

ELLEN RASKIN

**THE
WESTING
GAME**

Winner of the Newbery Medal



Bonus
Material
Inside!

The Westing Game

Name _____

Book Number _____ Due Date _____

CHARACTER LIST

Sam "Windy" Windkloppel a.k.a. Sam Westing / Barney Northrup / Alexander "Sandy" McSouthers / Julian R. Eastman

The mastermind of the Westing game, he fakes his death as self-made millionaire Sam Westing to unite his extended family and find a suitable heir for his estate. As realtor Barney Northrup, he convinces most of the Westing heirs to move into Sunset Towers. As Sunset Towers doorman Sandy McSouthers, he befriends the heirs and helps guide the events in the game. As Julian Eastman, he continues to run the Westing Paper Products Corporation as its newly-elected chairman.

Flora Miller Baumbach : Tenant in 2C, a dressmaker whose daughter Rosalie died a year before the novel begins.

George Theodorakis : Tenant in 2D and owner of the coffee shop in the lobby, he dated Violet Westing before she was forced into an engagement she didn't want.

Catherine Theodorakis : Tenant in 2D who runs the coffee shop with her husband George.

Theo Theodorakis : Tenant in 2D and older son of George and Catherine, a high school senior who wants to be a writer.

Christos "Chris" Theodorakis : Tenant in 2D and younger son of George and Catherine, he suffers from a neurological disease which confines him to a wheelchair.

Sydelle Pulaski : Tenant in 3C, the secretary to the president of Schultz Sausages.

Jake Wexler : Tenant in 3D and a podiatrist who keeps his office on the first floor.

Grace Windsor Wexler a.k.a. Gracie Windkloppel Wexler : Tenant in 3D, a social climber and self-professed decorator.

Angela Wexler : Tenant in 3D and older daughter of Jake and Grace, she is known for her beauty and her engagement to young, promising intern Denton Deere.

Tabitha-Ruth "Turtle" Wexler : Tenant in 3D and younger daughter of Jake and Grace, she is less attractive than Angela and interested in the stock market.

James Shin Hoo : Tenant in 4C and owner of Shin Hoo's Restaurant on the fifth floor.

Sun Lin Hoo : Tenant in 4C and James' second wife, she came from China to marry and wishes to return to her homeland. She begins the novel unable to speak English.

Douglas Hoo : Tenant in 4C, son of James and stepson of Sun Lin, he is a high school athlete who shows much promise.

Judge Josie-Jo Ford : Tenant in 4D, her parents worked for the Westing family when she was a child.

Berthe Erica Crow : Tenant in the maid's apartment on the fourth floor, actually the ex-wife of Sam Westing who became an alcoholic before finding religion and dedicating herself to a Skid Row soup kitchen.

Otis Amber : Delivery boy for Sunset Towers and worker at Crow's soup kitchen, he is also a private investigator hired by Sam Westing, Barney Northrup, and Judge Josie-Jo Ford.

Denton Deere -- A medical intern engaged to Angela Wexler

The Westing Game

By Ellen Raskin

Character List



Grace “Windsor” Windkloppel Wexler

Seems like she doesn't like Turtle. Is Sammy Westing's niece. Got a new job at shin Hoo's restaurant as seating hostess. showed up at the most recent meeting drunk, and fell down due to "sitting where the chair wasn't" after giving her answer. GRACE WEXLER. Born Gracie Windkloppel. Age: 42. Married to Jake Wexler. Claims to be an interior decorator. Spends most of her time in the Chinese restaurant or the beauty parlor. She and Jake have two daughters. Westing connection: Grace Windsor Wexler claims that Sam Westing is her real uncle. Angela looks like Violet Westing, so does Grace in a way, except she's older.



Jake Wexler

He is Jewish. Jake Wexler is married to Grace Wexler. FORFEIT JAKE WEXLER. Age: 45. Podiatrist. Graduated from Marquette. Married 22 years, has two daughter. Westing connection: Grace Windsor Wexler claims that Sam Westing is her real uncle. Angela looks like Violet Westing, so does Grace in a way, except she's older. Is bookie. 2 daughters, Angela and Turtle.



