

The Write Stuff

HW #1 The Glass Castle (TGC) Last Journal

Directions: Read pages 260-288, the end of the book, and write a $\frac{3}{4}$ page, typed, double-spaced, journal response, using the prompts as a guide. **Use correct paper formatting (see blog, under resources, if you need to check formatting instructions).** Check for grammar and spelling, but your journals will be graded on content, use of specific details (like character names, locations, quoted phrases) from the book and thoughtfulness. Your journal is not a summary, but a response to the events, characters, themes of the book.

Try to include at least one direct quote with the proper citation!

Ex: “We were always supposed to pretend our life was one long and incredibly fun adventure” (69) is an example of how the Walls family is complicated.

Prompts (respond to one at length or respond to a couple/few):

- On page 274, read the description of how each of the kids’ lives unfolds after awhile in New York. Are you more surprised by the successes of Lori, Jeannette, and Brian or by the difficulties faced by Maureen? In other words, are we destined to be the product of our childhood/family or does each of us determine and have the power to change the course of our own lives? Or is it a bit of both? Explain your answers.
- On page 264, Rex Walls comes up with \$950 to help pay Jeannette’s college tuition for her last year. On page 270, we learn that Jeannette’s father reads all of her columns faithfully and “would go to the library to research the people in the column, then call me with tips.” On page 272, Rose Mary Walls implies that the land she’d inherited from her father may be worth \$1 million dollars. On page 279, Rex says to Jeannette, “Whenever I think of you, I figure I must have done something right.” And on 288, Brian says, “You know, it’s really not that hard to put food on the table if that’s what you decide to do.”

How do these scenes portray the kind of parents Rex and Rose Mary Walls are? Do you think most or all families are as complicated as the Walls in their own unique ways? Can you relate any of your own family struggles to the story of the Walls?

- Reflect on any last piece of *The Glass Castle* you’d like to.