although Westing intended to name Sybil Pulaski as one of his heirs, Sydelle proves an invaluable aid to the heirs. Quiet and efficient among the others, she uses secretarial skills to take down the words of the will, which Attorney Plum presents orally. The theft of her notes and subsequent discovery that they are in Polish adds to the mix-up of early accusations of guilt. In the last gathering of potential heirs, Sydelle's testimony clarifies confused memories of the earlier meeting.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. How does the author stress Westing's appreciation for America?
(The words of the will emphasize ambition: "It is not what you have, it's what you don't have that counts." Although the phrase exists on a simpler level in terms of clues to the puzzle, it also indicates "Uncle Sam" Westing's appreciation for his opportunities since his own westering to America. In the fourth section, he rhapsodizes, "Hail to thee, oh land of opportunity! You have made me, the son of poor immigrants, rich, powerful, and respected! So take stock in America, my heirs, and sing in praise of this generous land." The conciliatory note at the conclusion suggests that Westing is not only whimsical, but also far-seeing in his plans for his heirs: He wants them to develop as he once did and to find riches within themselves in a land that nurtures ambition and allows it to flourish.)

10. How does the setting serve as a microcosm for the heirs?
(During the snowstorm, the heirs are forced to live in their encapsulated apartment house and get to know each other better. Driven by ambitions to solve the puzzle and make themselves wealthy, they set up a communications center in the elevator and vent their frustrations through shared notes, threats, and invitations. When mysterious explosions threaten them all, they turn to (and against) each other for consolation and support. By the time the storm has abated and outsiders are once again able to penetrate Sunset Towers, the bonds between characters are, as Sam Westing hoped, firmly established.)

Questions 11 and 12 (Creative Level)

11. Report on the museum in the base of the Statue of Liberty that honors immigrants. Propose a display featuring Samuel Westing as a benefactor of freedom and a contributor to the American free enterprise system.
12. Compose a personal letter from Samuel Westing to Crow in which you reveal the warm regard he has for her. Discuss his grief and frustration at the loss of their only child. Conclude with an attempt to make up for long years of separation.

Across the Curriculum

Art

1. Draw a book jacket or poster emphasizing the role of disguise and stealth in the mystery. Emphasize the detective work that fills in the gaps for J. J. and Westing. Complement graphics with significant concrete objects, for example, bicycles, elevator, candles, and cross.
2. Using desktop publishing or other media, design a page from a law text explaining the punishment for bombing or making book, a sign welcoming applicants to the Westing Paper Products Company, a café menu lauding Szechuan cuisine, a logo naming the something-Christos parrot as well as Lake Michigan's birds and their habits, a monument honoring Judge Ford, multiple views of a wheelchair, a business card for the coroner or for Dr. Angela Wexler Deere, visiting hours at the orthopedic ward, a joint epitaph for Otis and Crow Amber, a news headline about Julian's retirement and T. R. Wexler's promo-

tion as board chair, an illustrated entry on puns and rebuses for a literary handbook, a diagram explaining neurological damage, a chart depicting the configuration of Sunset Towers and its amenities, and a schematic drawing of an elevator.

3. Create a bulletin board illustrating a multipurpose setting such as a hospital, mall, or airport that draws into conflict derelicts on Skid Row, pretentious decorator, owners of a busy coffee shop, dedicated runner, handicapped bird watcher, grieving seamstress, failed restaurateur, religious fanatic, and seemingly retarded messenger.

Cinema

1. Draw settings for a movie version of *The Westing Game*. Show the placement of actors, music, costumes, props, sound effects, and lighting. Include the Halloween scene at the mansion, the bombing of the coffee shop, the surreptitious chess game, Chris's bird-watching, Theo's skulking in Skid Row and outside the hospital, Grace's party for Angela, the grand reopening of Shin Hoo's Restaurant, Sandy's collapse, Plum's direction of players to the library, and Barney's conclusion of the sale of apartments.
2. View various films about difficult decisions, for example, *Member of the Wedding*, *The Secret Garden*, or *Little Women*. Discuss why filmmakers focus on problems with coming of age.