Turtle 'Alice' 'Tabitha Ruth' Wexler

She's a brat. She is a tomboy. She kicks people in the shin constantly. TURTLE WEXLER. Real name: Tabitha-Ruth Wexler. Age: 13. Junior high-school student. Plays the stock market. Smart kid, but kicks people. Flora Baumbach calls her Alice. Westing connection: Grace Windsor Wexler claims that Sam Westing is her real uncle. Angela looks like Violet Westing, so does Grace in a way, except she's older.



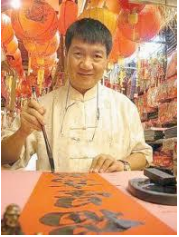
Angela Wexler

Lives in apartment 3D. Has an angel face and golden hair. She is getting married to Dr. Denton. ANGELA WEXLER. Age: 20. Engaged to marry D. Denton Deere (also an heir). One year college (high grades). Victim of third bombing. Embroiders a lot. Westing connection: Grace Windsor Wexler claims that Sam Westing is her real uncle. Angela looks like Violet Westing, so does Grace in a way, except she's older.



Dr. Denton Deere

Is getting married to Angela. Age: 25, Graduate of medical school, D. DEENTON DEERE. Age: 25. Graduate of UW Medical school. First year intern, plastic surgery. Parents live in Racine (not heirs). Westing Connection: Engaged to Angela Wexler, who looks like Sam Westing's daughter, Violet, who was also engaged to be married, but to a politician not an intern.



James Shin Hoo

Dad of Doug Hoo. Never asked any questions. He owns the Chinese restaurant. Lives in Sunset Towers. Born in Chicago, is 50 years old, son- Doug. Felt that Westing stole his invention of disposable paper diapers. JAMES SHIN HOO. Born: James Hoo in Chicago. Age: 50. Added Shin to his name when he went out of business because it sounded more Chinese. First wife died of cancer five years ago. Married again last year. Has one son: Douglass. Westing connection: Hoo sued Sam Westing over the invention of the disposable paper diaper. Case never came to court (Westing disappeared). Settled with the company last year for \$25,000. Thinks he was cheated. Latest invention: paper innersoles. Married to Sun Lin Hoo. Has son, Doug (doesn't spend much attention to him)

Madame Sun Lin Hoo



She is a cook in the restaurant. She is married to James Hoo. She is Doug Hoo's step-mother. Born in China, is 28 years old, Gossip- James Hoo married her for her sauce. FORFEIT SUN LIN HOO. Age: 28. Born in China. Immigrated from Hong Kong two years ago. Gossip: James Hoo married her for her 100-year-old sauce. Westing connection: Hoo sued Sam Westing over the invention of the disposable paper diaper. Case never came to court (Westing disappeared). Settled with the company last year for \$25,000. Thinks he was cheated. Latest invention: paper innersoles.



Doug Hoo

Doug Hoo is the son of James Hoo. He runs track and lives in Sunset Towers. Is 18 years old, an amazing track runner. DOUGLAS HOO (called Doug). Age: 18. High-school track star. Is competing in Saturday's track meet against college milers. Westing connection: Hoo sued Sam Westing over the invention of the disposable paper diaper. Case never came to court (Westing disappeared). Settled with the company last year for \$25,000. Thinks he was cheated. Latest invention: paper innersoles.

Sam W. Westing



Has been died for 13 years. Death- unknown. Is 65 years old. He lived in Westing County, Wisconsin. Is Grace Wexler's uncle. He was murdered. suffered facial injuries in a car crash, which totally changed the way he looked. **Is Julian Eastman, Barney Northrup, Sandy McSouthers!** Mrs. Crow calls him "Windy"

Sandy/Alexander McSouthers



He is a male and the doorman of Sunset Towers. **DEAD**(Or not) Sandy McSouthers reach, according to the private investigator, 8th grade. Was fired by Barney Northrup in chap. 22. ALEXANDER McSOUTHERS. Called Sandy. Age: 65. Born: Edinburgh, Scotland. Immigrated to Wisconsin, age 3. Education: eighth grade. Jobs: mill worker, union organizer, prizefighter, doorman. Married, six children, two grandchildren. Westing Connection: Worked in Westing Paper plant 20 years. Fired by Sam Westing himself for trying to organize the workers. No pension. **Is Sam Westing**



