Vocabulary – *The Westing Game* Chapters 16-20

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. She lowered herself to a cushion on the floor, ringed by gift boxes and surrounded by ***vaguely*** familiar faces. She had not invited her few friends...These were her mother's friends…

2. That brat's capable of anything. Turtle stuck her tongue out at the ***sneering*** Doug Hoo.

3. Depressing. So was the stock market, which fell another six points. Turtle was ***jittery***. All the heirs were ***jittery***.

4. Madame Hoo returned to pour the tea. Jake patted her hand. Good, Grace noticed, she’s ***clutching*** her stomach, about time she felt jealous.

5. Doug made the five uphill miles to a house with the ***placard***: E.J. Plum, Attorney.

6. "Strange," the judge remarked. A suspicious ***malady***, no apparent Westing connection, somehow Sydelle Pulaski did not seem to fit in.

7. Chris got excited. How could he explain that what he wanted from his partner was ***companionship***, not more probing, pricking doctors with their bad news that made his mother cry?

8. It was too painful, going back to that house, but Otis said she must, to collect her due. It was her ***penance*** to go back, not her due.

9. Sinful woman, she will go to hades with her pride and her ***covetousness***, and take her foot-butcher of a husband with her.

10. The subject was becoming painful, and Mr.Theodorakis ***faltered*** several times in the telling.

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. \_\_\_\_\_ vaguely A. any disorder or disease of the body, especially one that is chronic
2. \_\_\_\_\_ sneering B. voluntary self-punishment in order to make up for some wrongdoing
3. \_\_\_\_\_ jittery C. extreme greed for material wealth and possession
4. \_\_\_\_\_ clutching D. not clearly or explicitly stated or expressed
5. \_\_\_\_\_ placard E. to smile, laugh, or contort the face in a manner that shows scorn or contempt
6. \_\_\_\_\_ malady F. A small card or plaque, such as a nameplate on a door
7. \_\_\_\_\_ companionship G. extremely tense and nervous; jumpy
8. \_\_\_\_\_ penance H. a feeling of friendship or fellowship
9. \_\_\_\_\_ covetousness I. grasp or seize (something) tightly or eagerly.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ faltered J. Speak or move in a hesitant or unsteady manner