Summerville Union High School

17555 Tuolumne Road, Tuolumne, CA 95379

**Ms. Diehl**

“There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of

human intelligence, imagination, and wonder.”

*-Ronald Reagan*

**Socratic Seminar Questions**

**Assignment:** Today we are going to engage in a discussion highlighting the certain issues and scenes that were presented in Reading Assignment 2 and 3. Not only are we going to use details from the book, but we are going to start looking at how Walls tells her story and how she utilizes certain literary devices to develop her tone of the memoir. You will have the first 15 minutes of the class period in order to develop five questions you will bring with you to the Socratic Seminar. Your questions can be a combination of fact recall/fact from the reading (**worth 1 point**), a question asking about an **element of literature**: tone, mood, character, setting, speaker (**worth 2 points**), and lastly, you are required to develop two thought-provoking questions in which you elicit a response that will discuss the theme of the memoir thus far, and further, how can we apply the theme to the human condition and our lives? (**worth 3 points**).

For every response, **you will receive 2 points**. The responses must be a well-thought out response in which you will discuss with the class for at least **thirty seconds** – “yes”or “no” answers will not be counted.

Requirements:

* Note taking during the seminar
* Refrain from raising your hands; instead, we are going to practice a mature conversation in which we wait for others to respond before you contribute, and always validate your peers’ responses.
* Prepare the classroom in a circle fashion to open up the discussion

Below you will find example questions:

**Recall Question: (1 point)**

1. **In the beginning of the second reading assignment, Walls explains she and her family were “always doing the skedaddle” and it was “usually in the middle of the night” (19). Rex suggests the FBI was after them. What was the actual cause of the family having to move?**

**Element of Literature:**

1. **Looking specifically at her diction (word choice) when she describes the small and desolate “dusty little mining towns in Nevada, Arizona, and California” how does she describe those towns? Further, look at the words she uses to describe those words? How does her diction help shape her tone (her attitude) about those places?**
2. **On page 36, Rex and Jeannette go “demon hunting” around their house. Stylistically, Jeannette Walls decided to personify the Demon. What is the significance of this? Why would an author personify a non-living item?**

**Thought-provoking/Theme/Apply to our lives:**

1. **In reading assignment 3, Rex seems to get into many arguments with Rosemary, and not always over the littlest of things. Why is Walls so quick to tell her audience about the hardships of her parents? What do these arguments allow us (the audience) to see in their family structure? Further, what does this offer about the hardships she endures? Do these types of instances happen often and just behind closed-doors? Why do we as a society accept this type of behavior? Or do we?**