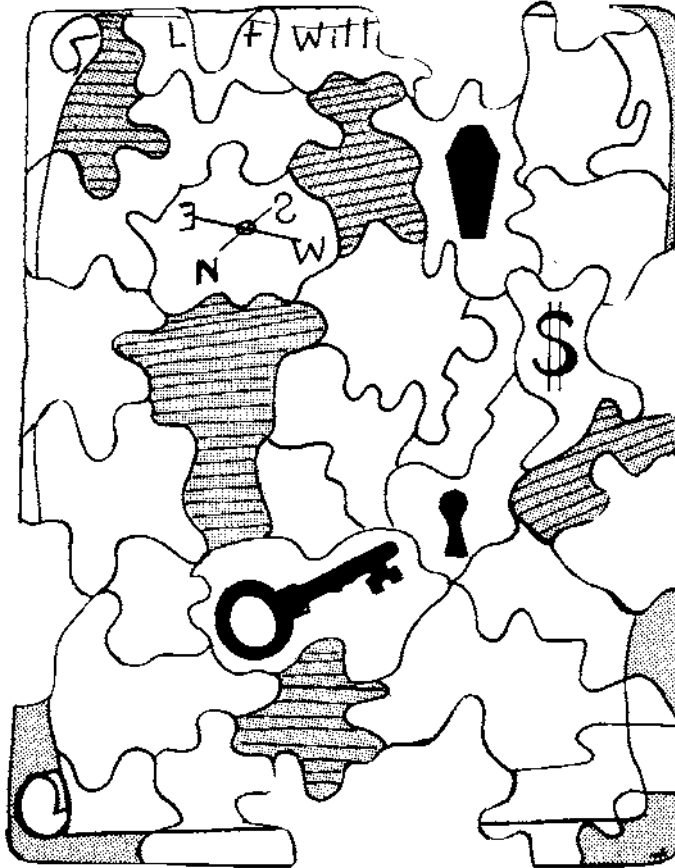


Novel•Ties

THE WESTING GAME



Ellen Raskin

A Study Guide

Written By Beatrice G. Davis

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the book *The Westing Game* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each student. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging student's love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. exclusive | a. struggled; wrestled |
| 2. luxurious | b. person who pays rent for the use of property |
| 3. grappled | c. light fixture that hangs from the ceiling |
| 4. tenant | d. rich; sumptuous |
| 5. chandelier | e. only available to a privileged group |

.....

- The light from the crystal _____ over the dining room table lit the entire room.
- The quiz-show contestant frowned as he _____ with a difficult question.
- The decorator gave the apartment a(n) _____ look by installing plush carpet and elegant drapery.
- Before signing a lease, every _____ should review the terms very carefully.
- The club was so _____ that only descendants of early settlers were allowed to join.

Read to learn about sixteen tenants of Sunset Towers.

Questions:

- What was unusual about the way the tenants were chosen to live at Sunset Towers?
- Do you know who was the tenant chosen by mistake?
- What did Grace W. like about Sunset Towers?
- Why was it surprising that smoke rose from the chimney of the Westing house?
- What was Chris Theodorakis's handicap? What was his hobby?
- How did Turtle feel about her braid?
- What bet did Turtle make with the others?

CHAPTER 3

Vocabulary: Use the context to figure out the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then compare your definition with a dictionary definition.

1. The judge's rigid posture and serious expression suggested that he was going to deliver a guilty verdict.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

2. A light-hearted facade hid the young actor's nervousness on opening night.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

3. With her hair in a tight bun, knotted at the nape of her long neck, my aunt looked older than her years.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

4. After not eating all day, I devoured all the food that was served to me.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

5. We were sure there must be a rational explanation for the U.F.O. sightings.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

Read to find out about Sydelle Pulaski's problem.

Questions:

1. How did Turtle treat people who were mean to her?
2. What revealed that Mr. Hoo was acquainted with Mr. Westing?
3. What was special about J. J. Ford?
4. What was Sydelle Pulaski's problem? How did she try to solve her problem?