

# Vocabulary Handbook

*The Westing Game*

by Ellen Raskin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prefix List

PREFIX	DEFINITION
anti	against
con, com, col	together
de	opposite of
dis	not / opposite of
ec	out of
em	cause to be
en	cause to
fore	before
il	not
im	not
in	not
inter	between / among
ir	not
mid	middle
mis	wrongly
non	not
over	in / into
para	alongside of
pre	before
pro	to advance
re	again / back
semi	half
sub	under / to yield
super	above
sur	to give up

## Roots List

ROOT	DEFINITION	ROOT	DEFINITION
apathe	unfeeling	gredi	to step
audi	hear	ignore	not know / be unaware
auto	self	ject	to throw
bio	life	man	hand
cap, capere	to take	monu, monere	remind
ceal, celare	to hide	omin/omen	a sign of future happiness or disaster
chrono	time	phon	sound
cur	to run	photo	light
dict	say	port	bring / carry
dign	worthy	pover, povre	poor
fer	carry	regula	rule / pattern
fix	fasten	render	to give / to yield
flict	strike	rog	to ask / to question
form	shape / form	rupt	break
fus(e)	flow	scope	see
gen	give birth	sect	cut / divide
geo	earth	struct	build
graph	write	tele	far off
		testi	evidence / witness
		tract	pull / drag
		tort	twist

## Suffix List

SUFFIX	DEFINITION	SUFFIX	DEFINITION
able	can be done	ing	verb form / present participle
ade	act of / product of	ion	act / process
age	noun form	ious	possessing the qualities of
al	having characteristics of	ish	adjective form
ance	makes the word a noun	ism	belief / practice
ant	serving in the capacity of	ist	a person who practices
ary	noun form	ition	act / process
ate	verb, adjective, or noun form	itive	adjective form of a noun
ation	act / process	ity	state of
ative	adjective form of a noun	ive	adjective form of a noun
ed	past tense	less	without
en	made of	ly	characteristic of
ence	makes the word a noun	ment	action / process
ent	noun form	mony	noun form
eous	possessing the qualities of	ness	state of / condition of
er	person connected with	or	person connected with
er	comparative	ous	possessing the qualities of
es	plural	ric	adjective form
est	comparative	s	plural
etic	adjective form	ship	a condition or circumstance
ful	full of	tion	act / process
ia	condition of	tious	adjective form
ial	having characteristics of	ty	state of
ible	can be done	ure	act of / process of
ic	having characteristics of	y	characterized by

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## chain of events

Context:

“A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing’s will.” (blurb)

“The Salem story began in 1962 when a few girls...began acting very strangely. The result was...a chain reaction of confessions, denuncements, and more arrests.”  
 (“Witch Hunts and Persecution in America,” paragraph 2)

What it is...

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What it is not...

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I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## intrigue

Context:

“Ellen Raskin has entangled a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.” (blurb, 2008 Speak edition)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**exclusive**

Context:

“Sunset Towers stood at the far edge of town. It was, indeed, an exclusive neighborhood.” (p. 5)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**façade**

Context:

“Crow’s clothes were black; her skin, dead white. She looked severe. Rigid, in fact. Rigid and righteously severe. No one could have guessed that under the stern façade her stomach was doing flip-flops as Dr. Wexler cut out a corn.” (p. 11)

“ ‘I’ll keep my furs with me,’ Grace said. She did not want to be taken for one of the poor relatives.”  
(façade is inferred, p. 22)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## patriot

Context:

“A great patriot, Samuel Westing was famous for his fun-filled Fourth of July celebrations. Whether disguised as Ben Franklin or a lowly drummer boy, he always acted a role in the elaborately staged pageants.” (p. 19)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# legacy

Context:

“ ‘...old man Westing left you some money,’ [Otis Amber] explained...The other heirs were too stunned by the unexpected legacy to bother him with questions.” (p. 21)

“Later in his life, Carnegie sold his steel business and systematically gave his collected fortune away to cultural, educational and scientific institutions for the improvement of mankind.”  
(legacy is inferred, “Andrew Carnegie,” paragraph 1)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# beneficiary

Context:

“As named beneficiary in the estate of Samuel L. Westing, your attendance is required in the south library of the Westing house tomorrow at 4 p.m. for the reading of the will.” (p. 21)

“The rich always reward servants in their wills, and her Uncle Sam was a generous man.”  
(beneficiary is inferred, p. 24)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**perception**

Context:

“At least her crippled partner could not be the murderer, but it was embarrassing being paired with such a...no, she shouldn’t feel that way. It was her mother who was upset; her perfect daughter was paired with a freak.”  
(perception is inferred, p. 35)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**eccentric**

