



*Inspire. Learn. Achieve.*

## **Van Gundy/English 11/12 Summer Reading Assignment 2021**

**Part 1 - Read:** Read and annotate *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls. See the attached document for more information on how to annotate the novel. Do not wait until the last minute to begin - annotation takes time. The annotated novel is due on the first day of school and you can expect a reading quiz and related assignments during the first week.

**Part 2 - Write:** Select an admissions essay prompt from a college to which you plan to apply. Then, respond carefully to the prompt, staying within the length requirements. The essay is due on the first day of school.

**Part 3 - Read Again:** Select any full-length, grade-level novel to read for your enjoyment. Please do some research and choose a text you will be excited to read. Be prepared to discuss your chosen novel and complete a series of small assignments during the first week of school in order to reflect upon your reading and to demonstrate your comprehension.

Walls, Jeanette: *The Glass Castle*

Memoir

An ALA Alex Award Winning Book

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

For two decades, Jeannette Walls hid her roots. Now she tells her own story.

## Annotation Requirements

*Note: For annotations, it is always preferable to purchase your own copy of the novel so that you can write directly on the text. If you prefer to use a copy from the library, simply use sticky notes to write your thoughts, questions, ideas, and observations.*

**Inside front cover:** Keep a character list with a small space for character summary and page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

**Inside back cover:** Make note of your thoughts about themes, allusions, imager, motifs, key scenes, etc. List page numbers/references as you read.

**Chapter summaries:** Make sure to summarize the chapters either at the beginning of each chapter or the end. This should be a 3-4 sentence summary of the plot in that chapter.

**Active reading:** As you read, underline or highlight (or flag with a sticky note) anything that strikes you as memorable or significant. When you mark something in the text, you should also write something in the margin to remind yourself why you marked it in the first place. You may ask: what makes a moment significant? That's up to you as a reader/interpreter/thinker. *If you are stuck, consider moments that: reveal a truth about a character, the theme of the novel, or life in general; indicate a major change in the character, tone, plot, etc.; demonstrate the writer's craft (consider major literary devices); strike a chord in you or grab your attention, for whatever reason.*

**Vocabulary:** circle 4 words per chapter that are unfamiliar to you -OR- words that you do not often see or use. Look up words that are unfamiliar and define them in the margins.

**Questions:** Actively engage the text by writing at least 1-2 open-ended questions for each chapter of the book. Also, any question that pops up in your head as you read, write it in the margins.

**Final thoughts on annotation:** THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE READING. While the amount of annotation may vary widely from page to page, any thoughtful notes you add to a text will help you to read more critically—so, any thoughtful attempt to annotate your book will help you to understand the reading.