Drama and Speech

1. Write several conversations which are only implied, such as Westing's discussions with the investigator on Crow's whereabouts, Violet's attempts to placate her parents, Denton's change of heart toward Angela, Turtle's chess lessons with Alice, Grace's plans for ten Who's On First restaurants, Plum's romantic conversations with Angela, Shirley and Chris's decision to visit South America, and Sunny's admission of numerous small thefts. Act out your dialogue for an audio or video taping.
2. Describe in a short speech the effects of loneliness, insecurity, disillusion with family, danger, pain, terror, greed, manipulation, handi-

cap, and wealth on characters in the story. How do characters compensate for low self-esteem? Why does the fire signal a release of dramatic tension?

3. Compose a short pantomime on the melodramatic atmosphere of a new apartment tower facing a mansion haunted by ghostly rumors.
4. Write a theme in which you explain the role of a minor character. How do these characters illuminate facets of the major characters, for example Schultz's role in easing Sydelle's inferiority and Violet's strength of character in refusing to marry a man of low character?
5. Apply a Freytag diagram to the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Why does this clear delineation of action lend itself well to radio, audio cassette, or the stage? What problems would a producer have in staging *The Westing Game* as a play, opera, TV miniseries, or outdoor musical drama?
6. Role-play the part of school nurse, dentist, coffee shop customer, bomb squad investigator, firefighter, coroner, sheriff, sleazy state senator, Olympic committee member, and one of the Green Bay Packers. Explain how the book would change if the main character had been a boy.

Economics

1. Draw a character web representing the interconnectedness between the Hoos, Theodorakises, Wexlers, Sydelle, Flora, Crow, Denton, Otis, and J. J. Create auxiliary lines to connect these major players with Sandy, Julian, Barney, and Westing. Express the importance of money to each family or individual.
2. Why does Turtle's desire for a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* lead to her eventual accumulation of a fortune? What does Turtle gain from Sandy besides money and power over the company?

History and Social Studies

1. Explain briefly the purpose of the Fourth of July. Express your reaction to fireworks that

destroy the mansion. How does "Fourth of July" reflect on Sandy's fourth persona? What patriotic overtones does "America the Beautiful" have for the characters?

2. Create a bulletin board contrasting these settings: Lake Michigan, Szechuan, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Racine, Marquette, and Hawaii.
3. Design an Internet web site revealing your response toward manipulative wills that pit greed and self-interest against cooperation. Justify Samuel Westing's initial statements about the person who killed him. Consider other ways that he might have enjoyed spending his millions.
4. In a small group, study the background elements of the story, particularly laws regarding wills, cremation, murder, terrorism, trespass, and bombs.

Language Arts

1. Discuss with a group the theme of challenge. How does the author toy with words, as with the use of north, south, east, and west in Westing's various personae? What happens to the turtle's tail? Why would Hoo's on First be a worthy name for a restaurant? Why is 4D a pun on J. J.'s name? Why does Sandy long for a taste of "Scotch"?
2. With a group, list and explain these terms: one-way glass, bookie, podiatrist, *Wall Street Journal*, Uncle Sam, pyrotechnic display, county coroner, executor, pyramidal tract involvement, estate, intern, traveling sporadic myositis, last will and testament, autopsy, windfall, abstention, bullish, bearish, neurologist, penitence, paranoia, queen's sacrifice, accomplice, coronary thrombosis, and crime commissioner.
3. List and discuss images from the novel that appeal to the five senses, for instance, "Some chatted with neighbors, some looked up at the gilt ceiling, some studied the pattern of the Oriental rug."
4. Compose a short speech in which you describe the role of the Westing game in the prosperity and contentment of these characters: Crow, Otis, Sandy, Barney, Julian, Plum,

Chris, Denton, Angela, Baba, Sydelle, Josie-Jo, Theo, Mrs. Theodorakis, Dr. Sykes, Sunny, James, Chris, Shirley, and Alice.

5. Read aloud other descriptions of energetic young heroines. Discuss the importance of Turtle's freestyle methods of problem solving.

