

English 10 Summer Reading 2017

Overview: Your first assignment for English 10 is to read a contemporary memoir, Jeanette Walls' *The Glass Castle* (List A) and then complete 6 short essay questions (List B). Additionally, you will have an in-class reading test on *The Glass Castle* during the first week of school.

List A- Complete the summer reading assignment

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls

List B- Answer 6 Short Response Questions

Due Date: Due on the first day of school to Turnitin.com in 1 Microsoft Word document.

Instructions:

Answer all 6 of the following short essay questions. Each short essay question should be a **minimum of 150 words** and include at least **1 CITED QUOTATION** (excluding the quotes already listed in the prompts). Make sure that you lead into each quote correctly and cite the quote in MLA format. For example: (Walls 78). Use Times New Roman 12 with one inch margins. The 6 questions must be typed into 1 Microsoft Word document that will be submitted to Turnitin.com on the first day of school.

1. The Walls children are by far more mature, responsible, reliable and sensible than their parents. They protect and take care of themselves, each other, and even their parents. And yet, according to the law they are underage and, therefore, dependent on their parents. Should the Walls children have been allowed to be emancipated from their parents? Why or why not. Is it time to examine children's rights? Should some children be granted more rights at an earlier age?

2. Mom's big dream is to be an artist and she spends all of her time and the little money the family has on art supplies. Throughout the book we hear Rosemary's complaint: "I'm a grown woman now, why can't I do what I want to do?" (Walls 74). She never gives up on her dream. Should Rosemary be able to do what she wants, or was there a point when it was time to give up on her dream? Why or why not? At what point can adults do whatever they want, if ever? Is there a point when individuals must give up their dreams? If so, what is that point?

3. When Jeannette describes Grandma Smith, she remembers a woman who “had strong opinions about the way things ought to be done – how to dress, how to talk, how to organize your time, how to cook and keep house, how to manage your finances...” (91), and says she loved her and all of her rules. However, Rosemary, Grandma Smith’s daughter, felt that her mother “nagged and badgered” and that was the reason she herself never set rules for her own kids. To what extent would rules have helped the Walls children to achieve healthy development, and to what extent would they have been restricting and limiting? Are some rules “age appropriate”? Do parents sometimes get so caught up in their own rules that they forget their children will one day be adults? Are some rules freeing?

4. Throughout the book, Jeanette refers to her father as doing things “Rex Walls style.” In fact, Rex often uses these words to describe his own actions. Is doing things “Rex Walls style” exciting or irresponsible? What traits about Rex do you find admirable? Repulsive? Ultimately, do you like this man or think he is unfit to be a parent? Why/ why not? Provide specific textual support for evidence.

5. On one hand Jeannette Walls describes the squalor she and her family lived in: hunger, poverty, garbage, lack of basic necessities. On the other, she describes the rich intellectual world her parents imparted: discussions of geology, math, literature, art. In light of the fact that three out of the four Walls children became successful, productive members of society, what do you think was more important to the Walls children’s development: comfortable living conditions or an enriching intellectual environment? Explain your answer with support from the text.

6. Everyone on Little Hobart Street in Welch is poor, and “everyone grudgingly accepted some form of public aid.” The Walls, however, refused any kind of help, although they were the poorest family on the street. Jeannette says, “Mom and Dad never applied for welfare or food stamps, and they always refused charity” (Walls 159). Is it more important to have pride or have food? Did the refusal of food stamps and charity contribute to the children’s ultimate independence and self-motivation, or do you agree with Rosemary when she says that welfare “would cause irreparable psychological damage” to the kids. “Once you go on welfare, it changes you. Even if you get off welfare, you never escape the stigma that you were a charity case. You’re scarred for life” (Walls 188). Include both examples from the book and from real life to support your answers.