

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS *The Westing Game*

Assignment 1

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?
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?
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?
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?

Assignment 2

Chapters 5-7

1. What startles Turtle when she observes the corpse of Sam Westing?
2. Two heirs are not present at the reading of the will and two heirs are late. Who are these four people, and what do the two who were late have in common?
3. Why is Grace Wexler so upset when the lawyer reads from the will "my sixteen nieces and nephews"?
4. In his will, Westing instructs the heirs to gather together to view his body. What surprising thing are they told to do after a minute of prayer for their good old Uncle Sam?
5. What are the six rules of the Westing game?
6. The sixteen heirs are divided into eight pairs. Name and describe the people in each pair.
7. After reading the clues given to her and Sandy, Judge Ford decides to quit the game. What is one reason she changes her mind and decides to stay and play "mean"?
8. All the pairs are worried that someone will discover their clues. How does Turtle make sure no one gets her and Flora Baumbach's clues?
9. Why does Sydelle Pulaski "smile back at the friendly faces" when the lawyer tells them no one can see the will until the game is over?
10. What are the last things Westing tells his heirs to remember at the outset of the game?

Assignment 3

Chapters 8-10

1. Turtle takes advantage of there being no electricity after the blizzard by selling her candles. What is unique about these candles?
2. What four people are not present at Sunset Towers during the snowstorm?
3. Angela and Sydelle visit Chris. After they leave, he notes three things. What were the three things Chris notes?
4. Why does Turtle invest the \$10,000 in the stock market, particularly in Westing Paper Products?
5. What is stolen from Sydelle's apartment?
6. Sydelle Pulaski posts a notice on the wall of the elevator. The idea of a bulletin board is so successful that other renters post notices. What are some of the notices about?
7. What information about James Hoo does the newspaper man reveal to Judge Ford?
8. What does Grace Wexler say when Judge Ford asks her how she is related to the Westing family and what are the judge's thoughts about Grace's answer?
9. What does Theo say that makes the judge think that the Westing game has something to do with chess?
10. What are the reactions of the heirs to Sydelle's quotation, "Spend it wisely and may God thy gold refine"?

Assignment 4

Chapters 11-13

1. On the third snowbound morning, because both her mother and Angela forget to come to braid Turtle's hair, Turtle has Flora Baumbach do it. What does Flora tell about her daughter, Rosalie, as she braids Turtle's hair?
2. Flora asks Turtle what her real name is. What does Turtle tell her?
3. Why does Theo call a meeting to be held at the coffee shop?
4. Mr. Hoo finds Sydelle's notebook on a table in his restaurant. He says it is standard shorthand but is gibberish. What is Sydelle's explanation?
5. An explosion leaves Mr. Hoo's kitchen in a terrible mess. What explanation for the explosion do each of the following characters give? Mr. Hoo, George Theodorakis, Catherine Theodorakis, and Doug Hoo
6. The newspaper man calls the judge with more news. What is it?
7. What connections does Judge Ford make between Sam Westing and each of these characters: Mr. Hoo, George Theodorakis and Sandy McSouthers?
8. How does the bomber set up the explosion in Mr. Hoo's kitchen?
9. As seating hostess in Mr. Hoo's restaurant, Grace Wexler decides to pair people. Who does she pair with Chris? With Angela? With Judge J. J. Ford?
10. When the heirs are gathered in Hoo's restaurant, what happens when Otis Amber enters?
11. Who is injured in the explosion at Hoo's restaurant, and who accompanies the victim to the hospital?
12. Where does the bomber plan to set off the next explosion, after the one in Hoo's restaurant?

Assignment 5

Chapters 14-17

1. Why does Sandy refuse the \$5 tip the judge offers him?
2. Why doesn't Chris sign the check so his partner, Denton Deere, can have his half of the \$10,000?
3. From where was the quotation "May God thy gold refine" taken?
4. What does the psychiatrist tell Angela about Sydelle's crippling disease?
5. Sandy recalls that two people left Sunset Towers on Halloween right before Turtle and Doug left. Who are the two people?
6. The judge hired a private detective. What did the detective find out about Mrs. Westing and Violet Westing?
7. Where did the bomber plant the bomb that explodes in the Wexler apartment?
8. Why does Turtle thank Angela at Angela's wedding shower?
9. Sydelle pretends to be asleep in the bed next to Angela. What does Sydelle discover about her partner?
10. How do the Wexlers and Hoos arrive at "Ed Plum" as the answer to their clues?
11. Sandy keeps a notebook containing all the information he and the judge accumulate about the heirs. What does he have written about the Hoo family?
12. Theo wants to tell Doug that he thinks he knows the murderer, but when he goes in the night to tell Doug, he taps on the wrong door which is opened by Crow, who drags him into her apartment. Why does Theo think he is dreaming?

