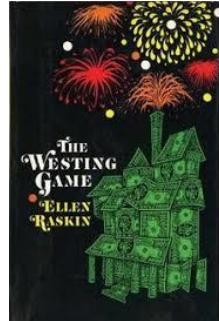


The Westing Game



ISBN-10 0-14-034991-X

ISBN-13 978-0-14-034991-7

Author Raskin, Ellen

Publisher Puffin Books

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Lexile 750L

Genre Mystery

Synopsis A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, one thing is for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!

Themes Family, Perseverance

Protagonist Male,

Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

The Westing Game, Week 1



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Leadership Requires Engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort, Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Where is Lake Michigan?

What is a tenant?

What is meant by pyrotechnics?

What is a will?

What is a blizzard?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

exclusive (2)	moustache (2)	breathhtaking (4)	specializing (5)	binoculars (9)
podiatrist (11)	queasiness (11)	amputation (12)	tinkling (14)	throbbing (17)
elaborately (19)	suspicious (20)	embroidering (23)	convulsions (24)	sporadic (27)
exaggerated (29)	eccentric (31)	puckered (33)	pompous (34)	indignant (35)
gibberish (38)	infirmity (44)	pretentious (45)	incriminating (46)	hodgepodge (47)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- Mention the setting and main character
- Point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read pages 1-48

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Map Instructions

Create a map of Sunset Towers on the shore of Lake Michigan. Include Westingtown and Westing House. Add the locations of other places as described in the novel as the story unfolds.

Map Instructions:

Add any new information to your map of Sunset Towers.

KWL

Create a KWL chart about Sam Westing and the mystery surrounding his life and death.

Map Instructions:

Add information from the story about the Westing house, and where the room with the coffin is located in relationship to the part of the house facing Sunset Towers.

KWL Instructions:

Continue adding to your KWL chart about the Westing mystery.

Map Instructions:

Add information from the story about the Westing house, and where the room with the coffin is located in relationship to the part of the house facing Sunset Towers.

Mystery Chart:

As Westing's clues are revealed, write them on cards and place them on a chart. It might be helpful to use sticky notes or something else that can be moved around. As the novel progresses, make guesses as to the solution to the mystery.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an Open Mind Portrait for Chris Theodorakis. Focus on qualities or thoughts that might indicate his potential or ability as a leader.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an Open Mind Portrait for Turtle Wexler. Remember to focus on what you know about her that might indicate her abilities as a leader.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an Open Mind Portrait for Grace Wexler. Focus on qualities that may or may not make her a leader.

Open Mind Portrait

From this point on, create your Open Mind Portraits in pairs of two as the characters are grouped in the novel. Today, create two Open Mind Portraits – one for each pair described in the novel. Today's thoughts might focus on what you think of Sam Westing and his mysterious game. The pairs of characters should be as follows:

1. Madame Su Lin Hoo and Jake Wexler
2. Turtle Wexler and Flora Baumbach
3. Christos Theodorakis and Denton Deere
4. Alexander McSouthers and J.J. Ford
5. Grace Windsor Wexler and James Shin Hoo
6. Berthe Erica Crow and Otis Amber
7. Theo Theodorakis and Doug Hoo
8. Sydelle Pulaski and Angela Wexler

Discussion

Key Questions p. 1-9

1. Where is Sunset Towers located on Lake Michigan? Based on the information you are given, in what state or states does the story take place?
2. Why does Raskin begin the story with a description of Sunset Towers and its tenants?
3. What do we know about the Wexler family so far? How do you think Turtle feels about her family and her life in general?
4. Why do you think Chris Theodorakis is looking out his apartment windows in the middle of the afternoon?
5. The author mentions the Westing house several times. What role do you think Westing plays in the story?

Key Questions p. 10-17

1. Why does Turtle Wexler get so frustrated with her mother and sister?
2. How does Sydelle Pulaski feel about herself?
3. What is important to Turtle?
4. Doug Hoo and his father clearly have different priorities; what does Mr. Hoo think is important in life, and what is more important to Doug?
5. Judge Ford is a successful woman who is in a position of power and influence; what do you think her background might be?
6. Describe Theo's relationship with his brother, Chris.

Key Questions p. 18-27

1. What can you infer about Grace Wexler's worldview based on her assessment of the other heirs as they arrive?
2. How would you feel if you were Turtle Wexler with a hand-me-down dress from your older sister that is two sizes too big?
3. What does Raskin mean to tell us about when describing Judge Ford's opinions of the estate lawyer and her thoughts about Sam Westing?
4. What is your opinion of Angela's fiancée, Dr. Denton Deere?
5. What did Turtle feel when she saw her mother's silver cross in the hands of the waxy hands of the body in the coffin?
6. Why do you think Sydelle Pulaski is planning to take notes at the reading of the will?
7. What did the author do in the novel to create suspense in the reader's mind in this section on the reading of the will?
8. Why does the author describe characters in the novel in relationship to locations and status in life, along with their memories, thoughts, and reflections?

