

Study Guide for *THE WESTING GAME*

This study guide is a tool to help you organize your thoughts while reading and provide notes for studying; however, it is not intended to inform you of possible test questions. The study guide will not be reviewed or discussed in class. Reviewing the study guide alone will not insure an adequate grade on summer reading assessments. You should use active reading strategies including **making notes in the margin with predictions or questions, highlighting character descriptions, and summarizing the main events of each chapter.**

SETTING

The outskirts of Westingtown, which is situated on Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The two main locations are within sight of each other: the newly built Sunset Towers and the Westing house, abandoned for many years before the start of the novel.

Reading Suggestions. This book is a mystery. A man is murdered very early in the book, and the reader participates in solving the murder by paying attention to what the characters are discovering.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

- **Get to know the all the characters.**
 - We suggest making a chart with each character's name. You can write what you learn at the beginning of the book and new information.
 - Be sure you know what each person is doing at the end of the book.
 - Some characters are invited to play the Westing Game.
 - Others are not, but they are still important.
 - See the characters listed below. They are invited to play the Westing Game and are matched with their partners.

- **Foreshadowing can be tricky.**
 - **The reader does not know for sure if an event foreshadows something in the future, but we can do a bit of detective work.**
 - **If something happens or someone says something that is a bit of a surprise, we might stop and think what this could mean.**
 - **As this story unfolds, the author gives us many clues about what will happen next and about the final discovery of the murderer.**
 - **Pay attention and make notes.**

MAJOR CHARACTERS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Madame Sun Lin Hoo | Jake Wexler |
| Turtle Wexler | Flora Baumbach |
| Christos Theodorakis | D. Denton Deere |
| Alexander (Sandy) McSouthers | J.J. Ford |
| Grace Windsor Wexler | James Shin Hoo |
| Bertha Erica Crow | Otis Amber |
| Theo Theodorakis | Doug Hoo |
| Sydelle Pulaski | Angela Wexler |

Chapter One--Sunset Towers

What is unusual about Sunset Towers, the tenants, and Barney Northrup, the salesman?

Chapter Two--Ghosts or Worse

1. Continue identifying new characters.
2. Identify new information about the Westing House—smoke, two “unfortunate fellows,” a person with a limp.

Chapter Three--Tenants In and Out

1. Continue identifying new characters.
2. Describe the relationships among the Wexler family members

Chapter Four--The Corpse Found

1. Describe in detail Turtle’s encounters in the mansion.
2. Why were sixteen people asked to go to the south library of the Westing Mansion?

Chapter Five--Sixteen Heirs

List the surprises encountered by these beneficiaries as they gathered?

Chapter Six--The Westing Will

What unexpected information is disclosed in the reading of the will?

Chapter Seven--The Westing Game

What is the object of the game?

Chapter Eight--The Paired Heirs

While the tenants try to solve their clues, what is Judge Ford preoccupied with?

Chapter Nine--Lost and Found

In this chapter, we learn more about the relationship among Mrs. Wexler and her daughters. Write about this relationship.

Chapter Ten--The Long Party

What is it about Angela's relationships with Denton and her mother that is causing Angela to be upset? Who does she talk with about this?

Chapter Eleven--The Meeting

1. List the names that others call Turtle.
2. How do the "game players" feel about sharing their clues? What does Theo suggest?

Chapter Twelve--The First Bomb

1. Describe the incident in the kitchen.
2. According to Judge Ford, who are the four people with Westing connections?

Chapter Thirteen--The Second Bomb

1. What kind of timing device did the bomber use?
2. Who is Mrs. Baumbach reminded of when she sees Angela?

Where was the bomber planning to set the next bomb?

Chapter Fourteen--Pairs Repaired

1. Why did the doorman refuse to accept a tip from the judge?
2. Why was Alexander McSouthers fired from his job at the Westing factory?
3. Why were the tenants purchasing so many Westing Paper Products?

