Vocabulary – *The Westing Game* Chapters 6-10

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. Flora Baumbach was the only heir to cry. Crow was the only one to pray. By the time Sydelle Pulaski could assume a pose of ***reverence***, the minute was up.
2. She must seem as ***pompous*** as that intern, putting on airs with that title. Well, she had worked hard to get where she was, why shouldn’t she be proud of it?
3. The delivery boy danced a merry ***jig***; but Crow, her sore foot squeezed into her tight shoe, headed for table six with a grim face.
4. A piercing ***shriek*** suddenly reminded the Westing heirs of murder.
5. “It is not only legal, Mr. McSouthers,” Judge Ford replied, signing her name to the check and handing it to the doorman, “it is a ***shrewd*** way to keep everyone playing the game.”
6. “I’m sorry, Mr. McSouthers. Playing a ***pawn*** in this foolish game is one thing, but to be insulted with minstrel show dialect…”
7. “Please, Judge. I lost my job, my ***pension***. I can’t fight no more. Don’t quite just because of some nonsensical words.”
8. Which heir was the target of Westing’s ***vindictiveness***?
9. Angela helped the invalid to her feet and nervously peered in both directions before stepping into the hallway. Sydelle chuckled at her ***timidity***.
10. “Then we are still waiting for one, no two more,” the lawyer said, fumbling with his papers, his hands shaking under the strict ***scrutiny*** of the judge.

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. \_\_\_\_\_ reverence A. close, careful, searching examination or inspection
2. \_\_\_\_\_ pompous B. inflated ego; excessive self-esteem
3. \_\_\_\_\_ jig C. a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe
4. \_\_\_\_\_ shriek D. someone who is used or manipulated to further another person’s purposes
5. \_\_\_\_\_ shrewd E. sharp intelligence
6. \_\_\_\_\_ pawn F. to dance
7. \_\_\_\_\_ pension G. a loud, sharp, shrill cry
8. \_\_\_\_\_ vindictiveness H. inclined to revenge; vengeful
9. \_\_\_\_\_ timidity I. a sum of money paid regularly as a retirement benefit from a place of employment
10. \_\_\_\_\_ scrutiny J. the trait of lacking in self-assurance, courage, or bravery