Key Questions p. 28-37

1. Why does the author take time to explain each of the heirs' reaction to the will?
2. What does Sandy McSouthers tell his partner about how his past life affecting his present situation with his wife and kids?
3. Why do you think the author jumps from the reading of the will to the reactions of the heirs to each part of the reading of the will?
4. How did the author let you inside the minds of the various heirs at the reading of the will?
5. Why did the author have the young intern comment on a medical issue in relationship to each heir? What does this reveal about Denton Deere?
6. What is J.J. Ford's dilemma with playing the game?
7. Why do you think two of the heirs were absent from the reading of the will?
8. What do you think made Sam Westing create such an elaborate game that seems eccentric in its method as well as the choice of pairs of heirs?

Key Questions p. 38-48

1. Why do you think the author chose to include the musings of the judge about her partner in *The Westing Game*?
2. How do you know that Grace Wexler thinks Sam Westing does not think well of her?
3. From inference, why does Turtle think the clues speak to purchase of specific stocks?
4. Why do you think the author included so much information about how each character in *The Westing Game* felt about other heirs playing Sam's game?
5. How does the author weave in information into the novel that helps the reader to understand the various emotions of each character towards the others?
6. How would you describe Chris' efforts to use the clues to solve the riddle of the game?

7. Why does Sydelle announce that she is not the murderer?
8. What hurts Mr. Hoo's feelings while working on the clues?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph p. 9

They didn't need drapes on the special glass windows here in Sunset Towers. He could see out, but nobody could see in. Then why did he sometimes feel that someone was watching him? Who could be watching him? God? If God was watching, then why was he like this? (9).

Writing Prompt

Leadership Requires Engagement in our communities, whatever those might look like. Throughout this novel, we will be discussing the community formed by Sunset Towers, and how that community extends to the outer world within the novel. So far, we know little about the characters in the novel, but the last few pages give us a look into Chris Theodorakis's mind and talents.

Based on what you know so far, **write a paragraph describing Chris's potential to be a leader. What are his talents? How might he put those talents to use in his community? Does he have any limitations that would inhibit him as a leader? How might he be a leader despite his limitations?**

Key Paragraph p. 17

Turtle squinted into the blackness that lay within the open French doors. Open, as though someone or some *Think* was expecting her. There's no such thing as a ghost; besides, all you had to do was speak friendly-like to them. (Ghosts, like dogs, know when a person's scared.) Ghosts or worse, Otis Amber had said. Well, not even the "worse" could hurt Turtle Wexler. She was pure of heart and deed; she only kicked shins in self-defense, so that couldn't count against her. She wasn't scared; she was not scared (17).

Writing Prompt

Leadership Requires Engagement. To that end, how does one go about developing one's talents to promote the common good? Precisely what does that mean for individual, and how might he or she go about developing those ideas?

Write an advice column to Turtle Wexler. Describe the qualities she currently has that can be molded into leadership qualities as she grows and matures. What specific steps can she take to become a leader in her community? How can she engage her focus to better those around her?

Key Paragraph, p. 24

Grace Windsor Wexler was no longer surprised at the odd assortment of heirs. Household workers, all, or former employees, she decided. The rich always reward servants in their wills, and her Uncle Sam was a generous man. "Aren't your parents

coming, she asked the older Theodorakis boy as he wheeled his brother into the library (24).

Writing Prompt

Leadership Requires *positive* Engagement. You can be involved in the community for the wrong reasons, and as a result hurt those around you. What constitutes *positive* engagement as opposed to *negative* engagement?

Grace Windsor Wexler reveals much of her character through her comments, thoughts, and attitudes toward those around her. **Write a paragraph discussing her potential as a leader, focusing on examples of her *positive* and *negative* engagement in those around her. Based on what you know so far, would she be a good leader? Why or why not? If not, what would she have to change to become a good leader?**

Key Paragraph, p. 36

Only one pair had not yet seen their clues. At table eight Sydelle Pulaski placed one hand on the envelope, raised a finger to her lips, and tilted her head toward the other heirs. Just watch and listen, she meant (36).

Writing Prompt

While Leadership Requires Engagement, it also often requires planning and purpose. What else is required to make leadership truly effective? In this chapter, Sydelle Pulaski's personality and skills begin to emerge, and we see her in a slightly different light.

At the will reading, Sydelle Pulaski emerges as a leader in ways that her fellow tenants probably didn't suspect. **Write a paragraph that claims that Sydelle Pulaski is the strongest leader in Sunset Towers. Be sure to support your claim with relevant evidence showing how Ms. Pulaski has shown leadership thus far in the novel.**

Key Paragraph, p. 47

The game: a tricky, divisive Westing game. No matter how much fear and suspicion he instilled in the players, Sam Westing knew that greed would keep them playing the game. Until the "murderer" was captured. And punished (47).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires positive civic engagement; often times, that means ensuring that justice is fairly served to members of your community. In what ways does Judge Ford exemplify that element of positive civic engagement?