Logic and Mathematics

1. Characterize the illusion of reason that accompanies each pair's study of limited word clues. Explain the derivation of the chemical formula and the choice of companies on the stock exchange report. How does the color purple figure in these exercises? Which clue can be read in two directions?
2. View the films *The Seven Percent Solution*, *Young Sherlock Holmes*, or *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Determine how much of solving a mystery depends on intelligence, logic, and luck.
3. Highlight examples of convergent and divergent thinking as the potential heirs try to solve the puzzle.

Music

Give an oral report on the background of "America the Beautiful." Include the name of the composer, the song's use at patriotic gatherings, and its application to the life of a successful immigrant. What aspects of the main character's life are not beautiful? Why do James and J. J. have reason to hate him?

Science and Health

1. Explain to a small group why Turtle keeps secret her reunion with Sandy/Julian. What do the last chess game and chipped dentures indicate about Sandy's state of health? Why does she lie to him while he is dying? Why does she conceal her grief from Theo and Angela?
2. Explain Chris's handicap. Locate Internet sites offering symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment.

Psychology and Health

1. Lead a debate about how to promote self-esteem in families. Use as models these unhealthy behaviors: J. J.'s suspicion, Violet's suicide, Grace's social climbing, Angela's

masochism, Sydelle's exhibitionism, Sunny's thievery, Doug's over-achieving, Crow's religious fanaticism, Turtle's violence, Turtle's multiple names, Sam's multiple identities, and James's vindictiveness.

2. Compose an informal essay on security. Focus on Turtle's need of people like Sandy, Alice, and Baba. Discuss her hostility and how the kicks on the shins of her victims end the mystery. Describe how she shares her new-found strength with Alice.
3. Compose an extended definition of friend. What qualities make Sandy a worthy friend? How does a toothache reveal insecurity in Turtle? How does the resolution of her dental problem express Sandy's love and concern? What other friendships emerge from the Westing game?

Student Involvement Activities

1. Make an oral report on the theme of grudges. Discuss James Hoo's success after he returns to inventing and marketing innersoles. Describe Westing's treatment of Crow. Explain why and how Turtle and Angela vie for Grace's attention, understanding, and approval. Discuss Sydelle's anger at people who ignore her. Account for James Hoo's hatred of Westing.
2. Describe aloud the difference between Angela before and after medical school. What confidence does she gain by seeking a fulfilling career? Why does she marry? Why does she encourage a good relationship between Turtle and Alice? Why is she a better candidate for wife after graduating with a medical degree than she was with low self-esteem after only one year of college training?
3. Contrast female characters in terms of action, control, reason, and compassion. Include Grace, Crow, Angela, Turtle, Sunny, Mrs. Theodorakis, Shirley, Baba, Sydelle, and J. J. How does anti-semitism affect Grace's marriage? Why does Turtle succeed in solving the puzzle when J. J. fails? What kind of love does Turtle get from Baba? What made Baba's

daughter “special”? What emotional reward does Sunny get from Doug’s track meets and medals?

4. View various films about young people who make difficult decisions, for example, *The Member of the Wedding*, *True Grit*, *The Secret Garden*, *Little Women*, *Jane Eyre*, *Paper Moon*, *Life with Father*, *I Remember Mama*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Daughters of the Dust*. Discuss why filmmakers focus on young women and their problems with coming of age.
5. Divide the class into small groups to study the background elements of the story, particularly the use of disguise, attitudes toward America as a land of opportunity, patent laws, the dangers of homemade bombs, debilitating nerve disease, ornithology, and the purpose of an executor in carrying out a will. Determine if Lawyer Plum performs his job according to the law. Note whether Samuel Westing breaks the law by his deceptions and trickery.
6. Compose a character interaction analysis emphasizing the positive results of the Westing game’s pairs. What does Grace learn about pride in work? How does Angela take hold of her life and fulfill her ambitions? How does Denton ennoble himself by helping Chris? What inner turmoils do Flora and Sydelle settle?
7. Describe in a short speech the effects of loneliness, insecurity, disillusion, danger, terror, greed, manipulation, marooning, and suspicion on characters in the story. How does the plot use nature as a backdrop for human foibles? Why does the author choose a symbolic name for Julian’s house?
8. Make a time line of events in the story. Highlight moments of emotional and physical stress or excitement, for example, Doug and Turtle’s Halloween trek, Crow’s work with hungry people, the judge’s study of clues and memories of childhood at the mansion, Chris’s friendship with Shirley, the rash on Angela’s finger, and the reunion of Sandy and Turtle.

