

# The Westing Game

## Chapters 11–20

by Ellen Raskin

### Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

**Practice words:** bestowed, contempt, deception, demeaning, distraught, faltered, indignant, loathed, shrewd, vengeance

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#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview ..... 2

Answer Key — Preview ..... 3

**Caution:** share only if self-checking

#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context ..... 4

Answer Key — In Context ..... 5

**Caution:** do not share with students

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#### About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

#### About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

#### Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–10 · New tenants move into Sunset Towers

**Section 2 · Chapters 11–20 · The heirs meet about the game**

Section 3 · Chapters 21–30 · The Westing game nears its end

**Bold = this section.** Other sections are available at [verbalworkout.com](http://verbalworkout.com).



verbalworkout.com  
(all resources free)

# Vocabulary Preview

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

1. The mayor **bestowed** a special award.

- A. showed off proudly
- B. gave as an honor
- C. lent for a short time

6. Her voice **faltered** as she began the speech.

- A. wavered and weakened
- B. shook with anger
- C. dropped very low

2. He spoke of his rivals with **contempt**.

- A. uneasy suspicion
- B. scorn or disrespect
- C. bitter jealousy

7. She was **indignant** when she was blamed for the mess.

- A. quietly embarrassed
- B. angry at unfairness
- C. puzzled and unsure

3. The spy used **deception** to enter the building.

- A. a trick or lie
- B. raw strength
- C. careful patience

8. She **loathed** the smell of rotten eggs.

- A. felt curious about
- B. grew used to
- C. felt disgust for

4. He felt the comment was **demeaning**.

- A. insulting to one's dignity
- B. loud and annoying
- C. boastful and proud

9. The **shrewd** businessman ran the company well.

- A. calm and patient
- B. strict and stern
- C. clever and sharp

5. The **distraught** mother searched everywhere for her lost child.

- A. very distressed
- B. very impatient
- C. very exhausted

10. He spent years plotting his **vengeance**.

- A. a final victory
- B. a daring escape
- C. revenge for a wrong

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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| #  | KEY |
|----|-----|
| 1  | B   |
| 2  | B   |
| 3  | A   |
| 4  | A   |
| 5  | A   |
| 6  | A   |
| 7  | B   |
| 8  | C   |
| 9  | C   |
| 10 | C   |

# Vocabulary in Context

## The Westing Game

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

**1** *“He held up a tea bag with contempt, then groaned on seeing his sweat-suited son jog in ...”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “contempt” most nearly suggests that Mr. Hoo

- A. is unsure what the tea is
- B. scorns the cheap tea
- C. is grateful for the tea

**6** *“It seems too easy, the clues adding up to one message, especially for a shrewd guy like Westing.”*

According to the passage, Sandy doubts the easy solution because Westing is

- A. too careless to plan ahead
- B. too honest to play tricks
- C. too clever for simple clues

**2** *“I did not steal your notebook,” the indignant Hoo explained.”*

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. Mr. Hoo resents the theft accusation
- B. Mr. Hoo admits taking the notebook
- C. Mr. Hoo is indifferent to the charge

**7** *“No one was hurt by her little deception.”*

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. Sydelle injured someone
- B. Sydelle was honestly mistaken
- C. Sydelle fooled people harmlessly

**3** *“Smiling without good reason was demeaning.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Judge Ford avoids smiling because she feels it

- A. makes her seem unfriendly
- B. costs her some dignity
- C. takes too much effort

**8** *“James Shin Hoo, beware! Vengeance shall be mine.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Crow intends to

- A. forgive Hoo for the bombing
- B. warn Hoo about the real bomber
- C. pay Hoo back for hurting Angela

**4** *“She now bestowed one of her rare smiles on the dressmaker.”*

In context, the word “bestowed” emphasizes that the judge’s smile is

- A. granted as a rare favor
- B. given out by accident
- C. offered to everyone often

**9** *“The subject was becoming painful, and Mr. Theodorakis faltered several times in the telling.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Mr. Theodorakis faltered because he

- A. found the memory hard to speak of
- B. had forgotten the details
- C. wanted to finish quickly

**5** *“Angela stood between her determined mother and her distraught partner, paralyzed by the burden of choice.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Sydelle, the “distraught partner,” is

- A. desperate for Angela to stay
- B. angry at Angela for leaving
- C. calm about going to the hospital

**10** *“... the person who forced Violet Westing to marry a man she loathed.”*

According to the passage, Violet was forced to marry a man she

- A. barely noticed
- B. could not stand
- C. deeply admired

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | NOTE                                                                                                                                              |
|----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | B   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2  | A   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3  | B   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4  | A   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5  | A   | Character comprehension. Sydelle's craving for Angela's attention runs through the section, so 'distraught' reads as desperate rather than angry. |
| 6  | C   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7  | C   | The key turns on 'deception' meaning a deliberate trick, not an honest mistake.                                                                   |
| 8  | C   | Event comprehension. Otis has just convinced Crow that Hoo set the bomb that scarred Angela, so her vow targets him.                              |
| 9  | A   |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10 | B   |                                                                                                                                                   |

### Teacher Context: Chapters 11–20

The paired heirs puzzle over their word clues while a series of bombs goes off around Sunset Towers, deepening suspicion among the players. Relationships shift, secrets come to light, and the heirs trade and guard information. The break groups the middle third of the book, ending before the fourth bomb and the round of confessions that drives toward the solution.