Write a paragraph explaining how Judge Ford's plan to play Westing's game is an example of exemplary leadership. How is her plan different from the other players'? In what ways is she trying to make her community better through her actions?

Close Close by extending today's lesson to life and the world.

Leadership Requires Engagement. Leaders come in a variety of abilities, ethnicities, genders, and sizes. What are some examples of leaders in your community?

Leadership Requires Engagement. How can you develop your talents to better your community?

Leadership Requires Engagement? Can you think of any examples in your community of a supposed leader whose engagement in the community is negative? How does this harm the community?

Leadership Requires Engagement. How is having a plan relevant to leadership in the community? Discuss a plan that is being implemented in your school, state, or country – how has its developers engaged society to create a better community?

Leadership Requires Engagement. Like Judge Ford, leaders are often required to carry out justice in the name of protecting and bettering their communities. Do you know anyone in your community whose leadership skills are exemplified in this manner?

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

The Westing Game, Week 2



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Leadership Requires Engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort, Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

What is Chinese cuisine?

What is Lake Michigan?

What does MSG stand for, and what does MSG actually do?

How do areas that receive a lot of snow handle the weather?

What does it mean to preside at the bench?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

obituary (50)	impeccable (51)	frantically (52)	nervousness (54)	shorthand (56)
podiatrist (58)	checkered (59)	limpers (60)	tournament (65)	indignant (66)
ridiculous (68)	paraphernalia (69)	revenge (71)	pedicured (73)	elephantine (77)
mischievously (78)	mysterious (80)	contender (81)	flattery (82)	stringy (84)
restraining (89)	predicted (90)	smirking (91)	alternated (92)	stocky (93)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- Mention the setting and main character
- Point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read pages 48-95

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

KWL Instructions:

Continue adding to your KWL chart about the Westing mystery.

Map Instructions:

Add information from the story about the Westing house, and where the room with the coffin is located in relationship to the part of the house facing Sunset Towers.

Mystery Chart:

As Westing's clues are revealed, write them on cards and place them on a chart. It might be helpful to use sticky notes or something else that can be moved around. As the novel progresses, make guesses as to the solution to the mystery.

Map Instructions:

Review the map, and mark the coffee shop on the first floor of Sunset Towers

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your Open Mind Portraits, focusing on a different pair each time.

Suitcase Activity

Using construction paper, construct a suitcase. Fill it with illustrations of the missing objects from Sunset Towers. Then, write a sentence or two about where the mystery thief intends to go with these particular objects? Do they have anything in common?

Discussion

Key Questions p. 48-57

1. How does the author create vivid visualizations of the various characters in the novel?
2. When does Turtle react most strongly to her mother's continual favoritism?
3. Who is the person J. J. Ford is the most upset with in this section of the novel?
4. Why would someone steal Sydelle's shorthand notes about the will?
5. Which character or characters are the best leaders, in your opinion?

6. How is Madame Hoo treated, and what is her primary goal?
7. What can we learn from the notes in the elevator?
8. Why does the author spend so much time describing how the characters processed the clues to this stage of the game?

Key Questions p. 58-68

1. How does the Angela react to Jake Wexler and Sydelle's remarks about Denton?
2. What are the conflicts that you read about in this section of the novel?
3. How does the author create a mood at the party in this part of the novel?
4. How does Turtle behave at the party? What explains her behavior?
5. What does everyone learn about Sydelle's shorthand in this section of the story?
6. Who best exemplifies leadership in this chapter?
7. Why is Theo apparently obsessed with chess?
8. What do you think will happen next in the story with Turtle?
9. Why do you think the characters are in a panic at the end of the chapter?

Key Questions p. 68-77

1. Who do you think is the thief?
2. The author paints a word picture of the exploding tomato cans in the kitchen and reactions of different characters for what purpose?
3. How does the author's detailed explanation about Sydelle's recovery from the explosion and her resuming translation of her shorthand notes aid to the mystery?
4. What is the purpose of the bomber setting off bombs in both kitchens in one day?
5. What style does the author use to help us understand the development of the plot about who will be the heir?
6. How do you learn about Grace Wexler's feelings for power in this section?
7. How different is the culture of the characters from your own culture and community?
8. What do you think will happen next to the heirs of Sam Westing?
9. What are the differences between Angela and Turtle Wexler personalities?
10. Who is the bomber?

Key Questions p. 77-87

1. Why do you think the fire inspector deemed the incident a gas explosion instead of a bomb?
2. How do you think Theo and Chris will develop as characters in the story?
3. What is the subtle development in the relationship between Angela and Sydelle?
4. How does the author develop the plot using the visit of Angela to the hospital?
5. How does the author describe the feelings of Turtle in this section of the reading?
6. What is Chris's motivation for not giving Deere his half of the money?

