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| *The Westing Game* |
| Vocabulary & Comprehension Packet |
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| **Ms. Knichel** |



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| *Vocabulary and comprehension packet for The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin* |

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| Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |   Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 1-4  |

Vocabulary

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|  1. luxurious  |
|  2. elegant  |
|  3. trifle |
|  4. deckle  |
|  5. warped  |
|  6. cuisine |
|  7. spasms |
|  8. hassock  |
|  9. nape  |
| 10. amputation  |
| 11. avert  |
| 12. rational  |
| 13. confidential |
| 14. putrid  |
| 15. vigil  |
| 16. industrialist  |
| 17. pyrotechnic  |
| 18. meager  |
| 19. executor  |
| 20. beneficiary  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. How do you picture Sunset towers?  |
|  2. Why does it only have a few tenants?  |
|  3. Grace likes the apartment. What does this tell you about her personality?  |
|  4. Grace feels the "third bedroom is a trifle small" but it will be okay for Turtle. What does this show about how she regards Turtle?  |
|  5. Why was Sunset Towers too exclusive for Mr. Hoo?  |
|  6. How are Doug and Theo alike? \*Attribute Web |
|  7. How are they different? \*Attribute Web  |
|  8. Which one would you be more likely to have as a friend?  |
|  9. Who is Otis Amber? \*Attribute Web  |
| 10. What gruesome story does Otis Amber tell about Westing?  |
| 11. What horrible story does he tell about the kids from Westingtown?  |
| 12. What are your impressions of Chris? \*Attribute Web  |
| 13. Does he seem to pity himself?  |
| 14. What is Turtle like? \*Attribute Web |
| 15. What provoked Grace to almost hit Turtle?  |
| 16. How do you think Angela feels towards Turtle?  |
| 17. How do you think Turtle feels towards Angela? |
| 18. What is Crow like? \*Attribute Web  |
| 19. What does she think of Sam Westing?  |
| 20. Who is JJ Ford? \*Attribute Web  |
| 21. Prediction: What debt do you think she owes Sam Weston?  |
| 22. Why does Turtle figure that Doug, Theo, Otis, and Sandy owe her $24.00?  |

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| Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |   Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 5-8  |

Vocabulary

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|  1. appraise  |
|  2. trousseau  |
|  3. relinquish  |
|  4. audible  |
|  5. convulsions  |
|  6. afflicted |
|  7. morbid  |
|  8. liberalism  |
|  9. scrutiny  |
| 10. incompetence  |
| 11. anticipate  |
| 12. poise  |
| 13. exaggerated  |
| 14. eccentric  |
| 15. appalled  |
| 16. autopsy  |
| 17. windfall  |
| 18. reverence  |
| 19. pompous  |
| 20. shrewd  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. What are your impressions of Sam Westing? \*Attribute Web  |
|  2. \*Prediction: Whose idea do you think it was to dress him as Uncle Sam in the casket?  |
|  3. How can you tell that Grace Wexler is a snob? |
|  4. \* Prediction: Why do you think Flora Baumbach is always smiling?  |
|  5. How can you tell that Flora's smiles aren't because she is happy?  |
|  6. How can you tell that Sydelle Pulaski craves attention?  |
|  7. What information and directions do the heirs receive from the will?  |
|  8. How is the Westing Game played? |
|  9. What is the object of the game? |
| 10. What are the winnings? |
| 11. Who was paired with whom?  |
| 12. Opinion: Why do you think Angela's position was "none"?  |
| 13. \*Opinion: Why do you think Turtle's position was "witch"?  |
| 14. Why does everyone want Sydelle's shorthand notes?  |
| 15. Why does J.J. Ford think that Sam Westing is out for revenge?  |

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| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 9-12  |

Vocabulary

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|  1. sappy  |
|  2. broker  |
|  3. uppity  |
|  4. jabber  |
|  5. social-climber |
|  6. prattle  |
|  7. paternal  |
|  8. chide  |
|  9. chiseled |
| 10. coiffeur |
| 11. scoff  |
| 12. exceptional  |
| 13. bookkeeping  |
| 14. larcenist  |
| 15. felon  |
| 16. alibi  |
| 17. implication  |
| 18. wary  |
| 19. transcribe  |
| 20. paraphernalia  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. Why does Sydelle want Angela to dress as her twin for the party?  |
|  2. Who squelches her plan? |
|  3. Why does turtle kick the bed, chair, and desk before leaving her "closet" of a room? |
|  4. There are many ironic situations and comments in this story---situations where there is a contrast between what it is and what it seems to be. What is ironic about Judge Ford's comment to Angela that "one of these tidbits might cheer you up .I hear you'll be getting married soon." Why wouldn't the Judge's efforts cheer up Angela?  |
|  5. Why is Chris watching legs? |
|  6. Which of the characters have limps? |
|  7. How does Crow react then she sees that Angela is almost in tears? |
|  8. Why does Mr. Hoo laugh when Grace suggests that her husband is doing his bookkeeping? |
|  9. Why doesn't Grace understand the joke? |
| 10. Why does Mr. Hoo smile when Mr. And Mrs. Theodorakis's kitchen is ruined from the explosion? |
| 11. Was Turtle right when she told Sydelle that she uses her crutches to get attention? |
| 12. Why does Angela think, "Turtle's crutch is her braid."?  |
| 13. What is the connection between Violet and George Theodorakis?  |
| 14. Prediction : What might be George's motive for filling Sam Westing? |

