

Summer Reading Assignment
The Glass Castle – by Jeanette Walls

Background: *The Glass Castle* is a memoir that chronicles the chaotic life of the Walls family as they travel across the country in search of stability and the hope of one day building their dream home: a "Glass Castle."

Assignment: Keep a handwritten journal in a composition notebook in which you respond to the specific prompts for each of the five sections of the book.

I – “A Woman on the Street” (3-2-1 Response)

- In 1-2 sentences, write 3 specific things about Jeanette’s mother, 2 specific things about the setting, and 1 question that you have after reading the section.

II – “The Desert” (Isolating on Imagery)

- Imagery is writing that appeals to your five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch).
- Identify and list 10 specific images in the section and for each image write 2-3 sentences in which you address why/how this image is either memorable and/or significant.
- Each image should identify the sense being appealed to and be cited in MLA format:

Touch - “The engine made the floor vibrate” (49).

III – “Welch” (Dialectical Journal)

- Create a two-column chart.
- In the first column, quote 10 key passages from the section (in MLA format of course!).
- In the second column, write 2-3 sentences that explain how the passage exhibits one of the following three connections:

Text-to-Self: How does this relate to my own life?

Text-to-World: How does this relate to real-world events or life in general?

Text-to-Text: How does this connect to something else that I’ve seen or read?

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IV – “New York City” (Character Arcs)

- A character’s arc represents the journey he/she takes during the course of the story.
- After finishing this section, write a paragraph for each of the following characters in which you identify and explain how their journeys represent one of the three arcs listed below:

Rex Walls
Lori Walls

Mary Walls
Brian Walls

Jeanette Walls
Maureen Walls

The Positive Arc (Transformation): a character who grows and evolves throughout the story.

The Negative Arc (Fall): a character who declines throughout the story.

Flat Arc (Consistency): a character who remains largely the same throughout the story.

V – “Thanksgiving” (Spotlight on Symbolism)

- Symbolism refers to an author’s use of concrete objects to represent abstract ideas. For example, a flag represents a state or country, and a red rose can represent love.
- The book’s final sentence references fire. Compare this sentence to the opening scene of Part II (The Desert) and then write a detailed paragraph in which you discuss what fire represents in both of these scenes AND the ways in which the two uses of fire are similar and/or different.