Julian R. Eastman

President and chief officer of Westing paper products. **IS SAM WESING**



Barney Northrup

There is no such person. He is advertisers. He has a black mustache. He's a liar. He makes careless mistakes. He has apparently signed a several amount of letters. **Is Sam Westing**



Theo Theodorakis

Is Chris' brother. He works at the coffee shop. Good at making up stories. Likes Angela. Got married to T.R. THEO THEODORAKIS. Age: 17. High-school senior. Works at family coffee shop. Wants to be a writer. Seems lonely; can't find anyone to play chess with. Westing Connection: Father was childhood sweetheart of Sam Westing's daughter (who looked like Angela Wexler). Mrs. Westing broke up the affair. She wanted daughter to marry somebody else, but Violet Westing killed herself before the wedding. Neither parents above are heirs.



Christos Theodorakis

He is 15 and lives in apartment 2D. Is Theo's brother. He works at the coffee shop. *I think* he murdered Sam Westing and is "The Mistake". CHRISTOS THEODORAKIS. Age: 15. Younger brother of Theo. Confined to wheelchair; disease struck about four years ago. Knows a lot about birds. Westing Connection: Father was childhood sweetheart of Sam Westing's daughter (who looked like Angela Wexler). Mrs. Westing broke up the affair. She wanted daughter to marry somebody else, but Violet Westing killed herself before the wedding. Neither parents above are heirs. Has problems to walk can't talk too well.



Otis Amber

Has a long thin face. He is 62 years old and is a delivery boy. J.J. Ford thinks he is stupid. Age: 62, IQ:50,, Delivered papers to Westing. OTIS JOSEPH AMBER. Age: 62. Delivery boy. Fourth- grade dropout. IQ: 50. Lives in the basement of Green's Grocery. A bachelor. No living relatives. Westing Connection: Delivered letters for E.J. Plum, Attorney, both times. was secretly a private detective. was married Crow

Sydell Pulaski



She is a secretary. She is really suspicious about the apartment she is not sure what she wants. Lives in apartment 3C. Short hand notes of the will. She has them and everyone wants them from her. SYDELLE PULASKI. Age: 50. Education: High school, one year secretarial school. Secretary to the president of Schultz sausages. Is taking her first vacation in 25 years. Lived with Widowed mother and two aunts until she moved to Sunset Towers. Walked with crutch even before she broke her ankle in the second bombing. Now she needs two crutches (she paints them). Westing Connection: ?

Flora Baumbach



Is married, but husband left. Is pudgy. Appeared even smaller and rounder. Maiden name: Flora Miller, Age: 60, Westing Connection: made dress for Violet Westing. FLORA BAUMBACH. Maiden name: Flora Miller. Age: 60. Dressmaker. Husband left her years ago, sends no money. She had a retarded daughter, Rosalie, a Mongoloid child. Sold bridal shop last year after Rosalie died of pneumonia, age: 19. Spends most of her time at the stockbrokers. Westing Connection: Made wedding gown for Violet Westing, which she never got to wear.



J.J. (Josie-Jo) Ford

Was the biggest tipper. She is a judge. She is black and the first African American judge. Her theory of the game she thinks he was lying about being murdered. This is all some stupid set up. She thinks he wants revenge. Had his or her education funded by Mr. Westing. Used to live in the Westing House because his or her parents were servants there



Berthe Erica Crow

Works with Good Salvation and at soup kitchens. She calls Sammy Westing "Windy". Berthe Erica Crow. Age: 57. Mother died at child birth, raised by fathers (deceased). Education: 1 year of high school. Married at 16, divorced at 40. Ex husband's name: Windy Windkloppel. Hospital records: problems related to chronic alcoholism. Police record: 3 arrests for vagrancy. Gave up drinking when she took up religion. Gave up drinking when she took up religion. Started the Gook Salvation Soup Kitchens on Skid Row. Works as cleaning woman in Sunset towers, Lives in maid's apartment on fourth floor. Westing connection: ?

Sydney Sikes



She is a coroner of Westing County.

Edgar Jennings Plum



He is a lawyer.

