Vocabulary – *The Westing Game* Chapters 1- 5

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. They faced north, ***gaping*** like statues cast in the moment of discovery, until Turtle Wexler, her kite tail of a braid flying behind her, raced her bicycle into the driveway.
2. Staring down at the fine lines of pink scalp that showed through the ***podiatrist’s*** thinning light brown hair did nothing to ease her questions; so, softly humming a hymn, she settled her gaze on the north window.
3. She must have been a handsome woman at one time, but life had used her harshly. Her faded hair, knotted in a tight bun on the nape of her ***gaunt*** neck, glinted gold-red in the light.
4. Her profile was fine, ***marred*** only by the jut of her clenched jaw.
5. The Halloween moon was full. Except for her ***receding*** chin Turtle Wexler looked every inch the witch, her dark unbraided hair streaming wild in the wind from under her peaked hat, a putty wart pasted on her small beaked nose.
6. Upstairs in 3D Angela Wexler stood on a ***hassock*** as still and blank-faced pretty as a store-window dummy.
7. “I didn’t know this was a pajama party,” Turtle said, ***relinquishing*** her chair and stomping to the far end of the table.
8. The heirs watched helplessly as the ***invalid’s*** thin frame was suddenly torn and twisted by convulsions.
9. Blinking away tears, Flora Baumbach returned to her seat, the ***elfin*** smile still painted on her painted face.
10. Sunset Towers was a quiet, well run building. And (except for the grumbling Mr. Hoo) the people who lived there seemed ***content***.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Gaping A. of or like an elf; small, merry, mischievous
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Podiatrist B. going or moving away; retreating
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Gaunt C. staring, as in astonishment or with the mouth wide open
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Marred D. a specialist who cares for feet
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Receding E. extremely thin and bony
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Hassock F. retiring from; giving up or abandoning; surrendering
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Relinquish G. damaged or spoiled to a certain extent; rendered less perfect
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Invalid H. satisfied with what one is or has
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Elfin I. a thick, firm cushion used as a footstool or for kneeling
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Content J. one who is incapacitated by a chronic illness or disease