

Anonymous

School: El Dorado High School

Grade: Freshmen

Book Title: The Glass Castle

Book Author: Jeannette Walls

Rating (out of 5): 4.5

In the memoir, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, readers learn of the author's childhood and experiences as someone who was brought up by a dysfunctional family. As well as being on the New York Times Bestseller List for over a year, Entertainment Weekly reports that, "*The Glass Castle* is nothing short of spectacular." Growing up in a time period when children with difficult family situations were shunned rather than supported and cared for, Walls talks of her father. Brilliant and charismatic when sober but quick to be violent and lashing out drunk, Walls shows the impact, both positive and negative, that her volatile father had on shaping her as a person. On the other hand, her mother felt no obligation to her family and saw them as a burden rather than a home. As a result, Jeannette and her three siblings had to take care of each other, often bringing home more money than their parents. Her story of how her "peculiar but loyal family" got to grow and change is truly mesmerizing.

Reading this compelling memoir not knowing every event in it was completely true, learning that a child, younger than me, had to go through these struggles and believing that it was normal was appalling to me. However, that just made it so much more intriguing. As the story went on, I began to feel affection for all the Walls children. Each one is so unique and by the end of the book, their maturity and knowledge of the world exceeds their parents'. Because of the

unpredictability of both life and the unstable characters in the memoir, I constantly keep reading the next page to see what happened next.

I would highly recommend this book to everyone looking for an honest perspective of a child as they live and grow with a dysfunctional family. It is so compelling because of the conflicts between self-success and loyalty. There is no other book like *The Glass Castle*. It will change everyone's view and insight of dysfunctional families if they read this memoir written by someone who didn't know anything else other than a family where both parents care more for themselves than their children. *The Glass Castle* will constantly keep you hooked and continue to shock you as you learn what four small children had to do simply to survive at home.