

# Summer Reading Assignments for Honors English 11

Your summer reading assignment is comprised of **two** titles:

## *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls

**One (1) selection from the American Classics reading list**

Good readers interact with a text in order to increase comprehension and to awaken critical insight. To that end, we **strongly recommend** that each student **purchase his or her own copies** of the required texts. While reading, you will want to annotate (underline, highlight, write notes) significant literary elements within the texts. It is not necessary to purchase new books. You can locate used editions through many online booksellers.

***Regardless of the semester in which you are scheduled for Honors English 11, all assignments are due on the first day of school in August. Submit all completed work to your English teacher on the first day of school.***

### Reviews of *The Glass Castle*

"Jeanette Walls has carved a story with precision and grace out of one of the most chaotic, heartbreaking childhoods ever to be set down on the page. This deeply affecting memoir is a triumph in every possible way, and it does what all good books should: it affirms our faith in the human spirit." --Dani Shapiro, author of *Family History*

"*The Glass Castle* is the saga of the restless, indomitable Walls family, led by a grand eccentric and his tempestuous artist wife. Jeanette Walls has survived poverty, fires, and near starvation to triumph. She has written this amazing tale with honesty and love." --Patricia Bosworth, author

"*The Glass Castle* falls short of being art, but it's a very good memoir. At one point, describing her early literary tastes, Walls mentions that "my favorite books all involved people dealing with hardships." And she has succeeded in doing what most writers set out to do -- to write the kind of book they themselves most want to read." --*The New York Times*

Please type the following header (left side) on your assignment for *The Glass Castle*:

Your name  
Teacher name  
Honors English 11  
Date

## Assignment for *The Glass Castle*

As you read *The Glass Castle*, you will formulate an analytical response by completing a double-entry journal. You will record and comment on **10 passages** from *The Glass Castle*

Each entry should be typed in the appropriate format and should be approximately ¼ page in length.

Make sure to include the **page number** after the quoted text.

Please use the following format for your entries:

<p><b>Text:</b> “Record the text from your novel in this space. Do not use ellipsis before, after or during a quote. If the passage is important enough to comment on, then quote it all. Don’t forget to include the page number after the quote” (41).</p>	
Analysis	Reader’s Connections
<p>In this space you are to analyze the literary elements and/or techniques both author uses to get their messages across: (naturally you wouldn’t answer all of them for every entry – these are just suggestions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the personality of a specific <b>character</b> established within a specific passage? Consider the use of dialogue, and/or actions.</li> <li>• <b>Setting</b> is often a pivotal factor in the development of theme.</li> <li>• Consider a notable <b>literary technique</b> in the text. Is there <b>irony, satire, symbolism, allusions</b>, etc...? What is the impact of the technique on the overall work?</li> <li>• Are there any <b>predominant images</b> that keep recurring throughout the work?</li> <li>• Explain the effect of any unusual <b>organizational or rhetorical strategies</b> in the work – multiple narrators; pacing elements (flashbacks, time lapses, etc.); unusual punctuation or use of italics; chapter divisions;</li> <li>• What are the <i>key characteristics</i> of the speaker or narrator?</li> </ul>	<p>In this space write your personal response. Tell what impact this passage had on you as a reader.</p> <p>Use the pronoun “I” if you want. Here you should make connections to your life, to other works of literature that you have read, to movies, songs, etc...</p> <p>Focus on making a personal connection to the passage.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Note: You do not need a personal connection for each of the 10 analysis responses. Make a connection when it feels logical and natural.</p> </div>

(You will lose points if all your entries are from the beginning of the book.)

### Suggested Literary Elements:

**Character** - consider the use of dialogue and/or actions of characters.

**Setting** - consider how setting reflects character, conflict, or theme.

**Symbolism** - consider items that have a special significance.

**Imagery** - consider examples of predominant images that occur in the work.

**Conflict** - consider details that create internal or external conflict for characters.

**Ideas** - consider details that connect to topics such as betrayal, courage, friendship.

**Note: During the first week of class, you will be given a timed writing assessment based on your understanding and analysis of *The Glass Castle*.**

## Assignment #2

Choose a title from the American Classics list. Read the book and be ready to make connections with other pieces of literature that we will read during the semester.

### *American Classics List – Honors English 11*

***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.** Climb aboard the raft with Huck and Jim and drift away from the "sivilized" life and into a world of adventure, excitement, danger, and self-discovery.

***A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway.** World War I story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his love for a beautiful English nurse.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.** Life wasn't easy for Celie, but she knew how to survive. Revealing truths about men and women, blacks and whites, God and love.

***The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane.** The story is about Henry Fleming, a private in the union army during the civil war, who in a moment of weakness runs from the battlefield. The novel is skillfully written and is a very realistic depiction of war.

***East of Eden* by John Steinbeck.** This epic tale of the Trask family packed with love, lust, secrets, betrayal, miscommunication and California history reads like a juicy soap opera..)

***The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros:** The racial and economic struggles of a Chicano-Puerto Rican ghetto in Chicago inspire young Esperanza Cordero to someday escape and acquire the resources needed to come back for the family and friends she loves.

***Walden and Other Writings* by Henry David Thoreau.** The selections in this volume represent Thoreau at his best. Included in their entirety are Walden, his indisputable masterpiece, and his two great arguments for nonconformity, Civil Disobedience and Life Without Principle.

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***Important Note:*** It is expected that all work submitted is the sole work of the student who is submitting the assignment. No outside resources (other than the novel) are needed in order to complete the assignment. Students are NOT permitted to work on the assignments together.

Have a great summer!

Questions? Email Mr. Ziegler at [gziegler@basdschools.org](mailto:gziegler@basdschools.org)