

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS *The Westing Game*

Assignment 1

Chapters 1-4

1. At the beginning of the story, what alerts you that things may not be what they appear to be?
2. What is unusual about the apartment numbers at Sunset Towers?
3. Barney Northrup is a good salesman. What does he tell each of the prospective renters?
4. What one mistake does Barney Northrup make?
5. All the people living in Sunset Towers seem to be content except Mr. Hoo. Why does he grumble?
6. When they see smoke coming from the Westing house chimney, what are the opinions of Sandy McSouthers, Otis Amber, and Turtle Wexler as to who might be in the Westing house?
7. While birdwatching, what does Chris Theodorakis notice about the person he sees going into the Westing house?
8. What clues in Chapter 3 tell you that Turtle is not Mrs. Wexler's favorite daughter?
9. What does Crow tell Dr. Wexler when he notices she has hurt her shin?
10. Why doesn't Chris tell his brother, Theo, about the person he sees going into the Westing house?
11. Why does Turtle run screaming from the Westing house?

Assignment 2

Chapters 5-7

1. What startles Turtle when she observes the corpse of Sam Westing?
2. Two heirs are not present at the reading of the will and two heirs are late. Who are these four people, and what do the two who were late have in common?
3. Why is Grace Wexler so upset when the lawyer reads from the will "my sixteen nieces and nephews"?
4. In his will, Westing instructs the heirs to gather together to view his body. What surprising thing are they told to do after a minute of prayer for their good old Uncle Sam?
5. What are the six rules of the Westing game?
6. The sixteen heirs are divided into eight pairs. Name and describe the people in each pair.
7. After reading the clues given to her and Sandy, Judge Ford decides to quit the game. What is one reason she changes her mind and decides to stay and play "mean"?
8. All the pairs are worried that someone will discover their clues. How does Turtle make sure no one gets her and Flora Baumbach's clues?
9. Why does Sydelle Pulaski "smile back at the friendly faces" when the lawyer tells them no one can see the will until the game is over?
10. What are the last things Westing tells his heirs to remember at the outset of the game?