

Socratic Seminar: Summer Reading
***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

Directions:

For our Summer Reading Socratic Seminar please prepare information on the following topics. For each topic make sure to do the following:

1. Note main points/inferences you would like to discuss.
2. Find one or two quotes to use that support your ideas OR think of examples from the text.
3. Write a question that relates to the topic.

Socratic Seminar Topics:

Choose FOUR of the following FIVE questions to think and write about. Compose one-two pages of notes on the questions of your choice. Be prepared to discuss these notes in your Socratic Seminar group. Your notes must address specific examples from the text. **BRING YOUR TEXT TO CLASS.** Please remember to cite page numbers when using textual evidence.

1. Possibly one of the most extraordinary things about *The Glass Castle* is that, despite everything, Walls refuses to condemn her parents. Were you able to be equally nonjudgmental? Defend your reasoning.
2. What do parents owe to their children, and what do children owe to their parents?
3. The first story Walls tells of her childhood is that of her burning herself severely at age three and her father dramatically taking her to the hospital. He says to her, "You're safe now" (14). Why do you think she opens with that story, and how does it set the stage for the rest of the memoir?
4. What is the glass castle, and what does it signify to Jeannette and her father?
5. This memoir is divided into two distinct parts: one half set in the desert and the other half set in West Virginia. What effect did such a big move have on the family and on your reading of the story? How would you describe the book's shift in tone?

Grading Criteria (50 points):

Notes: 25 points

Participation: 25 points

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOTES VIA GOOGLE DOCS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.

(Share with lbessette@arlington.k12.ma.us.)

Be ready for the Socratic Seminar (notes, question, quotes on your topics) on **Friday, September 5th**. Remember: to receive credit for the seminar you must participate. Your grade will be based on how much you participate, the quality of your comments, and your preparatory notes.

Lastly, make sure to follow the rules of an appropriate discussion: don't interrupt, disagree respectfully, and allow other students to speak.