Chapter One--Sunset Towers

- 1) What was unusual about Sunset Towers
- 2) Why was the delivery boy described as uncommon looking?
- 3) What was unusual about Barney Northrup?
- 4) What did Barney Northrup say that caused Jake to wonder?
- 5) Where was Sydelle Pulaski directing a suspicious stare?
- 6) How did Barney finally convince Sydelle Pulaski to take the apartment?
- 7) Explain why Barney Northrup could be described as a very good salesman?
- 8) List the various types of people that would be the new tenants in Sunset Towers.
- 9) At the end of the chapter we are told that one of the tenants was a mistake. Which tenant do you think was a mistake? Explain your choice.

Chapter Two--Ghosts or Worse

- 1) Describe how Mr. Hoo felt about the grand opening of his restaurant.
- 2) Who was Sandy McSouthers?
- 3) What surprised Turtle Wexler about the Westing house?
- 4) Describe Otis Amber.
- 5) Relate the story of the two "unfortunate fellows" from Westing town.
- 6) What does Chris notice through his binoculars?

Chapter Three--Tenants In and Out

- 1) Why is Angela Wexler standing on a hassock?
- 2) Why caused Angela Wexler to utter a small cry?
- 3) Describe Mrs. Wexler's relationship with her two daughters.
- 4) Describe J.J. Ford.
- 5) According to Chris, what special talent did his brother Theo possess?
- 6) What was in the long package that Sydelle Pulaski carried into her apartment?

Chapter Four--The Corpse Found

- 1) Why was Doug Hoo stationed outside the Westing house?
- 2) Why did Turtle Wexler have her mother's silver cross in her pocket?
- 3) What did Turtle encounter upon entering the house?
- 4) Why had Turtle taken a billiard cue upstairs?
- 5) Sam's obituary mentions that he was a dedicated gamesman and a master of chess. Why might this be significant?
- 6) Why were sixteen people asked to go to the south library of the Westing mansion?

Chapter Five--Sixteen Heirs

- 1) Who was greeting the beneficiaries at the Westing home?
- 2) Why was Turtle startled when she looked in the coffin?
- 3) What is Denton Deere's diagnosis of Chris?
- 4) Why is Judge Ford surprised to see E.J. Plum in charge of the Westing estate?
- 5) What did the design on Sydelle Pulaski's dress remind Turtle of right at that moment?

Chapter Six--The Westing Will

- 1) When the will is first read, why are those present shocked to hear the words, "my sixteen nieces and nephews"?
- 2) What is the second important piece of information that is revealed during the reading of the will?
- 3) What must the potential beneficiaries do if they wish to "strike it rich"?
- 4) Explain Mr. Hoo's comment, "The poor are crazy, the rich just eccentric".

Chapter Seven--The Westing Game

- 1) What was the object of the game?
- 2) Why was Chris happy to be selected to play the game?
- 3) Why does Berthe Erica Crow shriek?
- 4) Why was Sandy so insistent that his partner, Judge Ford, play the game?

Chapter Eight--The Paired Heirs

- 1) What did the tenants of Sunset Towers awaken to the next morning?
- 2) How was Turtle Wexler able to profit from the storm?
- 3) What are many of the heirs apparent doing on this particular day?
- 4) What does J. J. Ford hope to do just once?
- 5) Why is Sydelle Pulaski upset when she discovers her shorthand notebook is missing?

Chapter Nine--Lost and Found

- 1) Why is Lost and Found a good name for this chapter?
- 2) What had somebody found in the third floor balcony.
- 3) What was happening at J. J. Ford's apartment that evening?
- 4) What does Turtle predict the next part of the will would read?
- 5) Why does Turtle think her mother is treating her so nicely for a change?
- 6) Provide evidence from this chapter that Grace dislikes Turtle and favours her other daughter.
- 7) What information does Judge Ford uncover that indicates James Hoo would not have liked Samuel Westing?

Chapter Ten--The Long Party

- 1) What is a social climber?
- 2) Why was Grace Windsor Wexler on time for Judge Ford's party this evening when normally she would arrive late?
- 3) Why does Angela become upset when everyone continually asks about Denton?
- 4) Why was Chris watching legs from his wheelchair?
- 5) Why is Sydelle disappointed that Angela changed out of her clothes?
- 6) Why does Angela rush into Judge Ford's kitchen?

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL (by Katherine Lee Bates)

O beautiful for heroes proved -

America! America!

In liberating strife.

