

# Instructional Overview

## Book Club

### The Westing Game

By: Ellen Raskin

Grade Level: 5 / Guided Reading Level: V

#### Instructional Focus:

Mysteries

#### Background:

Mysteries have some of the same elements of novels, but the mystery novel has additional structures. In a mystery, the reader sets a purpose to find clues, examine the actions and words of suspects, and solve a crime.

Introducing students to the elements of the mystery genre will show readers how to have a purpose in mind when reading. The teacher will model how to identify the characters who are suspects or witnesses, identify clues, and solve the puzzle in the story. Through understanding the structure of the text, readers will be able to engage in the reading of mysteries and find success in solving the puzzles of the mystery genre.

#### Instructional Overview:

##### Meeting #1

Introduce the Elements of the Mystery Genre

##### Meeting #2

(Chapters 1 – 8) Identifying Clues in a Mystery

##### Meeting #3

(Chapters 9 – 15) Suspense in a Mystery

##### Meeting #4

(Chapters 16 – 22) Foreshadowing in a Mystery

##### Meeting #5

(Chapters 23 – 25) Identifying Suspects in a Mystery

##### Final Meeting

(Chapters 26 – 30) Solving the Puzzle

Instructional Focus

Description of the  
Instructional Focus

List of Book Club Meetings  
and the Instructional Focus  
for Each Meeting

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#### Materials and Preparation:

- ☐ Determine which students will participate in the *The Westing Game* Book Club (4-6 students)
- ☐ Gather copies of *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
  - These may be spiral notebooks or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- ☐ Prepare "The Bike Ride" hand out for students
- ☐ Prepare "Suspects in Mr. Westing's Murder" hand out for students
- ☐ Prepare "Elements of a Story" list on chart paper or iPad
- ☐ Prepare "Investigating the Case of Mr. Westing" hand out for students
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

List of Materials and Preparation

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