

The Westing Game

By Ellen Raskin

Dear Lucky One,

Here are the questions you will need to think about for group discussion. Remember, you must always provide evidence to support your thinking.

Chapters 1-2

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- Who are the tenants of Sunset Towers?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- **Memory Moment Signpost:** In chapter 2, Otis Amber and Sandy McSouthers are telling a story about some kids who went into the Westing house. Why do you think the author added these particular details? How do you think it will affect the story?

Chapters 3-4

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- Describe the setting in detail for the first four chapters.
- What do you learn about Sam Westing from the newspaper?
- What character would you consider the main character?
- Describe Ms. Crow. What do you think she did before moving to Sunset Towers?

Chapters 5-6

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- **Contrast and Contradiction Signposts:** Why would turtle not be honest with her mother about the necklace? How does this influence the story?
- **Word Gaps Signpost:** Do I know this word trousseau from somewhere else? Can I find clues in the sentence to help me figure out what it means?

Chapters 7-8

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- Explain the Westing Game in detail.
- What do you think Jake Wexler meant by his statement, standing or sitting when not lying down”?
- **Again and Again Signpost:** Why do you think the author keeps focus on Sydelle Pulaski’s limp? How might this impact the story?

Chapters 9-10

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- Why do you think the author included the notes about lost items in this chapter? How is this related to a detail we learned at the beginning of the book?
- **Contrast and Contradiction Signpost:** Why is Ms. Wexler acting different toward Turtle?
- **Aha Moment Signpost:** What does Turtle realize her mother is up to?

Chapters 11-12

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- What is the importance of the meeting held in the coffee shop?
- What clue does the title of chapter 12 give us?
- The judge realized the voice of the private investigator sounded familiar. Why do you think the author included this detail?

Chapters 13-14

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- What does Turtle reveal about her father, Jake Wexler? How is that related to a detail we learned at the beginning of the book?
- **Compare and Contrast Signpost:** The doctor reveals something to Angela about Sydelle Pulaski. How is this a contrast and contradiction to what we already know about Sydelle? How might this change things in the story?
- **Contrast and Contradiction Signpost:** Are any characters acting differently from the beginning of the story? How might that change the story?

Chapters 15-16

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- Why do you think the author named this chapter “Fact and Gossip”?
- How are J.J. Ford and Sandy working together? Why might this be important to the story?
- Why do you think Theo asks Sandy about the game Chess? Why might this be important to the story?
- Why do you think Turtle made the following statement to her sister, “Don’t worry, you’ll still be pretty,” Turtle said. “But, wow, that sure was a dumb thing to do”?

Chapters 17-18

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- What are some changes you notice about some of the characters? Why might this be important to the story?
- As Sandy and Judges J.J. Ford are discussing the information, they learned about each person, Judge realizes something important about Sydelle. What is it and why might it be important?

Chapters 19-20

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- **Aha Moment Signpost:** Sam Westing made a mistake in one of the tenants selected. J.J. Ford upon hearing the interview realizes who that mistake is? How might this change the rest of the story?
- Why would Otis tell Crow she needed to go back to the Westing house?

Chapters 21-22

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- During chapter 21, Turtle and J.J. Ford have a conversation. What does Turtle reveal about herself? What secret does she try to keep? Why is this important to the story?
- **Aha Moment Signpost:** At the end of chapter 21, Sydelle has put together clues. What does she think is the answer? How might this change the story?
- How are characters interacting now as compared to the beginning of the story? Why are these details important?

Chapters 23-25

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- **Aha Moment Signpost:** Judge J.J. Ford makes the connection between the queen's sacrifice and Sandy McSouthers. How might this change the story?
- **Aha Moment Signpost:** Turtle starts to put the pieces to the puzzle together during chapter 25. How might this impact the story?
- Why is Turtle so upset about Sandy McSouthers?
- Why is Turtle thinking about kicking Barney Northrup? Why might this detail be important?

Chapters 26-27

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- Madame Hoo made a confession during Turtle's trial. What was the confession and why is it important to the story?
- **Aha Moment Signpost:** When running through the transcript Turtle stumbles on a sentence that was left incomplete. She realizes what the last word was. What was that word? How might this change the story?
- Do you think you know the solution to this mystery? What evidence do you have to support your thinking?

Chapters 28-30

- What surprised you about these chapters?
- What are the major events that are occurring in these chapters?
- How did you feel about ending of this novel?
- How did this novel change you as a reader?

