

Story Grammar

The Westing Game



Plot: This novel tells the story of an old businessman Sam Westing, owner of Westing Paper Products, who dies and leaves his will to a mismatched group of character. All the heirs of his will live in Sunset Towers and must play the Westing Game.

Themes: The theme of this book is one of problem solving and observing what is around you. There are also themes of the importance of friendships over money and what really matters in life.

Setting: Lake Michigan in the apartment complex Sunset Towers.

Characters:

- Turtle- a spunky girl who kicks people in the shins for pulling her braid.
- Grace- Turtle's mother and a snob in a half.
- Crow- Grace's cleaning lady and also first wife to Sam Westing.
- Otis- delivery man and in love with Crow.
- Mr. Hoo- owner of the restaurant on top of Sunset Towers, very uptight.
- Angela- perfect daughter to Grace who is getting married to a doctor.
- Denton Deere-doctor, not interested in playing the Westing Game but does for his fiancée Angela.
- Chris- a boy in a wheel chair who is very observant and enjoys bird watching
- Sandy- doorman who is insecure about being uneducated
- Judge- received her education through payment by Sam Westing.

Chain of Events:

Initiating Events: Barney Northrup introduces all of the heirs of the Westing estate to Sunset Towers. Each one signs a contract to live there not knowing the other tenants. One by one the tenants are summoned to Sam Westing's home for a meeting. At the meeting they learn that they are each heirs to Sam Westing's estate and in order to obtain their inheritance they must play the Westing game.

Internal Response: What the tenants learn from the will is that they must each be paired with another that they do not know and work together to find the one that took Sam Westing's life. This criminal is among the group and must be found for the heir to claim their inheritance. Each tenant takes a clue and the pairs start working on uncovering the mystery. Main Clue: You will find the answer in what you are missing.

Outcome: The outcome is surprising. Turtle the youngest player of the Westing game is the one who uncovers the mystery. She figures out that Sam Westing, Sandy McSouthers, and Barney Northrup are actually the same person. This would mean that Sam Westing is still alive and taking on a new name. Since all his prior names point to directions west, south, and north, she shall find him in the direction that is missing, east. She finds Sam Westing and stays friends with him throughout her life yet she keeps the secret from the others.

Result: In the end on one gets to meet Sam Westing except for Turtle yet they do find ways in which they are all connected to him.

Conclusion: All of the tenants of Sunset Towers benefit from the Westing game because they develop life-long friendships with each other and understand the importance of working together.