Summerville Union High School

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Ms. Diehl

“*Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation*

*determines what you do.*

*Attitude determines how well you do it.*”

*-Lou Holtz*

Assignment: In lieu of participating in our Socratic seminar on *The Glass Castle*, you will be responding to **one of the questions below**, in a 750-word essay, responding to the text directly and including at **least two quotes** from the memoir. The seminar was worth 50 points, as this will be as well.

Questions:

1. How is Jeanette different from the other siblings? How might the book be different if it was told from the perspectives of Lori, Brian, or Maureen?
2. Throughout the book it is truly questionable on whether or not Rex and Rosemary truly care about their children. Do you think they do? Does one maybe care more than the other?
3. Jeannette’s mother had just received her paycheck, but Rex thinks that he's obligated to be in charge of the money because he's “the head of the household”. How does this detail help shape the character of Rex Walls?
4. Rex and Rosemary have a different parenting style than most. What are some positives and negatives of what they have taught their children? In modern day society, do you believe their parenting style is socially acceptable? Explain why or why not.
5. Is the fact that Walls’ parents’ have a nature-over-nurture parenting style, and often can take that too far and in turn putting their children’s lives in danger, considered bad parenting? Or just a rough upbringing that they could overall learn more from and be more prepared from experience?
6. Do you think that at times, Walls’ tone towards various events and time periods in her childhood is often traumatized? Or is that just how it seems to someone who did not experience events that like so it seems horrific to the average person?
7. Why do you think, when in response to Billy’s actions towards her, Jeannette was in so much denial? And why did she, being so educated by books and dictionaries, not know or understand the word “rape,” or the concept of it?
8. Is the way Walls references her childhood implying she has come to terms with it? Or that perhaps it is still haunting her?
9. What do you think Walls’ obsession with fire after being burned tells the audience about her as a person? Then? Now? How she has developed into an adult a successful career? How about when she was ashamed of her mom? Why do you think that is?
10. The Walls family lived “off the grid” and did not pay taxes; what kind of reactions would a lifestyle similar to this receive in today's society?