7. Which character do you relate to most closely? Why do you think this is so?
8. How is the progress of solving the clues coming along, in your opinion?
9. What do you think will happen to Sydelle Pulaski after she leaves the hospital?
10. Who is the bomber?

Key Questions p. 88-95

1. Why does Raskin have the novel told through the thoughts and feelings of the characters as well as their conversations?
2. How does the receipt of the newspaper files help Judge Ford?
3. Why does Sandy know so many details of the Westing family?
4. How does Jake view his wife's demeanor just before the bridal shower at Hoo's restaurant?
5. Who do you think is the most likely winner of the Westing Game? The biggest loser? Why?
6. What can you infer from the plot in this section of how the story might conclude?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 56

"Angela and I are going together; we're partners, you know." Sydelle had it all planned. They were to appear in identical costumes; tonight was the night they would discover if one of the heirs was a twin (56).

Writing Prompt

Leadership Requires Engagement. In order to be a leader in the community, a person must participate in the events that surround them. If that person is a mere observer, is he or she a leader?

Angela Wexler is still a mystery at this point in the novel. We see in her thoughts that she makes interesting observations about those around her, but has yet to take action. Assuming that she has interest in becoming a leader, today's writing product will be a plan of action. **As Angela, create a chart or table illustrating at least three steps you will take to become a leader in the Sunset Towers Community. Use the table below as an example to guide you.**

Action I'm going to take	Result I hope to achieve

Key Paragraph, p. 65-66

Clink, clink. Theo tapped a spoon against a glass for attention. “Thank you for coming. When the meeting is over you are all welcome to stay for a chess tournament. Meanwhile, I’d like to explain why my partner and me...my partner and I...called this meeting. I don’t know about your clues, but our clues don’t make any sense.” The heirs stared at him with blank faces, no one nodded, no one even blinked. “Now then, if no two sets of clues are alike, as the will says, that could mean that each set of clues is only part of one message. The more clues we put together, the better chance we have of finding the murderer and winning the game. Of course, the inheritance will be divided into equal shares” (65-66).

Writing Prompt

Leadership Requires Engagement. Leadership often involves working for the benefit of your community at some personal expense. What is good for an individual’s personal goals or finances may not be the best things for the community.

Theo is the first person who has suggested sharing both the clues and the inheritance with all of the other heirs. If they work together, there is a good chance that they could solve the puzzle and receive a very large sum of money as a group. However, none of the other teams agree. **As one of the other heirs, write a formal note to Theo thanking him for his offer, and congratulate him on his leadership. Provide specific examples of how he is showing true leadership.**

Key Paragraph, p. 71

“She used the word *crutch* as a symbol. She meant, you know, that people are so afraid of revealing their true selves, they have to hide behind some sort of prop” (71).

Writing Prompt

Leaders choose to spend their time and effort to promote the common good. Sometimes people are so distracted by their own lives and personal problems that they don’t use their time to help their communities.

Angela’s analysis of the Turtle’s casual use of the word “crutch” is insightful. She observes to herself that Turtle’s crutch is her braid. However, *all* the characters in the novel have some kind of crutch, either physical or mental. **Today, write a paragraph describing the “crutches” of at least two of the other characters in the novel (not Sydelle or Turtle.) Be sure to clearly define a crutch, and provide concrete details of why each character’s crutch could prevent her or him from becoming a leader.**

Key Paragraph, p. 85

All the intern wanted was half of the ten thousand dollars. “I hear your brother suggested sharing clues. Sounds like a fine idea.” No response. Maybe the kid thinks I’m the murderer. The tenants must think so, the way they peered over their shoulders; and that delivery boy shouting like that. Why me? I’m a doctor; I took an oath to save lives, not take them. “I’m a very busy man, Chris, I have lots of sick people depending on me. Oh well.” Plowing his fingers through his stringy mouse-brown hair to keep it out of his eyes (when would he find time for a haircut?), he seated himself next to the wheelchair. “The clues are in my locker. What were they? ‘The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain’?” (85).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them *and* that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of. Why is it important for leaders to improve themselves as well as their communities?

Although Denton Deere has taken an oath to help his fellow human beings, his personal character seems to suffer from that effort. **Write a paragraph that describes how Denton Deere is and is not engaged as a leader in his community. Be sure to include a concluding statement about whether he, in your estimation, is a leader.**

Key Paragraph, p. 95

“Oh no.” Sandy was certain of that. “Angela and her intern seem happy enough with each other. At least, I hope so. I mean, if Sam Westing wanted to replay that terrible drama, Angela Wexler would have to die” (95).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires positive civic engagement. Is it possible for the opposite – negative civic engagement – to be true? What role does gossip play in civic engagement?