Chapter Fifteen--Fact and Gossip

1. Why were Turtle and Sandy dubious about the "murder" of Samuel Westing.
2. Shin Hoo told Jake Wexler that he thought he could squeeze him in at the restaurant. Explain why this statement is ironic.
3. What are some of the characters beginning to notice about Angela Westing?

Chapter Sixteen--The Third Bomb

1. At the wedding shower, what does Angela do to suggest that she may already know the contents of the gift wrapped in good foil?
2. Who does Sydelle think the bomber is, and who are you beginning to think the bomber is? Explain.

Chapter Seventeen--Some Solutions

In this chapter, characters are looking at their clues to determine who the killer is. Make a note about what each one is thinking.

Chapter Eighteen--The Trackers

1. What do you learn about Rosalie in this chapter?
2. What is significant about the reference to ammonium nitrate? How is ammonium nitrate used?
3. What important event will take place at the Westing House on Saturday night?
4. What help is Dr. Deere offering Chris, and how does Chris feel about this?

Chapter Nineteen--Odd Relatives

1. Explain the various interactions with Judge Ford and the other heirs. What are they discovering about each other.
2. What mistake does Judge Ford discover?

Chapter Twenty--The Confessions

1. Explain why Theo is in the hospital?
2. Why is George Theodorakis feeling painful emotions as he told the story about Violet Westing?
3. Who does Judge Ford believe must be protected and why?

Chapter Twenty-One--The Fourth Bomb

1. What is Judge Ford's connection with the Westing family?
2. Why does Judge Ford think that Sam Westing paid for her education?
3. What does Turtle confess to the judge?
4. What does Sydelle Pulaski discover about the clues?

Chapter Twenty-Two--Losers, Winners

1. Briefly describe the note posted in the elevator.
2. What is the significance of Turtle's comment that her mother would be upset if she knew who the real bomber was?
3. Which of the heirs does Judge Ford think may be Sam Westing's former wife?
4. Who does Judge Ford think was actually in the coffin?
5. Why would it be difficult to recognize Sam Westing now?

Chapter Twenty-Three--Strange Answers

1. Describe the conversation between Turtle and Angela. What is Angela planning to do? What is Turtle insisting that Angela not do?
2. What did the heirs receive in their envelopes?
3. Why does Denton Deere believe that Sandy could use plastic surgery?

Chapter Twenty-Four--Wrong All Wrong

1. When the heirs decide work together as a team, what are they able
2. What suspicion does Judge Ford now have about her partner?
3. What happens to Bertha Erica Crow after Sydelle accuses her of being the murderer?
4. At the end of the chapter do you think that Berthe Erica Crow is telling the truth? Explain your answer.

Chapter Twenty-Five--Westing's Wake

1. What does Denton Deere accuse Turtle of doing and how does Turtle respond to his accusation?
2. What is significant about the famous Westing trap?

Chapter Twenty-Six--Turtle's Trial

1. What role does Turtle assume?
2. What does Otis Amber disclose (his profession and why he was hired)
3. Why did Sandy's flask contain according to Turtle?
4. Explain what Judge Ford now believes about Sam Westing.

Chapter Twenty-Seven--A Happy Fourth

1. What announcement does Edgar Jennings Plum make?
2. What is to happen to Sunset Towers according to Westing's "last" document?
3. What is the significance of Turtle's statement, "Hurry up, Uncle Sam, I can't keep up this act much longer"?
4. Which heir wins and explain how she finally solves the puzzle? What clues does she use to realize ...

Chapter Twenty-Eight--And Then. . .

1. Whose wedding is Turtle going to be late for if she doesn't hurry and make her move?
2. How did Judge Ford intend to repay her debt to Sam Westing?
3. What changes does Angela make now that she has more confidence in herself?

Chapter Twenty-Nine--Five Years Pass

Chapters Twenty-nine and Thirty

1. Who was the chess game master that T.R. Wexler had finally defeated?
2. Who is dying at the opening of the final chapter?
3. What is revealed about each character in these last two chapters? You should add this to the character chart you created when you began reading.