

The book chosen for Academic English 11 is the memoir *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. There are scenes within the novel that the reader may find somewhat graphic, however, when one considers the novel, these scenes are minor and do not represent the novel's core themes. Both novels were chosen to communicate to students the importance of human dignity. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Beliefs "[t]he Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred, and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching" (*USCCB.org*). This memoir forces the reader to deepen their understanding of dignity and its role within our society.

Your summer reading has two parts for the reading assignment.

Part One

Find an image that you feel represents a theme in *The Glass Castle*. This image could be in the form of a photograph or painting. No images from the film or book may be used. Additionally, you may not use any image of Jeannette or her family. Copy and paste that image into a Word document, then type one paragraph (7 sentences or more) explaining how the image relates to a theme found in the novel. You may reference specific scenes in the text. If you use a direct quote, be sure to cite it appropriately by using MLA format.

Below is an example from the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare:



The inevitability of fate is a theme that is weaved throughout the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. Because of the play's popularity even centuries after its publication, most viewers know of Romeo and Juliet's untimely deaths before the play even begins. However, those who are not aware of the protagonists' end are clued-in as the Chorus warns listeners that Romeo and Juliet are "star-crossed lovers" and that their love is "death-marked" (Prologue lines 6

and 9). The idea of a predestined fate that one cannot escape, a fate that is written in the stars, was a commonly held belief in Shakespeare's day—it was believed that the position of the stars one was born under determined one's fate. As such, I have chosen a photograph found on Google Images to represent the inevitability of the fate that hangs in the stars. From Romeo and Juliet's chance meeting, Romeo's banishment from Verona mere hours after marrying Juliet, Balthasar's misunderstanding of Juliet's "death," and Friar's failed attempt to reunite Romeo and Juliet, the protagonists' cannot avoid this series of unfortunate events. Like the audiences of the past, viewers today watch on as the two lovers fruitlessly attempt to change their stars and escape their fate of untimely deaths, knowing that the will of the stars can never be undone.

Part Two

Soundtracks have a way of capturing audiences in a unique way. The music director of a film selects music which helps the spectator experience emotions with the characters and become engrossed in the story more authentically. Your assignment is to create a soundtrack for *The Glass Castle* and provide a three-sentence explanation outlining how each of the seven song fits the criteria. Your responses for Part Two should also be typed in the same document as Part One.

Your song choices must meet the following criteria:

1. A song which portrays each main character's overall personality
 - a. Jeannette Walls
 - b. Rex Walls
 - c. Rose Mary Walls
 - d. Lori Walls
 - e. Brian Walls
2. A song which describes the setting of the story (keep in mind the changing locations throughout the book)
3. A song to depict the primary conflict of the novel

It is expected that the summer reading assignment and reading are completed before the first day of class. They must be typed and printed out for me before the start of class. Save a digital copy! We will be turning your papers in on Canvas to check for plagiarism. All assignments will be collected on the first day of class.

If you have any questions, please contact your teacher. Do not fail to complete the assignment because you are unsure of how to do so. This is a grade.

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| Song | Artist | Explanation |
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