In this novel, Sandy McSouthers is the king of gossip. He seems to know every detail about every person in the building, and every member of the Westing family. When Judge Ford uncovers further details, Sandy always seems to be able to add some embellishment. **Using the novel as your source, conduct a mini research project into whether you think Sandy’s gossip qualifies as positive or negative civic engagement. Find quotes and specific examples to back up your assertion. You can present these in a paragraph or a table, but you must include a statement that summarizes your conclusion. An example of a possible table is below.**

Gossip Example	Page #	Positive or negative?	Reason for your conclusion
Concluding Statement:			

Close Close by extending today’s lesson to life and the world.

Leadership Requires Engagement: Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. Do you know anyone like Angela Wexler whose obvious intelligence and talents could better be put to use to improve her or his community?

Leadership Requires Engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. Can you think of any public figure locally or nationally who works to improve the community at the expense of her or himself?

Leadership Requires Engagement. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort. What is your crutch? (Everyone has one.) How can you prevent your crutch from holding you back as a leader?

Leadership requires engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them *and* that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of. What is the difference between the two parts of this sentence? Do you know anyone who makes their community better, but is not her or himself better as a result?

Leadership requires positive civic engagement. Can you give an example of someone for whom gossip is her or his primary mode of civic engagement? Do you think this is a positive way to engagement in the community? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

The Westing Game, Week 3



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Leadership Requires Engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort, Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

What is traumatic amnesia?

What is plastic surgery?

What is a podiatrist?

What is Skid Row?

Who were Cain and Abel?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

trickled (97)	grumbled (97)	traumatic (98)	squeezed (99)	painstakingly (102)
fumbled (105)	propellants (106)	complicated (108)	adjacent (109)	twined (104)
vengeance (113)	manipulated (117)	miscalculation (121)	handpicked (122)	interrogation (122)
distracted (122)	wretched (124)	meticulous (126)	arsenal (128)	delinquent (129)
exquisite (134)	developmental (137)	tousled (134)	bucktoothed (137)	unintelligible (128)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- Mention the setting and main character
- Point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read pages 95-141

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

KWL Instructions:

Continue adding to your KWL chart about the Westing mystery.

Map Instructions:

Add information from the story about the Westing house, and where the room with the coffin is located in relationship to the part of the house facing Sunset Towers.

Mystery Chart:

As Westing's clues are revealed, write them on cards and place them on a chart. It might be helpful to use sticky notes or something else that can be moved around. As the novel progresses, make guesses as to the solution to the mystery.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your Open Mind Portraits.

Discussion

Key Questions p. 95-103

1. Why does Raskin describe the thoughts and feelings of the characters?
2. As the novel unfolds, how has your opinion of the characters changed?
3. What do you think the plot of this story involves?
4. From what point of view does Raskin develop the characters?
5. How does a person become a good trading stock like Turtle?
6. Why does Turtle work so hard to irritate adults?
7. How do you relate to Turtle's feelings and ideas about her situation?
8. Why do you think Turtle might be the main character?
9. How have Jake Wexler's feelings toward his wife changed? Does she notice?
10. If Angela is the bomber, why do you think she did it?
11. Historically, why have people chosen someone to be their heir?

Key Questions p. 104-112

1. How does Raskin describe the various conflicts between characters?

2. Why does Turtle get upset when Mrs. Baumbach talks about her daughter, Rosalie?
3. When do you think we will discover who the actual heir will be?
4. What do you think Westing is up to in this game for the potential heirs?
5. Why does Flora like Turtle so much?
6. How do you relate to Chris' reactions to people who treat him like a small child?
7. Why do you think Judge Ford is going to such lengths to investigate each heir?
8. What is Denton Deere's motivation for helping Chris?
9. Historically, how does someone normally choose an heir?

Key Questions p. 113-123

1. Why does Raskin develop the plot with so much detail of the character's thoughts?
2. As the novel progresses, what is your idea of who the murderer, the thief, and the bomber might be?
3. What do you think will be the climax of this story?
4. Why does Flora Baumbach like Turtle when others dislike her so much?
5. How do you relate to Chris' feelings of how others treat him?
6. Do you think Angela might change her mind about the marriage to Denton?
7. What is your impression of how Raskin develops the elements of the story?

Key Questions p. 124-133

1. How does Raskin develop the history of the characters in the story?
2. As the novel uncovers new information, how has your opinion of Turtle changed?
3. What barrier does Judge Ford have in her objectivity toward Westing?
4. Why does Sandy seem to be so mysterious from the author's character development?
5. How do you relate to the story?
6. Why do you think Turtle will survive her latest situation of being the suspected bomber?
7. What values help Turtle to overcome the obstacles to her success?
8. What do you think Sydelle has solved?

