

Unit Rationale

Although the Raygor Readability Estimate gives The Westing Game a seventh grade reading level, this book can easily be incorporated into a sixth grade curriculum. While the book does not focus seriously on mature issues or themes, this book is a great tool to excite students about reading because of the high interest, murder mystery plot.

I chose this book to create a unit study because of previous experience I had with The Westing Game. I remember reading this book when I was in middle school. At a time when I was beginning to lose interest in reading, this book provided me with a renewed sense of interest in literature. I, along with other readers, was captivated by the book's mystery plot because it allows readers to play along in the Westing Game and to try to figure out the mystery for themselves. Teachers can incorporate this book into the curriculum to help give students a positive reading experience.

By teaching this book, teachers can help their students to develop valuable problem solving skills and techniques. By focusing on cause and effect situations (as well as clues) in the book, teachers can teach students not only patterns to solve problems in reading situations, but also patterns to solve problems in everyday life.

Although there are not a significant amount of mature themes to focus on while teaching The Westing Game, supplementary topics mentioned in the text such as crime, depression, the stock market, and differences in character can enhance curriculum study.

Because this book has a young reading level, teachers should spend three to four weeks teaching this unit. This gives the students sufficient time to read the book, and gives the teacher time to focus on literary elements and connections with her class.

