

The Westing Game

Chapters 21–30

by Ellen Raskin

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: conscience, custody, derisive, meticulous, penance, pompous, somber, spectacle, torment, wretched

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

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.*



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

The Westing Game

Chapters 21–30

by Ellen Raskin

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. His **conscience** would not let him keep the extra change.

- A. sense of right and wrong
- B. fear of being caught
- C. feeling of regret

2. The police kept the suspect in **custody** overnight.

- A. comfortable lodging
- B. legal care or supervision
- C. a secret hiding place

3. He gave a **derisive** laugh at my silly question.

- A. nervous and uneasy
- B. mocking and scornful
- C. loud and sudden

4. The **meticulous** chef arranged every slice on the plate.

- A. quick and impatient
- B. very careful and precise
- C. calm and relaxed

5. As **penance**, the monk fasted for three days.

- A. a punishment for wrongdoing
- B. a test of patience
- C. a sign of respect

6. The **pompous** official strutted into the room.

- A. self-important and showy
- B. tired and bored
- C. stern and angry

7. He spoke in a **somber** voice as he shared the news.

- A. gloomy and serious
- B. calm and gentle
- C. loud and excited

8. With his clumsy dancing, he made quite a **spectacle** at the party.

- A. a foolish mistake
- B. a loud noise
- C. a striking sight

9. The toothache caused him hours of **torment**.

- A. deep confusion
- B. restless boredom
- C. severe suffering

10. The **wretched** travelers shivered in the cold rain.

- A. lost and confused
- B. rude and unkind
- C. miserable and unhappy

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

chrysanthemum — a large, round, many-petaled flower; here, a figure for the bursting fireworks

null and void — having no legal force; invalid

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Westing Game

Chapters 21–30

by Ellen Raskin

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

Vocabulary in Context

The Westing Game

Chapters 21–30

by Ellen Raskin

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “Rows of wretched souls sat hunched on wooden benches.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘wretched’ most nearly suggests that the people on the benches are...

- A. restless and noisy
- B. weak and sickly
- C. miserable and unhappy

6 “The derisive smiles soon faded as, pair by pair, the heirs heard their code words sung.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, before their smiles faded, the heirs were...

- A. frightened by Sydelles clues
- B. singing along with Sydelles
- C. mocking Sydelles singing

2 “He had to be meticulous in order to prove he was better than his eighth-grade education.”

According to the passage, being meticulous required Sandy to...

- A. guess at the hard words
- B. write as fast as he could
- C. take great care with details

7 “... but the others sat in somber silence.”

According to the passage, the silence of the others showed a mood that was...

- A. gloomy and serious
- B. calm and content
- C. bored and sleepy

3 “... decided it was best for all concerned to escort the prisoner to apartment 4D and place her in the custody of Judge Ford.”

Which statement about Turtle is best supported by the passage?

- A. She is placed in the judges care.
- B. She is locked in a jail cell.
- C. She is sent home with a warning.

8 “Only the throbbing veins in her tightly clasped hands told of her torment.”

Which statement about Crow is best supported by the passage?

- A. She is hiding deep suffering.
- B. She is eager to give her answer.
- C. She is calmly waiting her turn.

4 ‘An even more effective medication is now in the developmental stage.’ That really sounded pompous.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the narrator found Dentons remark...

- A. self-important and showy
- B. hopeful and encouraging
- C. vague and uncertain

9 “She had not suffered enough for her sins, her penance was yet to begin.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘penance’ most nearly suggests that Crow expects to...

- A. confess to the police soon
- B. punish herself for her sins
- C. pray for the other heirs

5 “What a spectacle she made, her wide rear end sticking out, singing in that tuneless, nasal voice.”

In context, the word ‘spectacle’ emphasizes that Sydelles...

- A. felt shy about performing
- B. drew every eye with an odd display
- C. sang better than expected

10 “... trying to convince himself that a clear conscience was worth two hundred million dollars.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Mr. Hoo...

- A. cares only about the money
- B. values doing right over riches
- C. wishes he had named Crow

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Westing Game

Chapters 21–30
by Ellen Raskin

#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	
4	A	The narrator's aside marks Denton's 'developmental stage' line as empty showing-off, not genuine hope.
5	B	Many students know 'spectacle' only as eyeglasses; here it is a strange sight that draws every eye.
6	C	Event comprehension. The heirs' mocking smiles vanish as each pair hears its own code word sung.
7	A	
8	A	Character comprehension. Crow's outward stillness hides her dread; only her throbbing veins betray it.
9	B	
10	B	Theme comprehension. The heirs forfeited the inheritance rather than name Crow; Hoo reassures himself the choice was worth it.

Teacher Context: Chapters 21–30

The game accelerates toward its solution through the fourth bomb, the wake, and Turtle's mock trial, until the true nature of Sam Westing and his game is finally revealed, followed by a coda set years later. Section runs to the end of the novel.