Key Questions p. 134-141

1. Why does Grace compare her children to Cain and Abel?
2. What do you think this story's conclusion might be?
3. What kind of conflict does Raskin write about in this story?
4. Why does Turtle post, if it was her posting it, a confession of guilt in the elevator?
5. Why does Judge Ford think Mrs. Westing needs to be protected?
6. How do you think Sandy will fare now that he has been fired?
7. Why do you think Northrup fired Sandy?
8. Why does Jake feel so inadequate about being a doctor?

9. Who is the thief? Is theft ever justifiable?
10. What do you think will happen at the Westing House?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 102

Sandy was proud of the notebook he bought, with its glossy cover photograph of a bald eagle in flight (sort of appropriate, he explained to the judge; fits in with Uncle Sam and all that). In it he painstakingly entered the information culled from reports the private detective delivered each day to Judge Ford's office: Photostats of birth certificates, death notices, marriage licenses, drivers' licenses, vehicular accident reports, criminal records, hospital records, school records. To these the doorman added the results of his own snooping (102).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Least Likely to be a Leader. Which character in the novel do you think is the least likely to develop leadership skills? Why? What makes this person a poor leader? Do you think he or she has the capacity and willingness to change?

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. Write on the pentagram only; when you've finished all twelve sides, you can fold on the straight lines and glue them together to make a large ball. So you can plan your bloom ball, a full list of categories is below. You may make a list today, but remember that it's okay to change your mind as the days progress!

Leadership Bloomball Award	Character
Least Likely to be a Leader	
Most Improved as a Leader	
Best Dedication to Others	
Best Leadership as a Parent	
Best Use of Talents	
Best Problem-Solving Skills	
Best Example of Civic Engagement	
Best Leader of Youth (Mentor)	
Best Example of Beating the Odds	

Best Leader Overall (may be a winner of a category above)	
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Key Paragraph, p. 112-3

“No operation. Did you hear me, Chris? No operation. The doctor thinks a new medicine may help, but he has to examine you, make some tests. I have your parents’ permission, but no one will touch you unless we talk it over first, you and me, together. I promise” (112).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Most Improved Leader. **Which character in the novel has shown the biggest change thus far? Who has gone from a person with few leadership skills to one who might actually turn out to be a pretty good leader? Be sure to describe this person before and after the change, and keep in mind our definition: Leadership Requires Engagement.**

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

Key Paragraph, p. 118

In spite of having Turtle by her side, Flora Baumbach still stared at the ever-changing endless tape from the edge of the chair, chewed what remained of her fingernails, and uttered, “Oh, my!” each time WPP went by. At two o’clock Westing Paper Products sold at fifty-two dollars a share, the highest in fifteen years. “Now Baba, SELL!” (120).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Dedication to Others. Which character in the novel is most dedicated to others? Why do you think so? What is this person’s motivation for being good to others? Do you think this dedication and service to others will continue throughout this person’s life? Why?

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

Key Paragraph, p. 128

Grace grabbed the theme and shook it at her daughter, who was being rocked in Flora Baumbach's arms. "Somebody stole this from you, didn't they, Turtle? You couldn't have done such an awful thing, not to Angela, not to your own sister, could you Turtle? Could you?" (128).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Leadership as a Parent. Which parent in the novel this far is the best leader and role model for her or his child/children? Keep in mind that some of the characters are parents even though their children don't appear in the novel. What makes your choice a strong parental leader?

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

Key Paragraph, p. 139

"College teams from five states competed in the first indoor track meet of the season, but the big event, the mile run, was won by a high-school senior" (139).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award Best Use of Talents. From what you know so far, which individual has developed her or his talents to the best of her or his ability? Are these talents being used to promote the common good? How do these talents help this person be a better leader?

