

Literary Term: Suspense

Name _____

Think of a scary movie you have seen. Try to recall a part when you didn't know what was going to happen next and you were on the edge of your seat – this feeling is called suspense. Suspense is a state of tension, a sense of uncertainty, and an emotional pull, which compels the reader to continue reading. Suspense is key in a mystery novel such as *The Westing Game*.

As you read *The Westing Game*, think about how the author uses elements of suspense to keep you interested in the book. Use the chart below to record suspenseful parts. Which characters are involved? What details make it suspenseful and keep you “on the edge” of your seat?

Event	Characters Involved	Details that Make it Suspenseful

What do you think was the most suspenseful part of the novel? Why? _____
