

Weekly Writers

7th Grade Literature

WW #1:

- I. Topic Intro: When someone says the word “reading” to you, how do you feel?
II. Body ¶: What do you like about reading, and what is your all-time favorite book?
III. Body ¶: What do you not like about reading, and what is your all-time least favorite book?
IV. Body ¶: What do you hope to get out of this class?
V. Conclusion: Sum it up – your feelings about reading, in a nutshell.

WW #2:

Write one full page about a memorable campfire, scary, or urban legend story. DETAILS!!!

- I. Introduce the story
II – IV. Give us the details.
V. Tell us the theme or moral of the story.

WW #3:

- I. Write a full page about a time when you lost something special to you. What did you lose?
II. Why was it so important that you find this item?
III. How did you go about solving "the mystery of the lost thing"?
IV. Likewise, if you were assigned to be a detective on the case of the Westing Game, what things would you do to try and solve the mystery?
V. Go out with a bang – sum it up!

WW #4:

As we read the book, we need to remember why we are reading. We want to understand what is going on and try to solve the puzzle before the protagonist does. Make three columns on your paper and explain:

- 1) What you know about the plot so far (what's going on)
- 2) What you know about the characters so far
- 3) Any/all questions you have about what's happening in the story.

WW #5:

- I. Topic Intro: Imagine you are a character in *The Westing Game* novel. WHO would you choose to be?
II. Body ¶: DESCRIBE everything you know about this character so far.
III. Body ¶: WHY did you choose this character (something in common? admire him? suspect her?)
IV. Body ¶: PREDICT what role you think this character will play in the story and in the mystery.
V. Conclusion: Sum it up – which character you are currently most interested.

WW #6:

1ST HALF

Write about one character who you are convinced is INNOCENT. Give two specific examples from the book to support your answer. Include the page numbers to support your examples.

2ND HALF

Write about one character who you are convinced is GUILTY. Give two specific examples from the book to support your answer. Include the page numbers to support your examples.

WW #7:

Authors of mystery novels often use "red herrings," misleading clues that make you follow a false trail in the story, leaving you very surprised when the author reveals what is actually true. Reread (skim through) parts of the *The Westing Game* where you noticed a "red herring." What words, descriptions, or actions of certain characters did Ellen Raskin include that lead you astray in your understanding of the murder mystery?

(Plan out your own outline – which questions will be answered where – below.)

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____
- V. _____

WW #8:

Create a new setting for *The Westing Game*. Explain how it will affect the characters, mood, and plot.

- I. *Describe the actual setting of The Westing Game. Then explain what your new *setting will be – describe it (*time & place).*
- II. *Explain how your new setting will affect and/or change the characters.*
- III. *Explain how your new setting will affect and/or change the mood.*
- IV. *Explain how your new setting will affect and/or change the plot.*
- V. *Sum up what your new setting will do to the story as a whole.*

WW #9:

Compare and contrast worksheet for *The Westing Game* book and movie. Twenty items required for each column of your Venn diagram.