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# The Westing Game

## Chapter Questions

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Crash

Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts

The Westing Game Student Discussion Guide

Classic Middle School Literature

The View from Saturday

Classic Middle School Literature

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The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

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*The Westing Game* Chapter Questions  
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## CAMERON MARLEE

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*Crash* Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
A New York Times-Bestseller!  
Could books hidden through Book Scavenger be

linked to an arsonist's web of destruction? Find out in Book 2 of Jennifer Chambliss' The Book Scavenger series. Mr. Quisling is definitely up to something mysterious, and Emily and

James are on high alert. First, there's the coded note he drops at a book event. Then they uncover a trail of encrypted messages in Mark Twain-penned books hidden through Book Scavenger.

What's most suspicious is that each hidden book triggers a fire. As the sleuthing friends dig deeper, they discover Mr. Quisling has been hunting a legendary historical puzzle: the Unbreakable Code. This new mystery is irresistible, but Emily and James can't ignore the signs that Mr. Quisling might be the arsonist. The clock is ticking as the fires multiply, and Emily and James race to crack the code of a lifetime. This title has Common Core connections. A Christy Ottaviano Book *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* Sourcebooks, Inc. "Powerful and poetic." —John David Anderson, author of *Posted and Ms. Bixby's Last Day* Elise carries a notebook full of tallies, each page marking a day spent at her new public school, each stroke of her pencil marking a word spoken. A word that can't be taken back. Five tally marks isn't so bad. Two is pretty good. But zero? Zero is perfect. Zero means no wrong answers called out in class, no secrets accidentally spilled, no conversations to agonize over at night when sleep is far away. But now months have passed, and Elise isn't sure she could speak even if she wanted to—not to keep her only friend, Mel, from drifting further away—or to

ask if anyone else has seen her English teacher's stuffed raven come to life. Then, the discovery of a shocking family secret helps Elise realize that her silence might just be the key to unlocking everything she's ever hoped for... Praise for After Zero: "This tender and truthful book stays with you long after the words have gone."  
—Patricia Forde, author of *The List* "A must read.

After Zero reminds us of so many loved ones of those suffering from anxiety or depressive disorders. It is a story that will hopefully foster empathy and maybe even communication with our 'quiet' peers."  
—Wesley King, author of *OCDaniel*  
[The Westing Game Student Discussion Guide](#) Simon and Schuster  
Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive

behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.  
*Classic Middle School Literature Classroom Complete Press*  
"A fascinating glimpse into the women of an influential family on the front lines of some of the most important moments of that indelible

time."--  
 Booklist The  
 New York  
 Times  
 bestselling  
 author of Mrs.  
 Lincoln's  
 Dressmaker  
 returns to her  
 most famous  
 heroine, Mary  
 Todd Lincoln,  
 in this  
 compelling  
 story of love,  
 loss, and  
 sisterhood rich  
 with history  
 and suspense.  
 In May 1875,  
 Elizabeth Todd  
 Edwards reels  
 from news  
 that her  
 younger sister  
 Mary, former  
 First Lady and  
 widow of  
 President  
 Abraham  
 Lincoln, has  
 attempted

suicide.  
 Mary's  
 shocking act  
 followed legal  
 proceedings  
 arranged by  
 her eldest and  
 only surviving  
 son that  
 declared her  
 legally insane.  
 Although they  
 have long  
 been  
 estranged,  
 Elizabeth  
 knows Mary's  
 tenuous  
 mental health  
 has  
 deteriorated  
 through  
 decades of  
 trauma and  
 loss. Yet is her  
 suicide  
 attempt truly  
 the impulse of  
 a deranged  
 mind, or the  
 desperate act  
 of a sane

woman  
 terrified to be  
 committed to  
 an asylum?  
 And—if her  
 sisters can put  
 past  
 grievances  
 aside—is their  
 love powerful  
 enough to  
 save her?  
 Maternal  
 Elizabeth,  
 peacemaker  
 Frances,  
 envious Ann,  
 and much  
 adored Emilie  
 had always  
 turned to one  
 another in  
 times of joy  
 and  
 heartache,  
 first as  
 children, and  
 later as young  
 wives and  
 mothers. But  
 when Civil  
 War erupted,

the conflict that divided a nation shattered their family. The Todd sisters's fates were bound to their husbands' choices as some joined the Lincoln administration , others the Confederate Army. Now, though discord and tragedy have strained their bonds, Elizabeth knows they must come together as sisters to help Mary in her most desperate hour.  
*The View from*

*Saturday*  
HarperCollins  
HOW HAD  
MRS. OLINSKI  
CHOSEN her  
sixth-grade  
Academic  
Bowl team?  
She had a  
number of  
answers. But  
were any of  
them true?  
How had she  
really chosen  
Noah and  
Nadia and  
Ethan and  
Julian? And  
why did they  
make such a  
good team? It  
was a surprise  
to a lot of  
people when  
Mrs. Olinski's  
team won the  
sixth-grade  
Academic  
Bowl contest  
at Epiphany  
Middle School.