Assignment 6

Chapters 18-20

1. Why does Turtle tell Flora Baumbach to sell all their stock and put all the money in Westing Paper Products Corporation?
2. What information does Sandy have in his notebook about Flora Baumbach?
3. What does Sandy read from his notebook to Judge Ford about Otis Amber, Denton Deere, and Sydelle Pulaski?
4. Why does Grace Wexler shriek when she enters Angela's hospital room?
5. What good news does Denton Deere have for Chris?
6. What does Sandy have in his notebook about Berthe Crow and about the Wexler family?
7. In Sandy's notes, what does the judge discover about Grace Wexler and about Sydelle Pulaski?
8. At what point does Flora Baumbach sell Westing Paper Products?
9. According to Sandy's notebook entry about the Theodorakis family, what is their Westing connection?
10. The judge thinks Sam Westing plotted against the person responsible for his daughter's suicide. Who does Judge Ford think was responsible for Violet's suicide?

Assignment 7

Chapters 21-22

1. How does Theo convince Turtle to let him borrow her bicycle?
2. Theo follows the bus to Skid Row where Otis Amber and Crow get off the bus. What do they do there?
3. Why does the judge think Sam Westing paid for her education? Why does Sandy think Westing paid for her education?
4. Why do the police think that Turtle planted the bomb in the elevator?
5. Turtle confesses to Judge Ford that she set off fireworks in the elevator. What else does she confess?
6. Judge Ford thinks the corpse might be a wax dummy as Turtle describes it. To what question does that lead her?
7. Why does Angela say, "Suddenly everything seemed all right."?
8. What conclusion about Sam Westing does Judge Ford come to believe after she looks at the fifteen year-old picture of him?
9. Why does Turtle kick Barney Northrup?
10. Why does Sandy say he thinks Otis Amber is Sam Westing?
11. Why doesn't Crow want to go to the Westing house?

Assignment 8

Chapters 23-25

1. The twelfth item in Westing's will stated that the pairs could each give one answer to the puzzle. What answers are recorded by the lawyer for the eight pairs?
2. What is the fourteenth instruction in the will?
3. What does the fifteenth instruction say?
4. Why does Judge Ford believe Sandy McSouthers is Sam Westing?
5. When Sydelle arranges the clues, what are the missing words to America the Beautiful?
6. What does the judge say in defense of Berthe Crow?
7. Why is Dr. Sikes called into the meeting?
8. When the sheriff of Westing County herds the heirs back to the game room where Ed Plum reads the sixteenth item of the will, what gets Grace Wexler's attention?
9. Who says, "The answer is Berthe Erica Crow," and to whom does that person give the inheritance?
10. When Theo says Sandy would have had to resign the chess game because he took Sandy's queen, what is Judge Ford's response?
11. What puzzles Turtle about Sandy and Barney Northrup?
12. How does Judge Ford explain "Windkloppel"?
13. What does Turtle remember about Sandy when Otis Amber says, "It's poor Crow's birthday?"

Assignment 9

Chapters 26-30

1. Why does Judge Ford think this is the lowest court she has ever presided at, and what did she notice about Turtle?
2. Turtle calls Chris Theodorakis to the stand. What does he say about Dr. Sikes?
3. What does Otis Amber testify about himself? Who were his three clients and why did each of them hire him?
4. What is Denton Deere's testimony at the trial?
5. Mrs. Hoo interrupts the trial. What does she do?
6. Turtle sees Sandy come out of the library on the way back to the game room. What was he doing in the library?
7. Turtle figures out the meaning of "The heir who wins the windfall will be the one who finds the fourth." What does she think "the fourth" means?
8. Why is Crow declared innocent?
9. What does Westing bequeath to all the heirs and what does he bequeath to Crow?
10. What happens to Westing house?
11. Who is the fourth person Turtle goes to see and why does he limp?
12. Describe Crow and Otis Amber's wedding.
13. How does Mrs. Hoo finally get to go to China?
14. Five years after the Westing game ended, what are the following heirs doing: Otis and Crow, Mr. Hoo, Theo, Doug, Angela, Denton Deere, Sydelle, Judge Ford, Chris, Grace Wexler, and Turtle?
15. At the end of the story, what can be said about the following people: Turtle, Judge Ford, Crow, Otis, Sydelle, Angela, Denton Deere, Flora Baumbach, Mr. and Mrs. Theodorakis, Chris, Doug, Mr. Hoo, Mrs. Hoo, Grace Windkloppel Wexler, Jake Wexler, Theo and Julian R. Eastman?
16. Who died with Julian R. Eastman?