

Name:

Date:

The Glass Castle:
Focused Close-reads
pages 1-25

Part 1:

Annotate the passages below, focusing on one or more of the following topics:

- a) Priorities and values that are communicated to the children
- b) Rex's perspective of himself
- c) Characteristics of heroes

1) "Don't be so sentimental," Mom said. She told me we could always get another cat, and now Quixote was going to be a wild cat, which was much more fun than being a house cat. Brian, afraid that Dad might toss Juju out the window as well, held the dog tight. (Walls 18)

2) "And then he'd tell us about how, when he was in the air force and his plane's engine conked out, he made an emergency landing in a cattle pasture and saved himself and his crew. Or about the time he wrestled a pack of wild dogs that had surrounded a lame mustang. Then there was the time he fixed a broken sluice gate on the Hoover Dam and saved the lives of thousands of people who would have drowned if the dam had burst. There was also the time he went AWOL in the air force to get some beer, and while he was at the bar, he caught a lunatic who was planning to blow up the air base, which went to show that occasionally, it paid to break the rules." (Walls 24)

3) “When Dad wasn’t telling us about all the amazing things he had already done, he was telling us about the wondrous things he was going to do. Like build the Glass Castle. All of Dad’s engineering skills and mathematical genius were coming together in one special project: a great big house he was going to build for us in the desert. It would have a glass ceiling and thick glass walls and even a glass staircase. The Glass Castle would have solar cells on the top that would catch the sun’s rays and convert them into electricity for heating and cooling and running all the appliances. It would even have its own water-purification system. Dad had worked out the architecture and the floor plans and most of the mathematical calculations. He carried around the blueprints for the Glass Castle wherever we went, and sometimes he’d pull them out and let us work on the design for our rooms.

All we had to do was find gold, Dad said, and we were on the verge of that. Once he finished the Prospector and we struck it rich, he’d start work on our Glass Castle.” (Walls 25)

Part 2:

Open-Ended Response

- ☐ Choose ONE of the following open-ended questions to explore with an original, meaningful interpretation. Your response should be approximately 8 complete sentences.
- ☐ Your response must utilize textual evidence. Select the strongest support for your interpretation from the excerpts above.
 - A) Identify and describe two values or priorities that are communicated to the children through a parent’s words or actions.
 - B) Describe two character traits that Rex might use to describe himself, and explain your judgement on how well he embodies these traits.
 - C) Connect two examples of the ways Rex’s behavior and self-image embody the characteristics of heroes or antiheroes.