

The Westing Game

by Ellen Raskin

(Published in 1978)

Approved for use in 7th grade

Summary of the Work:

Old Sam Westing has died and has left behind an odd will. He's invited his 16 "heirs" to play a game, and the winner takes – or inherits – all. The clues? Words typed on pieces of paper towels. The players? The residents of a new apartment building. The solution? For the reader to discover. This novel is unusual, interesting, and engaging.

Rationale:

The plot is developed in a sophisticated style that will challenge readers and keep them guessing. This is a great text to help students engage with reading by making predictions. It can also foster great discussion, problem solving, and a wonderful examination of characters' feelings.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Publishers Weekly (June 16, 1997; 0-14-038664-5)
 - * Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
 - * Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- Newbery Medal, 1979
- Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards 1978

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 750
- Readability Level:

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: *(link)*

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

In addition to solving the mystery a major theme involves characters of different class, race, background and disabilities coming together to form friendships.

Connection to the Curriculum:

This high-interest book can be used to teach theme, character development, conflict, resolution, and plot analysis.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

"The Westing Game" DVD, 2004

<http://www.bv229.k12.ks.us/BVcurriculum/commarts/>