It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen? It happened at least partly because Noah had been the best man (quite by accident) at the wedding of Ethan's grandmother and Nadia's grandfather. It happened because Nadia discovered that she could

not let a lot of baby turtles die. It happened when Ethan could not let Julian face disaster alone. And it happened because Julian valued something important in himself and saw in the other three something he also valued. Mrs. Olinski, returning to teaching after having been injured in an automobile accident, found that her Academic Bowl team became her answer to finding

confidence and success. What she did not know, at least at first, was that her team knew more than she did the answer to why they had been chosen. This is a tale about a team, a class, a school, a series of contests and, set in the midst of this, four jewel-like short stories -- one for each of the team members -- that ask questions and demonstrate surprising answers.

**Classic  
Middle  
School**

### **Literature**

Random House Books for Young Readers  
Rhyming text describes Christopher Columbus's first voyage to the New World.  
*Figgs & Phantoms*  
Penguin  
The New York Times bestselling author of Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters unveils the private lives of President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, through the eyes of the First Lady's most trusted

confidante and friend in this compelling historical novel. In a life that spanned nearly a century and witnessed some of the most momentous events in American history, Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley was born a slave. A gifted seamstress, she earned her freedom by the skill of her needle, and won the friendship of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln by her devotion. A sweeping

historical novel, Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker illuminates the extraordinary relationship the two women shared, beginning in the hallowed halls of the White House during the trials of the Civil War and enduring almost, but not quite, to the end of Mrs. Lincoln's days. Spy Runner Penguin Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're

new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: he's a liar, a



bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander . . . to the bully's next victim. This title has Common Core connections.

**The Westing Game - Literature Kit Gr. 7-8**

Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

Winner of the International Literacy Association Social Justice Literature Award An award-winning middle-grade novel about

the power of grassroots activism and how kids can make a difference. Every day, nine-year-old Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, a retired teacher who has set up a free lending library on the street corner. But when the mayor tries to shut down the rickety bookstand, Yasmin has to take her nose out of her book and do something. What can she do? The local elections are coming up,

but she's just a kid. She can't even vote! Still, Yasmin has friends — her best friend, Reeni, and Anil, who even has a blue belt in karate. And she has family and neighbors. What's more, she has an idea that came right out of the last book she borrowed from Book Uncle. So Yasmin and her friends get to work. Ideas grow like cracks in the sidewalk, and soon the whole effort is breezing along nicely... Or is

it spinning right out of control? An energetic, funny and quirky story about community activism, friendship, and the love of books. Correlates to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2 Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message,

lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.6 Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text. *The Westing Game* The Westing Game After their father, a video-game

inventor, strikes it rich, the Smithfork kids find they hate their new life. They move from their cozy Brooklyn neighborhood to a swanky apartment on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. They have no friends, a nanny who takes the place of their parents, and a school year looming ahead that promises to be miserable. And then, one day, Brid, CJ, and Patrick discover an astonishing secret about their

apartment: The original owner, the deceased multimillionaire Mr. Post, long ago turned the apartment itself into a giant puzzle containing a mysterious book and hidden panels—a puzzle that, with some luck, courage, and brainpower, will lead to discovering the Post family fortune. Unraveling the mystery causes them to race through today's New York City—and to uncover some long-hidden secrets of the past. Maureen Sherry's page-turning debut novel is filled with adventure, intrigue, and heart.

A Novel  
Penguin  
Unravel the secrets at the center of an intriguing murder mystery game. Activities are meant to excite students throughout the reading. Using the chapter titles as clues, predict what might happen in each one. Identify elements of foreshadowing from the novel, and imagine what will take place. Follow the clues in the story to solve the game before any of the characters. Identify cause and effect by explaining why each event happened. Keep track of the variety of characters with comprehension questions. Students will write their own prologue and epilogue at the

completion of the reading. Compare two different character's perspectives of the same event from the novel. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: The Westing Game is a Newbery Medal winning story about a group of people playing the game of

who killed the millionaire. Samuel W. Westing, owner of Westing Paper Products, has died. Sixteen heirs are invited to live in the Sunset Towers apartment building. These heirs come together to read the will of the late self-made millionaire. The will challenges them to solve the murder of Sam Westing by splitting up into eight pairs. Each pair is given a set of clues and \$10,000 dollars to play

the game. The winner will inherit the \$200,000,000 fortune and unravel the secret behind the old man's death.

