

Lesson 1

The Westing Game

Chapters 1-4

Lesson 1 Directions

Pre-Reading

1. Preview (read through) the study questions for *The Westing Game* Chapters 1-4.
2. Complete the Vocabulary Worksheet for *The Westing Game* Chapters 1-4.

Reading

1. Read *The Westing Game* Chapters 1-4.
2. Keep your study questions in mind as you read.

Post-Reading

1. Answer all of the study guide questions for Chapters 1-4.
2. Complete the Reader Response Assignment for Chapters 1-4.

Project Note

You may be assigned a character from the book to “be” during this unit of study, and you may be assigned a project to do while reading this book. If you are, directions for that project will be given to you separately.

Vocabulary Chapters 1-4 Part I

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the bold words mean in the space provided.

1. The furniture would have to be reupholstered; no, she'd buy new furniture-- **beige** velvet.
2. She had waited all these years for a place of her own, and here it was, in an **elegant** building where rich people lived.
3. Touch her **precious** pigtail, even by accident, and she'll kick you in the shins, the brat.
4. . . . Baumbach dropped the pin from her **pudgy** fingers and almost swallowed the three in her mouth.
5. No one could have guessed that under that stern **facade** her stomach was doing flipflops as Doctor Wexler cut out a corn.
6. 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...
7. Her profile was fine, **marred** only by the jut of her clenched jaw.
8. From these **meager** beginnings he built the giant Westing Paper Products Corporation and founded the city of Westingtown to house thousands of workers and their families.

Vocabulary Chapters 1-4 Page 2

9. The **executor** of the Westing estate said the deceased requested that, in place of flowers, donations be sent to Blind Bowlers of America.
10. Grace Windsor Wexler wrote housewife, crossed it out, wrote decorator, crossed it out, and wrote **heiress**.

Vocabulary Chapters 1-4 Part II

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| ___ 1. beige | A. Valuable; of special worth |
| ___ 2. elegant | B. Chubby; short and fat |
| ___ 3. precious | C. Tan in color |
| ___ 4. pudgy | D. Beautiful and refined |
| ___ 5. facade | E. Someone appointed to handle a deceased person's estate |
| ___ 6. podiatrist | F. Made imperfect; damaged on the surface |
| ___ 7. marred | G. Foot doctor |
| ___ 8. meager | H. False front; false appearance |
| ___ 9. Executor | I. Small in amount; lacking abundance |
| ___ 10. heiress | J. A woman who has inherited or will inherit an estate and/or title |

Study Questions Chapters 1-4

1. At the beginning of the story, what alerts you that things may not be what they appear to be?
2. What is unusual about the apartment numbers at Sunset Towers?
3. Barney Northrup is a good salesman. What does he tell each of the prospective renters?
4. What one mistake does Barney Northrup make?
5. All the people living in Sunset Towers seem to be content except Mr. Hoo. Why does he grumble?

Study Questions Chapters 1-4 Page 2

6. When they see smoke coming from the Westing house chimney, what are the opinions of Sandy McSouthers, Otis Amber, and Turtle Wexler as to who might be in the Westing house?

Sandy

Otis

Turtle

7. While birdwatching, what does Chris Theodorakis notice about the person he sees going into the Westing house?

8. What clues in Chapter 3 tell you that Turtle is not Mrs. Wexler's favorite daughter?

9. What does Crow tell Dr. Wexler when he notices she has hurt her shin?



Study Questions Chapters 1-4 Page 3

10. Why doesn't Chris tell his brother, Theo, about the person he sees going into the Westing house?

11. Why does Turtle run screaming from the Westing house?



Reader Response Entry Chapters 1-4

In the space below, write a substantial response to the chapters of the book you have just read. It could be your thoughts on one of the following: an idea presented, an event, a character's actions or attitude, a topic related in some way to something presented in this section of the novel, a response to a particular passage that stood out to you as you read, or you could write a creative response like a poem or song lyrics as long as it is relevant in some way to what you have just read.