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| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 13-16  |

Vocabulary

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|  1. scrumptious  |
|  2. mementoes |
|  3. pedicure  |
|  4. unattainable  |
|  5. demeaning  |
|  6. elephantine  |
|  7. dejectedly  |
|  8. obsequious  |
|  9. peevishly  |
| 10. remission  |
| 11. soothsayer  |
| 12. guffaw |
| 13. interrogate  |
| 14. jasmine  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. What do you think the bomber's motive was?  |
|  2. Does the bomber intend to hurt anyone? |
|  3. Who does get injured and why? |
|  4. What does Turtle know about her father that he didn't know she knew?  |
|  5. After Sydelle was injured she doesn't at the chance to get attention for her injury. Why do you suppose that she plays down her pain this time? |
|  6. Why do Otis and Crow fight? |
|  7. How did she "hide her love" in Angela's bag?  |
|  8. According to Sandy , why might Angela be in danger? |
|  9. How do the lives of Angela and Theo parallel those of Violet and Theo's father?  |
| 10. When and how does Angela get injured?  |
| 11. Why does Otis say that "still waters run deep"?  |

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| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 17-20  |

Vocabulary

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| --- |
|  1.bullish |
|  2. bearish  |
|  3. photostats  |
|  4. innersoles |
|  5. eluding  |
|  6. propellants  |
|  7. placard  |
|  8. malady  |
|  9. covet  |
| 10. glutton  |
| 11. manipulated  |
| 12. legitimate  |
| 13. miscalculation  |
| 14. shard  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. Why does Theo think Otis is the murderer?  |
|  2. Of all the information supplied by the private investigator, which piece do you thinks is the most interesting and relevant to the mystery?  |
|  3. Why does Dr. Denton Deere take Chris to the hospital?  |
|  4. Why does Crow think that James Hoo is the bomber?  |
|  5. Why does she suddenly decide that he is a charitable man? |
|  6. What do Grace Wexler and Berthe Crow have in common?  |
|  7. Who is the wrong person mistakenly invited to move into Sunset Towers ?  |
|  8. How does the judge discover this mistake?  |
|  9. Why does the judge decide that the former wife of Sam Westing needs protection?  |

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| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 21-24  |

Vocabulary

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|  1. fuming  |
|  2. seamy  |
|  3. derelicts  |
|  4. meticulous  |
|  5. appellate  |
|  6. arsenal |
|  7. downcast  |
|  8. astounded  |
|  9. composure |
| 10. exquisite  |
| 11. mismatched  |
| 12. wreak  |
| 13. unintelligible |
| 14. dejected  |
| 15. ethnic  |
| 16. ornithologist  |
| 17. paranoid  |
| 18. writhing  |
| 19. penance  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. Why does Theo want Turtle's bike? |
|  2. Why does she give it to him?  |
|  3. How does Theo feel after spying on Otis and Crow at the soup kitchen?  |
|  4. Why isn't J.J. Ford more grateful to Sam Westing?  |
|  5. How is Turtle caught?  |
|  6. Who has been stealing things?  |
|  7. Why was she stealing things?  |
|  8. Why does Angela feel better after her parents visit her at the hospital?  |
|  9. How does Turtle react to the picture of Rosalie?  |
| 10. How has Turtle's attitude changed since she first heard of Rosalie? |
| 11. Why have the heirs been summoned to the Westing house again?  |
| 12. How does Judge Ford feel when Sandy suggests that all of the heirs pool their clues?  |
| 13. What results from sharing the clues?  |

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| Reading: *"The Westing Game"*  |   Chapters 25-30  |

Vocabulary

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| --- |
|  1. stoolie  |
|  2. bolted  |
|  3. dastardly  |
|  4. stenographer  |
|  5. accomplice  |
|  6. intercede  |
|  7. baffled |
|  8. embalmed  |
|  9. obituary  |
| 10. stupefied  |
| 11. pretense  |
| 12. benefactor  |
| 13. extravaganza  |
| 14. abacus  |

Discussion Questions

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|  1. How does Theo know that it was Sandy who was playing chess with him? Why is this surprising?  |
|  2. How does the judge figure out that Sandy was Sam Westing?  |
|  3. Why did Sam Westing put "Happy Fourth of July" into the will when it was only November?  |
|  4. How does the clue "It is not what you have, it's what you don't have that counts" help to solve the mystery?  |
|  5. Who comes up with the solution?  |
|  6. Who hired Otis and why? |
|  7. What does Turtle finally realize about the meaning of the statement that the "heir who wins the windfall will be the one who finds the fourth"?  |
|  8. Did Sam Westing and Sandy McCrouthers die? How do you explain that the coroner determined both to have died of heart attacks?  |
|  9. What happens to the Westing house?  |
| 10. What happens to Sunset Towers ?  |
| 11. Where does Turtle go every Saturday?  |
| 12. Who marries whom?  |
| 13. How does Turtle lie to Julian Eastman about Crow, Otis, and Mr. Hoo? Why did she lie?  |
| 14. Why do Turtle and Theo decide not to have any children?  |
| 15. Who is Alice and how is she like Turtle?  |

Character Line Up

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|  | Name & Age |
| Relatives |
| Place of Residence & Partner |
| Connection to Westing/Motive |

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| Place of Residence & Partner |
| Connection to Westing/Motive |

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