9. Explain in a theme how the author characterizes the need to achieve. For examples, mention Doug’s athletic record, James’s failing restaurant, Grace’s pride in having a doctor for a son-in-law, Crow’s reaction to Violet’s suicide, and Turtle’s canny study of the stock market.
10. Compose a first person account of a chess game played with an unknown partner. Indicate the significance of the “queen’s sacrifice.” How does this ploy parallel the life of Crow? What does Sandy’s loss of a game of chess indicate? How does chess influence Turtle’s relationship with Alice?

Alternate Assessment

1. List examples of teamwork, fear, insecurity, intimidation, loyalty, victory, fairness, poor judgment, and reward in the heirs’ search for a solution to the Westing game.
2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate why Turtle is a good choice of companion for Samuel Westing.
3. Compose a scene in which the pairs of puzzle solvers hold a reunion.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Turtle’s aggression, Angela’s self-centeredness, Sandy’s trickiness, Crow’s religious fanaticism, Jake’s criminality, and Plum’s exasperation.
5. Account for the use of poetic justice in the final description of each character.

Vocabulary

Fill in each blank with the correct answer from the list below.

abstention	generous	lush	podiatrist	rimless
coiffure	gilt	meager	poise	timidly
distraught	grimaced	moneybags	pretentious	veiled
divisive	incriminating	obsequious	probe	vindictiveness
felon	infirmity	petrified	puffing	wreak

1. "Thief!" Sydelle cried... "Thief! Larcenist! _____!"
2. "Ow!" Turtle screamed before the _____ touched the tooth.
3. McSouthers was not a stupid man; if only he was less _____—and less of a gossip.
4. From his grave Westing would stalk his enemy, and through his heirs he would _____ his revenge.
5. Which heir was the target of Westing's _____?
6. Some chatted with neighbors, some looked up at the _____ ceiling, some studied the pattern of the Oriental rug.
7. She had not even blinked a false eyelash at those offensive remarks (_____, they call it).
8. Four votes for the Bible, three for Shakespeare and one for _____.
9. Sydelle turned toward him with what should have been a gracious manner, but she _____ when the top of the crutch poked her in the chest.
10. Angela stood between her determined mother and her _____ partner, paralyzed by the burden of choice.
11. A cluster of red sparks hissed through the swinging kitchen door, kissed the ceiling and rained a shimmering shower down and around the _____ hostess.
12. The game: a tricky, _____ Westing game.
13. His father's comment about awarding a medal to the murderer might be _____.
14. Some pair they made: Attila the Hun and Gracie the useless. Gracie Windkloppel Wexler, heir pretender, _____ heir.
15. I thought the poor thing handled her _____ with great courage.
16. "For go to China," she said _____, setting a scarf-tied bundle on the desk.
17. Sydelle was _____ her warm breath on the window and wiping a frosted area clean with her sleeve.
18. His watery-blue eyes stared at her over his _____ half-glasses.
19. _____ in black she hurried from the funeral services.
20. So take stock in America, my heirs, and sing in praise of this _____ land.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements.

