

Overview: This summer you will have the opportunity to read and contemplate both *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls and a choice novel. Both novels will serve as our jumping off place for the year and invite you to consider the themes that emerge in Coming of Ages texts. Please read closely (annotations are suggested, but not required) and complete the following assignments. You may email me over the summer with any questions or concerns.

Assignment 1: For this project, you will be designing your own “glass castle” or dream home. In each part of the project, you will provide detailed information about your ideal place to live. Money and resources are not limitations, so *use your imagination* and be descriptive so that we can see the home from your point-of-view.

Part1: Exterior Visual

Draw, paint, or collage the outside of your dream home. You may NOT print a picture from the Internet. This section will be graded on detail. Make sure your choices are intentional and meaningful and clear!! Artistic ability is not required, but neatness and detail count.

Additionally, incorporate three analogies somewhere on your visual. An analogy finds similarities between two things - You will be making a connection between your dream house and your personality. For example: My home has rows and rows of sunflowers because I present myself as cheery and welcoming.

Part 2: Interior Visual

Draw, paint, or collage an image of one room in your dream home OR draw a blueprint for one floor of your dream home. You must provide detailed labels for each room and the important features of those rooms. Whichever option you choose, be sure that the reasons for your choices are clear. This work must be neat and thoughtful, so you may want to do practice sketches before diving into your final draft.

Again, incorporate three analogies somewhere on your visual.

Part 3: Symbolic Response: Provide brief responses to the following questions:

What is “your glass castle”? In 1 ½ -2 pages (double spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman), discuss why you made the choices you made in the exterior and interior of your dream home. What do these choices show us about you and your dreams? Why are these things important to you?

Assignment 2: Dialectical Journals:

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts you read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts, your ideas about the themes, and other literary observations.

Procedure:

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)
- If you choose, you can label your responses using the following codes:
 - **(Q)** Question – ask about something in the passage that is unclear (limit to only two) - *be sure to respond to/reflect upon your question if/when you find an answer.*
 - **(C)** Connect – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
 - **(CL)** Clarify – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
 - **(R)** Reflect – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
 - **(E)** Evaluate - make a judgment about the character(s), their actions, or what the author is trying to say
- Provide at least 8 entries. **Each entry must be at least 4 sentences long.**
- **Your responses should be typed.**

Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien

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| <p>Passage:</p> <p>“-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”.</p> | <p>Pg 2</p> | <p>Response:</p> <p>(R) O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.</p> |
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Choosing Passages from the Text:

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

Responding To the Text:

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be *specific and detailed*. You can write as much as you want for each entry. Use loose leaf paper for your journals. Students also have the option of typing their responses.

Basic Responses

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Write about what it makes you think or feel

Higher Level Responses

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc...)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole

Assignment 3: Read ONE of the following choice novels and complete the following work

The Secret Life of Bee-Sue Monk Kidd

That Hate U Give- Angie Thomas

Turtles All the Way Down- John Green

The Book Thief- Markus Zusak

| Questions | Passages & Answers (<i>You may only use each passage once. Passages should expand whole the novel, not just beginning chapters</i>) | Page # |
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| <p>Find and copy down three passages that show what it means for a character to “come of age.” In other words, find places in the text where the character is growing, learning, struggling, and becoming the person he or she is meant to be.</p> | | |

Find and copy down three passages that show events common to everyone's coming of age story. In other words, what do we all experience in the process of growing up and coming into our own?

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| Questions | Passages & Answers | Page # |
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| Find and copy down three passages that describe or discuss the role overcoming adversity plays in coming of age? | | |
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Vocabulary: Find and define 15 unknown words from your book. Include the sentence from the book in which you found the word.

| Word | Definition & Sentence from the Book | Page # |
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