Context:

“Although the will you are about to hear may seem eccentric, I pledge my good name and reputation on its legality.” (p. 27)

“Sydelle Pulaski waved a gaily painted crutch in the air...She pursed her bright red mouth, painted to a fullness beyond the narrow line of her lips...Everyone was staring; she knew they would notice.” (eccentric is inferred, p. 26)

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## Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# ambition

Context:

“I began to learn what poverty meant...It was burnt into my heart then that my father had to beg for work. And then and there came the resolve that I would cure that when I got to be a man.’ An ambition for riches would mark Carnegie’s path in life.” (“Andrew Carnegie,” paragraphs 3–4)

“The only child of immigrant parents, orphaned at the age of twelve, self-educated, hard-working, Samuel Westing saved his laborer’s wages and bought a small paper mill. From these meager beginnings he built the giant Westing Paper Products Corporation.” (ambition is inferred, p. 18)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**defiant**

Context:

“You know, sweetheart, I’m rather hurt that you won’t tell your own mother about your clues.’ So that was it. She should have known. ‘My lips are sealed,’ Turtle said defiantly.” (p. 55)

“The people who were most likely to be killed were not those who submitted quickly and obediently to authorities. Only those who were defiant or hostile were put to death... especially if you were an older, deviant, troublesome, or somehow disorderly woman.”  
(“Witch Hunts and Persecution in America,” paragraph 4)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## **divisive**

Context:

“The game: a tricky, divisive Westing game. No matter how much fear and suspicion he instilled in the players, Sam Westing knew that greed would keep them playing the game.” (pp. 47–48)

“*Heirs, beware*, Sam Westing had warned... The suspicious heirs gathered in the lobby around the police captain called in by Judge Ford. One of them was a murderer, they thought, and one of them was a bomber, and one of them was a thief. But which was which and who was who? Or could it be one and the same?” (divisive is inferred, p. 96)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# hysteria

Context:

“The Salem story began in 1662 when a few girls...began acting very strangely—hysterical screaming, falling into convulsions, barking like dogs.”  
(“Witch Hunts and Persecution in America,” paragraph 2)

“Soon other girls began acting in a similar manner... The result was much like the European experience, with a chain-reaction of confessions, denouncements, and more arrests.”  
(hysteria is inferred, “Witch Hunts and Persecution in America,” paragraph 2)

**What it is...**

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**(word, phrase, sketch)**

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## **pretentious**

Context:

“ ‘I’ll keep my furs with me,’ Grace said. She did not want to be taken for one of the poor relatives.”  
(pretentious is inferred, p. 22)

“...we don’t have as much money as my mother pretends.” (pretentious is inferred, p. 74)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## **resemblance**

Context:

“But Flora Baumbach was right about the resemblance. Violet Westing did look like Angela Wexler.”  
(p. 93)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**interrogate**

Context:

“Hoping to interrogate both George Theodorakis and James Shin Hoo, they alternated their dinner orders. One night they would order up, they next night they would order down.” (p. 92)

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(word, phrase, sketch)

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**refine**

Context:

“Each pair in attendance will now receive a check for the sum of \$10,000...  
Spend it wisely or go for broke. May God thy gold refine.” (p. 36)

“America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine.” (p. 85)

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**(word, phrase, sketch)**

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# deliverance

Context:

“We are sinners, yet shall we be saved. Let us pray for deliverance, then you must go to your angel, take her away.” (p. 103)

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(word, phrase, sketch)

## Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**redemption**

Context:

“Carnegie wrote of the obligations of the wealthy—how they should return their money to the societies where they made it. But then almost inadvertently, Carnegie as a kind of aside, tosses in a very revealing sentence. He wrote, ‘and besides it provides a refuge from self-questioning.’

In other words, this old internal and eternal torment was still going on. Maybe with the giving away of his money he would justify what he had done to get that money.”  
(redemption is inferred, “The Richest Man in the World,” program transcript)

“Maybe [Sam Westing] wanted his enemies to forgive him.” (redemption is inferred, p. 157)

**What it is...**

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**(word, phrase, sketch)**

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**disgraced**

Context:

“Carnegie was fond of saying ‘The man who dies rich dies disgraced.’ He made his fortune and then, unlike any industrialist of his time, began systematically to give it away.”  
 (“The Richest Man in the World,” program transcript)

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**(word, phrase, sketch)**



# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**paranoia**

Context:

“Mr. Hoo said the tea tasted funny, maybe they had all been poisoned. Denton Deere diagnosed paranoia. The doorman, who was pacing the room, replied that anyone who was not paranoid, after being told that the murderer would kill again, was really crazy.” (p. 148)

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Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)