1. Through _____, Chris watches a limping figure approach the Westing mansion.
2. Angela grabs the shower gift, and the _____ strikes her cheek, leaving a gash that scars her face.
3. Catherine Theodorakis assures Chris that the red is only _____.
4. After Sunny returns the items in the handkerchief, Turtle lets her keep the _____.
5. Crow blames herself for _____'s drowning.
6. As Turtle falls over a billiard cue, she dents Sandy's _____.
7. Judge Ford wonders why Sam would hire so young and inexperienced an adviser as _____.
8. According to the rules, players forfeit their halves of the _____ if either member drops out of the Westing game.
9. Denton directs Chris to a _____ to try a new medication.
10. Sandy, who is the same age as Sam, emigrated from _____ when he was three years old.
11. Recalling Violet's doomed engagement, Flora fits _____'s wedding gown.
12. Grace owns a chain of restaurants endorsed by Doug and other _____.
13. James has reason to despise Sam for stealing his _____ for paper diapers.
14. _____ fools Theo, who stalks him to the lawyer's office and spies on his movements.
15. J. J. assumes that the queen's sacrifice refers to _____ and the divorce.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| ___ 1. takes Sam's place on the board of directors. | A. Barney |
| ___ 2. keeps a photo of a Mongoloid child. | B. Josie-Jo |
| ___ 3. fires Sandy. | C. Chris |
| ___ 4. holds Sandy's hand and watches the sun rise on July 4th. | D. Grace |
| ___ 5. leaves Hong Kong at age 28. | E. Julian |
| ___ 6. discovers something-Christos. | F. Sun Lin |
| ___ 7. despises her maiden name. | G. T. R. |
| ___ 8. wears no makeup and helps at the soup kitchen. | H. Dr. Sikes |
| ___ 9. wears an African headdress. | I. Flora |
| ___ 10. attests to Sam's sanity. | J. Angela |

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- 1. Theo wishes he could find someone who likes to play chess.
- 2. Alice wears a braid like her aunt T.R. used to have.
- 3. Ed calls the coroner a half hour before the murder.
- 4. The town Westing founded honors his memory by holding a Fourth of July celebration.
- 5. The chipped tooth reveals that the dentist also treats Sam.
- 6. Turtle kicks Jake in the shin because he lied about the point spread.
- 7. After Jake becomes crime commissioner, Grace drifts away and involves herself in her restaurant chain.
- 8. Sydelle uses her crutch as an attention-getting device.
- 9. The rash on Angela's finger suggests that she resists marriage.
- 10. The bomb squad fails to investigate the first incident because of the blizzard.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Explain why Sandy buys a candle for his wife.
- 2. Describe the daily lives of Theo, Doug, and Chris.
- 3. Discuss why Eastman is a likely name for Sam's fourth identity.
- 4. Link parts of "America the Beautiful" to individual clues.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

1. Turtle accuses (**Doug of spying on Theo, Sydelle of using her crutch to get attention, Grace of aiding Jake in illegal gambling, Sandy of pretending to die of poisoning**).
2. While combing Turtle's hair, (**Angela admits that she wants more than one year of college, Grace tries to get Turtle to reveal Sun Lin's share of the clues, Baba thinks of Rosalie, Flora agrees to hem the witch's costume**).
3. Denton reminds Cris that (**an intern can't help neurological problems, the neurologist offers painful surgery, a birth defect is almost impossible to overcome, much of Chris's disability is a speech defect**).
4. Judge Ford recognizes (**the detective's voice, lemon juice in the thermos, Otis's bicycle outside Good Salvation, Barney Northrup's Mercedes**).
5. After the car accident (**Dr. Sikes takes control of Westing Paper Products, Crow divorces her husband and marries Otis, the mansion sits empty on the site of the future Sunset Towers, Westingtown's noted industrialist disappears**).
6. There is a tense moment as (**someone calls for Mrs. BAUM-bach, heirs cross from the game room back to the library, a waxy hand moves toward Turtle, a trespasser flees and falls to his death over a cliff**).
7. J. J. recalls (**being sent to help the gardener, attending private school, accepting bribes from a bookie, organizing workers**).
8. Crow fears that (**pressure will kill Violet, Rosalie is too frail for marriage, she is in danger, the soup kitchen will close**).
9. Shirley (**helps Angela into the wedding gown, mops up tomato sauce in the coffee shop, hands Angela a shower gift, accompanies Chris to Central America**).
10. Terrified of discovery, (**Sun Lin hands over the handkerchief, Sandy asks Crow to fill the thermos, the fake sheriff and coroner leave the scene of the crime, the bomber flees from the mess in the elevator**).