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

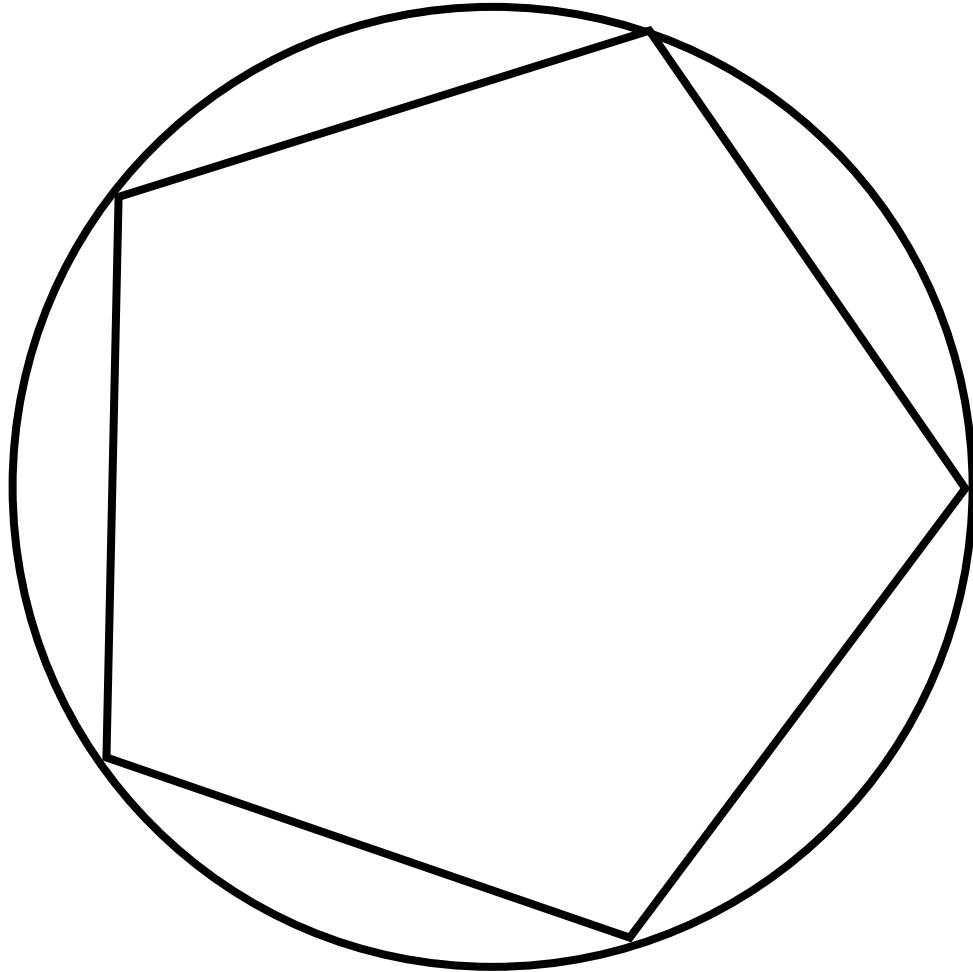
Close Close by extending today's lesson to life and the world.

Leadership Requires Engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. What might you do to help those who have disabilities so that they feel dignity and a sense of being a part of your community?

Leadership Requires Engagement. Leadership requires positive civic engagement. What have you done in the last week that is an example of positive civic engagement?

Leadership Requires Engagement. One of the most important jobs of a leader is being a good leader for families and friends. Think of the parents you know? Can you think of one who exemplifies leadership as a parent?

Leadership Requires Engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. Do you know (or know of) anyone who specifically uses her or his talents to promote the common good? How?



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

The Westing Game, Week 4



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Leadership Requires Engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort, Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

What is a billiard table?

What does it mean to be paranoid?

What does dastardly mean?

What is a windfall?

What is ornithology?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

gilt (143)	businesswoman (142)	swathed (143)	mimicked (142)	derisive (147)
paranoia (148)	improbable (151)	inappropriate (152)	penance (153)	twitch (155)
disguise (162)	stenographer (161)	occasional (161)	interceded (161)	diagnosis (166)
certification (166)	priceless (167)	prescription (169)	regrettable (170)	extravaganza (172)
consultant (178)	restaurateur (178)	journalism (180)	medication (181)	ornithology (185)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- Mention the setting and main character
- Point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read pages 142-184

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

KWL Instructions:

Continue adding to your KWL chart about the Westing mystery.

Map Instructions:

Add information from the story about the Westing house, and where the room with the coffin is located in relationship to the part of the house facing Sunset Towers.

Mystery Chart:

As Westing's clues are revealed, write them on cards and place them on a chart. It might be helpful to use sticky notes or something else that can be moved around. As the novel progresses, make guesses as to the solution to the mystery.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your Open Mind Portraits.

Discussion

Key Questions p. 142-149

1. Why does Raskin keep the reader guessing who the apparent heir might be?
2. As the novel develops, what have you learned about each character?
3. Who do you think is the murderer?
4. Do you think that any of the answers are correct?
5. Why does Flora like Turtle's new haircut?
6. How do you relate to Turtle's feelings and ideas about her situation?
7. What do you think might happen in the library?
8. How would you describe the mood of the characters as they go to the library?

Key Questions p. 149-155

1. Why does Raskin weave such a complex puzzle for the characters?
2. As the novel continues to unfold, what does Raskin do to engage the reader?

3. What do you think will happen to each of the characters at the conclusion?
4. From what Raskin writes, how are characters developed in the novel?
5. How does Theo come to play chess at the Westing house?
6. Why does Sandy like Turtle Wexler so much?
7. How do you relate to the emotional struggles of the characters in the novel?
8. Why do you think Chris has so much potential?
9. Do you think the puzzle of the will has been solved?
10. Why does Crow admit to being the murderer? Did she really kill Westing?