### **A Novel**

Feiwel & Friends Charles and Oliver try to help recapture pirate sea dogs who have escaped from prison. The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin Good Year Books "From the award-winning author of Bellweather Rhapsody, a delightfully clever novel following one woman and a

supporting cast of misfits, dreamers and foes as they race to win a treasure hunt inspired by Edgar Allan Poe, left behind by a dying billionaire" -- **Bystander** Good Year Books From the Newbery Award-winning author of THE WESTING GAME, more clever riddles and wordplay, clues to be found, and mysteries to be solved! Glub! Blub! Mrs. Caroline "Little Dumpling" Carillon isn't

quite sure what to expect when she sets off to meet her husband, Leon. After all, she hasn't seen him since their wedding when she was five and he was seven. But their reunion is cut short when a storm knocks him off their boat, and he disappears completely, leaving only one very waterlogged clue (Glub! Blub!). Will Dumpling be able to find Leon (or is it Noel) again? And just what is a glub blub?

**The Tattooed Potato and Other Clues** Novel Units, Incorporated Tackles The Westing Game and four thematically related short stories: "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Monkey's Paw," "The Phantom Coach," and a ghost story by Charles Dickens, "The Signal-Man." This curriculum unit provides everything needed for in-depth study of classic fiction (except the readily available

<p>novels and short stories themselves): teaching directions, suggested schedules, background information, author bios, plot summaries, vocabulary study guides, discussion of literary elements, reproducible activities and assessments, and ideas for extensions. The time required for full treatment is four weeks for each novel, one week for each short story. Grades 68. Glossaries.</p>	<p>Answer keys. <u>Cartwheeling in Thunderstorm</u> s Simon and Schuster Now a Nickelodeon Original Movie! Over 100 Weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List! 44 State Award Lists! Discover what James Patterson calls “the coolest library in all the world” in this fun-filled, action-packed bestseller from the much-loved co-author of I Funny and Treasure Hunters! “A worthy</p>	<p>successor to...Willy Wonka.” —Booklist, Starred Review When Kyle learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on opening night, he's determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting into the library—it's getting out. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle</p>
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and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route! Don't miss bonus content in the back of the book—extra puzzles, an author Q&A, and more! And look for the puzzle-packed sequels—Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics and Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race! "Full of puzzles to think about, puns to groan at ...this solid,

tightly plotted read is a winner for readers and game-players alike."  
—Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review  
*It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*  
Houghton Mifflin  
Told in short, gripping chapters, this is an unforgettable true story of survival. The author was featured in Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. At just 15, her mother, and brother were

taken from their Romanian town to the Auschwitz-II/Birkenau concentration camp. When they arrived at Auschwitz, a soldier waved Elly to the right; her mother and brother to the left. She never saw her family alive again. Thanks to a series of miracles, Elly survived the Holocaust. Today she is dedicated to keeping alive the stories of those who did not. Elly appeared on CBS's 60 Minutes for

her involvement in bringing an important lawsuit against Volkswagen, whose German factory used her and other Jews as slave laborers.

**The Parker Inheritance**

Harpercollins Childrens Books  
The student's version of Talent Development Secondary's Discussion Guide to Ellen Raskin's clever mystery The Westing Game includes selected vocabulary

words, highlights important literary devices and features, suggests literature-related writing and extension activities, and provides space for brief constructed responses to questions on each chapter. A brief biography of Raskin and suggestions for further reading are also included. This curriculum, developed at Johns Hopkins University, is used in schools across the country.

In 1492 Ember Zomorod (Cindy) Yousefzadeh is the new kid on the block . . . for the fourth time. California's Newport Beach is her family's latest perch, and she's determined to shuck her brainy loner persona and start afresh with a new Brady Bunch name—Cindy. It's the late 1970s, and fitting in becomes more difficult as Iran makes U.S. headlines with protests, revolution, and finally the



taking of American hostages. Even mood rings and puka shell necklaces can't distract Cindy from the anti-Iran sentiments that creep way too close to home. A poignant yet lighthearted middle grade debut from the author of the best-selling *Funny in Farsi*.

### **The Gallery**

Scholastic Inc. A Newbery Medal Winner For over thirty-five years, Ellen Raskin's Newbery Medal-winning

The Westing Game has been an enduring favorite. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of

characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense. Winner of the Newbery Medal Winner of the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award An ALA Notable Book A School Library Journal One Hundred Books That Shaped the Century "A supersharp mystery...confoundingly clever, and very funny." -- Booklist, starred review "Great fun for those who enjoy illusion,

word play, or sleight of hand." --The New York Times Book Review "A	fascinating medley of word games, disguises, multiple	aliases, and subterfuges--a demanding but rewarding book." --The Horn Book
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