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with places from the letter list. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| ___ 1. Smoke curls from the chimney on Halloween. | A. 4 Sunrise Lane |
| ___ 2. Guests eat canapes while the hostess tries to gain information. | B. Westing mansion |
| ___ 3. A confession appears on the back of Turtle's essay. | C. coffee shop |
| ___ 4. Turtle claims to have won the money. | D. Grace's apartment |
| ___ 5. Sybil claims to have been a childhood friend of one of the heirs. | E. Good Salvation |
| ___ 6. Sandy was fired for trying to organize workers. | F. Ford's apartment |
| ___ 7. Three people arrive on the first day. | G. Westing Paper Products |
| ___ 8. Angela rejects facial surgery. | H. elevator |
| ___ 9. Derelicts eat thick soup. | I. Sydelle's hospital room |
| ___ 10. First-day traffic is brisk. | J. Shin Hoo's Restaurant |

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Short Answer (30 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided.

- _____ 1. Who sings "America the Beautiful"?
- _____ 2. Who accompanies Chris to Central America?
- _____ 3. What does Jake remove from Crow?
- _____ 4. How do Turtle's customers tell time?
- _____ 5. Who becomes Julian's adviser?
- _____ 6. Who goes to jail for bribery?
- _____ 7. Who prays for Theo?
- _____ 8. Who marries his secretary?
- _____ 9. What stock does Turtle sell at a profit?
- _____ 10. What gold does Sunny refuse to sell?
- _____ 11. How long does the trespasser stay in the mansion?
- _____ 12. What costume does the corpse wear during the reading of the will?
- _____ 13. What colors decorate the coverlet on the four-poster?
- _____ 14. Where is Sam going the day of the car accident?
- _____ 15. Whose birthday is November 15?

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare Sam's life before and after the Halloween stunt.
2. Discuss the importance of Theo and Angela in Turtle's life.
3. Describe the value of partnering people with different needs and backgrounds.
4. Propose other ways of solving the mystery than with clues distributed to pairs of potential heirs.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. felon | 11. petrified |
| 2. probe | 12. divisive |
| 3. obsequious | 13. incriminating |
| 4. wreak | 14. pretentious |
| 5. vindictiveness | 15. infirmity |
| 6. guilt | 16. timidly |
| 7. poise | 17. puffing |
| 8. abstention | 18. rimless |
| 9. grimaced | 19. veiled |
| 10. distraught | 20. generous |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. binoculars | 9. neurologist |
| 2. bomb | 10. Scotland |
| 3. tomato sauce | 11. Angela |
| 4. clock | 12. athletes |
| 5. Violet | 13. patent |
| 6. thermos | 14. Otis |
| 7. Ed Plum | 15. Crow |
| 8. \$10,000 | |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. C |
| 2. I | 7. D |
| 3. B | 8. J |
| 4. G | 9. B |
| 5. F | 10. H |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. Sydelle of using her crutch to get attention
2. Baba thinks of Rosalie
3. an intern can't help neurological problems
4. the detective's voice
5. Westingtown's noted industrialist disappears
6. someone calls for Mrs. BAUM-bach
7. attending private school
8. she is in danger
9. accompanies Chris to Central America
10. Sun Lin hands over the handkerchief

Part II: Matching (20 points)

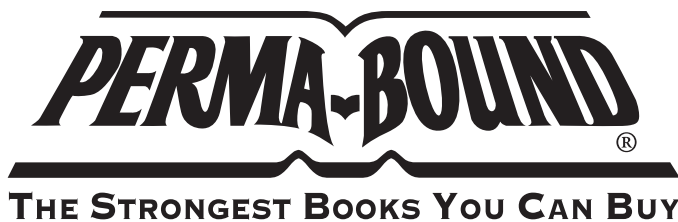
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|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. G |
| 2. F | 7. J |
| 3. H | 8. I |
| 4. A | 9. E |
| 5. D | 10. C |

Part III: Short Answer (30 points)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Theo | 9. WPP |
| 2. Shirley | 10. Doug's medals |
| 3. corn | 11. 11 minutes |
| 4. candle rings | 12. Uncle Sam |
| 5. T. R. | 13. red, white, blue |
| 6. state senator | 14. court |
| 7. Crow | 15. Crow |
| 8. Conrad Schultz | |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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