May God thy gold refine

Who more than self the country loved

Till all success be nobleness

And mercy more than life!

And every gain divine!

Chapter Eleven--The Meeting

- 1) What dilemma did the tenants face as they awoke on the third snowbound morning?
- 2) How do we know that Turtle didn't like to do her hair?
- 3) What was Alice's nickname?
- 4) What did Chris suddenly realize as he read the note on the elevator wall?
- 5) Why could no one read Sydelle Pulaski's shorthand?
- 6) What does Theo suggest to the tenants who have gathered in the coffee shop?
- 7) What confusion arises about Turtle's real name? Can you explain a possible reason for this?
- 8) What question did Judge Ford write on the paper? Do you think it was a good question?

Chapter Twelve--The First Bomb

- 1) Describe the incident in the kitchen.
- 2) What does Turtle demand that Angela return to her immediately?
- 3) According to Judge Ford, who are the four people with Westing connections?
- 4) Why does Judge Ford's finger suddenly stop at the top of the list of detectives in the yellow pages?

Chapter Thirteen--The Second Bomb

- 1) What kind of timing device did the bomber use?
- 2) Who were the only people to order down?
- 3) Who is Mrs. Baumbach reminded of when she sees Angela?

- 4) According to Sydelle Pulaski why is Chris' disability an advantage?
- 5) What happened just as Otis Amber entered the restaurant?
- 6) According to the fireman why was it not unusual to have had two explosions within two days in the same building?
- 7) Where was the bomber planning to set the next bomb?

Chapter Fourteen--Pairs Repaired

- 1) Why did Angela search under the hoods of the cars in the parking lot/
- 2) Why did the doorman refuse to accept a tip from the judge?
- 3) Why was Alexander McSouthers fired from his job at the Westing factory?
- 4) Why does Alexander McSouthers suffer from bad headaches?
- 5) What voices does Grace hear coming from the kitchen?
- 6) Why did Grace open the window despite the cold draft?
- 7) Why were the tenants purchasing so many Westing Paper Products?

Chapter Fifteen--Fact and Gossip

- 1) What does Turtle mean by the expression, "Paper losses. . .doesn't mean a thing"?
- 2) Why were Turtle and Sandy dubious about the "murder" of Samuel Westing.
- 3) Why did Doug suspect that the murderer may have been a doctor?
- 4) Shin Hoo told Jake Wexler that he thought he could squeeze him in at the restaurant. Explain why this statement is ironic.
- 5) Why is Judge Ford surprised at McSouthers' description of Mrs. Westing?
- 6) Flora, Judge Ford and Sandy notice a remarkable resemblance between Angela Wexler and what other person?

Chapter Sixteen--The Third Bomb

- 1) Describe what event is occurring at the beginning of this chapter.
- 2) Does Angela do anything to suggest that she may already know the contents of the gift wrapped in good foil?
- 3) Describe Angela's injuries.
- 4) Why did Otis Amber think that he should not be considered a suspect in the incident?
- 5) Who does Sydelle think the bomber is?
- 6) Who do you think the bomber is? Explain your choice.

Chapter Seventeen--Some Solutions

- 1) What indication is there that the heirs were jittery?
- 2) What were the two trading terms that Flora Baumbach had learned?
- 3) After reexamining their clues, whom do Grace and Mr. Hoo think is involved in the mystery.
- 4) What does Theo discover when he analyses his clue?
- 5) Why does Theo think that he must be dreaming?

Chapter Eighteen--The Trackers

- 1) Why does Turtle think that it would be a good idea to call Flora Baumbach by another name?
- 2) Who was Rosalie and how did she die?
- 3) How is ammonium nitrate used?
- 4) What assignment does Theo give to Doug Hoo?
- 5) What letter does Otis Amber deliver to Doug?
- 6) What help does Denton hold out for Chris.
- 7) How does Chris feel at the prospect of being taken hostage by Doctor Deere?

Chapter Nineteen--Odd Relatives

- 1) How did Turtle defend the use of the radio in school.
- 2) Who does Otis Amber accuse of being responsible for the bombings?
- 3) To whom is Crow referring when she uses the term "foot butcher"?
- 4) How does Chris presume the blank envelope ended up in his bathrobe?
- 5) How does Judge Ford react when told by Sandy that Jake Wexler is a bookie?
- 6) How did the doorman react to what Judge Ford said?
- 7) According to the judge, what is Westing's first mistake?

