

**English 11 AP Language  
2019 Summer Reading and Writing Assignment**

All students will read *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls –ISBN 978-0-7432-4754-2

**Overview:**

*The Glass Castle* is a memoir that will allow AP students to read a personal account of the author's life and experience first-hand recollections of her life and the lives of her family through various situations.

**Objectives:**

Students will discover the power of memoir writing, and use this story as a means of comparing and contrasting their personal experiences, or those of someone they know, with those of the author.

Students will learn how others measure self worth and commitment to family through reading and classroom discussions during the first days of class.

**Assignment:**

Read and annotate the novel. (**Annotation instructions are in the summer reading folder.**) The book will be broken down into sections as follows:

**Reading Section 1: pp. 3-75 Reading Section 2: pp. 76-115 Reading Section 3: pp. 116-158 Reading Section 4: pp. 159-192 Reading Section 5: pp. 193-230 Reading Section 6: pp. 231-288**

1. After reading each section listed above, find two quotes concerning the trial and/or triumphs of the author and her family. Cite each quote with author's name and the page number (ex. Walls 72). Analyze each of the quotes in each section, and explain its significance. An example of this type of quote analysis follows:

*“Dad was so sure a posse of federal investigators was on our trail that he smoked his unfiltered cigarettes from the wrong end. That way, he explained, he burned up the brand name, and if the people who were tracking us look in the ashtray they'd find unidentifiable butts instead of Pall Malls that could be traced to him” (Walls 19).*

Walls characterizes her father as being paranoid about being followed by government officials, and he believes he can outwit his pursuers by paying attention to small details of his activities.

Write each of these analyses on a separate note card. Bring the cards and the book with you on the first day of class, and be prepared to discuss your responses.

2. Write a short 300-400 word essay describing why the author will not condemn her parents. Include information explaining why you would or would not be able to be nonjudgmental in a similar circumstance. ***Your essay should be in MLA format.***

**Questions? Email me at: [gsykes@stlukesmobile.com](mailto:gsykes@stlukesmobile.com)**