Key Questions p. 156-166

1. How does Turtle proceed to find out information about the puzzle?
2. How did Turtle use the method of elimination in the questions she asked Otis?
3. Why is the reader drawn emotionally into the mock courtroom scene with the judge and Turtle?
4. What effects does the author to draw the reader into the thought process of the characters use?
5. How does Raskin write differently from other authors you have read?
6. In what way does Raskin draw you into the plot through the minds of the characters?
7. How similar does this plot seem to how people act under pressure in your world?
8. How does Raskin create a sense of excitement to reach the solution?
9. So you think Sandy/Westing is really dead?

Key Questions p. 166-175

1. How does Raskin build to the solution?
2. As the novel reaches the climax, how did you feel about it?
3. What do you think this story reveals about values people hold in this world?
4. What do you think the future relationships of the characters will be?
5. How does a person use partial information to figure out a solution?
6. Why does Turtle get so upset with Theo calling Sandy his friend?
7. How do you relate to Turtle's feelings that she has won?
8. Why do you think Turtle was able to figure out the puzzle?
9. When did Turtle decide not to reveal what she knew was the key to the puzzle?

Key Questions p. 176-184

1. Why does Judge Ford want to pay for Chris' education?
2. What conflicts have been resolved in the story?
3. What is the major theme in this novel?
4. What is Raskin's method of peeling the layers of the onion do for the reader?
5. How does the climax in Raskin's novel differ from other novels you have read?
6. How realistic was Raskin's novel compared to other fictional novels?
7. How does Turtle compare to struggles you have experienced in life?
8. What is your impression concerning how the hero is unveiled in the text?

9. What do you think might happen next with Turtle's life?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 147

Their clues: a chemical formula for an explosive and the letters *o-t-i-s*. Doug, basking in glory, didn't care. Theo stood, turned to the man he was about to accuse, and saw the scene in the soup kitchen, saw Otis Amber cooking soup for the dirty, hungry men. "No answer," Theo said sitting down (147).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Problem-Solving Skills. A leader is often required to find creative and innovative solutions for problems in the community. In your opinion, which character in the story has the strongest problem-solving skills? Who has best applied them to make sure that her or his community is better because of them? Be sure today to apply concrete details and/or quotes to back up your choice.

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side.

Key Paragraph, p. 155

"Poor Sandy you should say," Turtle responded angrily. "Sandy's the one who's dead. Sandy was my friend" (155).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Example of Civic Engagement. Which character is most engaged in the community? How does he or she make the community better?

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side.

Key Paragraph, p. 164

“One more question, Intern Deere. Do you swear that Sandy had a bruise on his shin resulting from a kick? Absolutely, I should know, having been the recipient of such a kick myself” (164).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Leader of Youth? Which character do you think has made the most impact on the young people in her or his community? Which is the best mentor? Why is it important to include youth when you are trying to improve your community?

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

Key Paragraph, p. 173

Turtle rose and walked to the side window, seeking the Westing house, which stood invisible in the moon-clouded night. (Hurry up, Uncle Sam, I can't keep up this act much longer. The candle must have burned through the last stripe by now) (173).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Example of Beating the Odds. Several characters in this book had seemingly insurmountable obstacles to overcome before they could reach their personal and public goals. Which character do you think beat the odds to become a leader? Did this person become more engaged in the community as a result? Give concrete details and facts to support your choice.

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

Key Paragraph, p. 184

No one, not even Theo, knew her secret. T.R. Wexler was understandably sad over the death of the chairman of Westing Paper Products Corporation. She had been his legal advisor; she would inherit his stock and serve as the director of the company until the day she, too, would be elected chairman of the board (184).

Writing Prompt

Leadership requires engagement. Perhaps most importantly, it is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them and that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Over the next 10 days, you will be creating a Leadership Awards Bloom Ball to illustrate a number of different kinds of leadership, as portrayed in the novel, as well as examples of poor leadership.

Today, you will focus on the award for Best Leader Overall. Which character in this novel best exemplifies Leadership? Who is most engaged in the community? Who promotes the common good? Who best exemplifies positive civic engagement? Be sure to use several examples to back up your choice.

After writing and editing a rough draft, you will copy this writing task, along with an illustration, onto a Bloom Ball side. See Day 11 for a full list of the awards.

Now is the time to complete your Bloom Ball. Did you change your mind about any of the awards? Take the time to edit and illustrate each category's side, create a side with the title and author, and another with a definition of Leadership, and connect them to make one amazing Westing Game Leadership Bloom Ball.

Close Close by extending today's lesson to life and the world.

Leadership Requires Engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. What individuals can you think of who have used their problem-solving talents to improve society?

How can you personally make your community better in the near future?

Leadership Requires Engagement. Who has been the best leader to you personally in your life? Has this individual inspired you to develop and dedicate your talents to promote the common good?

Leadership Requires Engagement? Who is a public figure you are familiar with who was able to "beat the odds" to become successful? Is this person's community better because as a result?

Leadership Requires Engagement. What have you taken from thinking about leadership over the last few weeks? How do you evaluate leaders? Have your criteria changed at all?