Chapter Twenty--The Confessions

- 1) What was the price of WPP at two o'clock?
- 2) Why didn't Doug's feet hurt anymore?
- 3) Why was Theo in the hospital?
- 4) Why did George Theodorakis falter while telling the story of Violet Westing?
- 5) Who does Judge Ford believe must be protected and why?

Chapter Twenty-One--The Fourth Bomb

- 1) What does Theo want to borrow from Turtle?
- 2) What is Judge Ford's connection with the Westing family?
- 3) Why does Judge Ford think that Sam Westing paid for her education?
- 4) What was on the reverse side of the bomber's note?
- 5) What does Turtle confess to the judge?
- 6) Why does Sydelle Pulaski throw her crutches into the air?

Chapter Twenty-Two--Losers, Winners

- 1) Briefly describe the note posted in the elevator.
- 2) Where would one find the story of Cain and Abel
- 3) What is the significance of Turtle's comment that her mother would be upset if she knew who the real bomber was
- 4) Which of the heirs does Judge Ford think may be Sam Westing's former wife?
- 5) Who does Judge Ford think was actually in the coffin?
- 6) Why would it be difficult to recognize Sam Westing now?

Chapter Twenty-Three--Strange Answers

- 1) What did Otis mean by the phrase, "The turtle's lost its tail"?
- 2) What did Turtle convince Angela not to do?
- 3) What did the heirs receive in their envelopes?
- 4) Why is Grace's voice thick and slurred?
- 5) What is meant by the expression, "to go on the wagon"?
- 6) Who did Denton Deere suggest could use plastic surgery?

Chapter Twenty-Four--Wrong All Wrong

- 1) Since they can no longer work as partners, what does Theo suggest the heirs do?
- 2) What was Denton Deere's diagnosis when Mr. Hoo claimed that the tea might be poisoned?
- 3) Which heir does Judge Ford believe is actually Sam Westing?
- 4) Using the clues provided, who does Sydelle Pulaski announce as the murderer?
- 5) What happens to Sandy towards the end of this chapter?
- 6) Do you think that Berthe Erica Crow is telling the truth? Explain your answer.

Chapter Twenty-Five--Westing's Wake

- 1) What does Denton Deere accuse Turtle of doing?
- 2) How does Turtle respond to his accusation?
- 3) What according to Judge Ford is the famous Westing trap?
- 4) Why does Judge Ford repeatedly call herself stupid?

Chapter Twenty-Six--Turtle's Trial

- 1) Who is the young lawyer in Judge Ford's court?
- 2) Why is everyone surprised when Otis Amber testifies?
- 3) Who hired Otis Amber?
- 4) What is a coronary thrombosis in layman's terms?
- 5) Why did Sandy's flask contain according to Turtle?
- 6) Judge Ford believed that Sam Westing had assumed two disguises. Identify his two disguises.

Chapter Twenty-Seven--A Happy Fourth

- 1) What announcement does Edgar Jennings Plum make?
- 2) What is to happen to Sunset Towers according to Westing's "last" document?
- 3) What is the significance of Turtle's statement, "Hurry up, Uncle Sam, I can't keep up this act much longer"?
- 4) Which heir wins and explain how they finally solve the puzzle?

Chapter Twenty-Eight--And Then. . .

- 1) Whose wedding is Turtle going to be late for if she doesn't hurry and make her move?
- 2) What did the members of the Good Salvation Soup kitchen do for this special occasion?
- 3) How did Judge Ford intend to repay her debt to Sam Westing?
- 4) Describe the changes in Angela's life.

Chapter Twenty-Nine--Five Years Pass

- 1) Why was Mr. Hoo almost happy?
- 2) What had happened to Denton Deere?
- 3) What good things had happened to Chris Theodorakis?
- 4) Who was the chess game master that T.R. Wexler had finally defeated?

Chapter Thirty--The End

- 1) Who is dying at the opening of the final chapter?
- 2) What had happened to Judge Ford?
- 3) Why did Turtle lie about Otis Amber?
- 4) What does Eastman know about Angela that surprises Turtle?
- 5) What is the irony of Jake Wexler's new position?