Vocabulary – *The Westing Game* Chapters 11-15

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. Lured by the Westing house, they stood at their side windows ***scoffing*** at the danger, daring to dream. Should they or shouldn’t they share their clues?
2. Doug choked on his sweet roll. If it got around to ***alibis***, they’d find out where he was the night of the murder. On the Westing house lawn.
3. **Lured** by the Westing house, they stood at their side windows scoffing at the danger, daring to dream.
4. Having recovered from the nasty turn, Sydelle Pulaski settled down to ***transcribing*** her shorthand to Polish, then from Polish to English.
5. Long before becoming a judge, Josie-Jo had decided to stop smiling. Smiling without good reason was ***demeaning***.
6. “Remarkable,” the judge commented to Sandy’s delight. “However we are looking for one name, not six.” “Gee, Judge, I forgot,” Sandy said ***dejectedly.***
7. Shallow flattery for the big tipper, the judge thought. McSouthers was not a stupid man; if only he was less ***obsequious*** – and less of a gossip.
8. He held up a tea bag with **contempt**, then groaned on seeing his sweat-suited son jog in with a sweet roll between his teeth and vault over his hands onto a stool, “Where’s your daughter the turtle?”
9. “…Then, at one minute to midnight, he suddenly died. He died laughing.” “He died laughing,” Turtle repeated thoughtfully. “That’s ***profound***, Sandy. That’s very ***profound***.
10. “Thief!” Sydelle cried, now accussing Mrs. Wexler. “Thief! Larcenist! **Felon**!”

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. \_\_\_\_\_ scoffing A. making a written copy; making notes during a lecture
2. \_\_\_\_\_ alibi B. attracted, enticed, or allured
3. \_\_\_\_\_ lured C. attitude or feeling toward something or someone considered mean, evil, or worthless
4. \_\_\_\_\_ transcribing D. the defense of by an accused person of having been elsewhere at the time an alleged

 offense was committed

1. \_\_\_\_\_ demeaning E. having deep insight or understanding
2. \_\_\_\_\_ dejectedly F. to speak derisively; mocking; jeering
3. \_\_\_\_\_ obsequious G. done in a manner showing that one is depressed in spirits
4. \_\_\_\_\_ contempt H. a person who commits a crime such as burglary
5. \_\_\_\_\_ profound I. lowering in dignity, honor, or standing; degrading
6. \_\_\_\_\_ felon J. attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery