Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Welch – Part 2

English 11R The Glass Castle



**One day while Brain and I were scrounging around on the edge of our property… (pp. 186-188).**

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *Welfare, she said, would cause irreparable psychological damage to us kids.* (p. 188)

1. What does Mary do with the diamond? What does this reveal about her? What should she have done?
2. What does Jeannette suggest that her mother should do? Why doesn’t Mary do it?
3. What is ironic about Mary’s assertion that welfare will psychologically damage her children?

**Mom never told Dad that I’d urged her to leave him. (pp. 189-192).**

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *I’d never felt cleaner*. (p. 192)

1. What is ironic about Rex’s statement about real estate?
2. How does the behavior in the women’s locker room differ from Jeannette’s usual experience?
3. Why is Jeannette more comfortable with Dinita than she is with white children?

**That afternoon I was alone in the house.** (pp. 193-195).

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *Maybe coming back to Welch had killed the idea Dad used to have of himself as a man going places. (p. 194)*

1. Why would the Walls children be raised to be suspicious of government officers?
2. Why does Jeannette hate the man from child welfare, even though her own parents don’t take proper care of her?
3. Why does Mary Walls decide to get a job?

**Qualified teachers were so scarce in McDowell County… (pp. 196-198).**

***REACT/RESPOND:***But month after month, the money would disappear before the next paycheck arrived, and once more I’d find myself rooting in the garbage at school for food. (p. 197).

1. How do children react to Mary’s weekly refusal to go to work?
2. What effect does Mary’s job have on their standard of living? Why don’t things improve more than they do?

**I'd started seventh grade that fall… (pp. 199-202)**

***REACT/RESPOND:***I had what Mom called distinctive looks. (p. 200).

1. How does Dinita’s behavior change? What do you think is the reason behind the change?
2. What aspect of her appearance most preoccupies Jeannette? What does she do about it? What do her

attempts reveal about her character?

1. How does Rex react to Jeannette’s attempts to create her own braces? What do you think of his

reaction?

**That year I started working for the school newspaper. (pp. 203-205)**

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *I decided I wanted to be one of the people who knew what was really going on.* (p. 205).

1. Why does Jeannette start working for the school newspaper?
2. How does newspaper writing differ from the type of writing (her mother’s) that Jeannette was used to?
3. What does Jeannette learn about her father’s past experiences?
4. What attracts Jeannette to journalism?
5. What does Jeannette decide?
6. Did you ever have a moment in your life where you suddenly knew what you wanted to be?

**At times I felt like I was failing Maureen, like I wasn’t keeping my promise that I’d protect her…(pp.**

**206-213).**

***REACT/RESPOND:***...I swore to myself that it [my life] would never be like Mom’s, that I would not be crying my eyes out in an unheated shack in some godforsaken holler. (p. 208).

1. Why does Jeannette feel that she is not protecting her little sister, Maureen?
2. Why is Maureen attracted to Pentecostalism?
3. Why does Maureen idealize California?
4. Looking at Mary Walls’ mood swings, what do you think a psychologist might label her condition?
5. How does Jeannette react to her mother’s breakdown (p. 208)?
6. What does Jeannette resolve in her reaction to the breakdown?
7. Do you agree with Jeannette that all her father needed was a strong woman?
8. Why can’t Jeannette be honest with her father regarding his behavior?
9. What happens at the bar? Who is being exploited and/or manipulated?
10. Why isn’t Rex more protective of his daughter?
11. Do you agree with Rex’s assertion that Jeannette can take care of herself? How does this point of view

reflect earlier incidents in Jeannette’s relationship with her father?

**The next evening Dad disappeared. (pp. 214-217).**

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *Being a strong woman was harder than I had thought.* (p. 214).

1. Why doesn’t Rex just take Mary’s check outright? Why must he be devious?
2. What kind of harassment does Jeannette put up with at her job in the jewelry store? Would you have

acted differently if you were in her shoes?

1. Why does Jeannette want a watch?
2. Why does Jeannette steal the watch and how does she rationalize her actions? Where do you think this

attitude comes from? Why does she eventually return the watch?

**In late August, I was washing clothes in the tin pan in the living room… (pp. 218-221).**

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *I had been counting on Mom and Dad to get us out, but now I knew I had to do it on my own.* (p. 221).

1. What conclusion does Mary come to from her summer spent reading self-help books? Has she learned

anything about herself?

1. Why does Mary react with anger when Jeannette tells her she doesn’t behave like a mother?
2. What is Jeannette and Rex’s standoff really about?
3. What does Jeannette resolve to do?
4. Why do the parents side against Jeannette?

**That fall, two guys showed up in Welch who were different from anyone I’d ever met. (pp. 222-225).**

***REACT/RESPOND:*** *But Lori began to see New York as a sort of Emerald City—this glowing, bustling place at the end of a long road where she could become the person she was meant to be.* (p. 223).

1. Describe Lori at this point in her life.
2. Why do the New York City visitors appeal to her?
3. What plan do Lori and Jeannette hatch as a result of these visitors?
4. Why do they name their piggy bank “Oz”?
5. Why does Rex choose to buy a car rather than pay for an indoor toilet? What do you think of his decision

and what does it suggest about him?

**As spring approached and the day of Lori’s graduation drew closer… (pp. 226-230).**

***REACT/RESPOND:***“The family is falling apart,” he said.

“It sure is,” I told him. (p. 230)

1. In what ways does poverty interfere with Lori’s attempts to get a scholarship?
2. What do you think is the real reason behind Rex’s destruction of Lori’s Shakespeare sculpture?
3. What happens to “Oz”? Why does Rex deny the obvious?
4. How does Lori get out of Welch after the money is stolen?
5. Why doesn’t Rex’s charm work on Jeannette anymore?
6. How does Jeannette make sure that her money won’t be stolen in the future?
7. In your opinion, who is stronger, Lori or Jeannette? What details can you cite to support your opinion?

**That fall, when I was going into the tenth grade… (pp. 231-234)**

***REACT/RESPOND:***“Great,” he said. “But let’s juice it up a little.” (p. 234).

1. Based on the book’s description of Chuck Yeager, why do you think he would be one of Rex’s heroes?
2. Why does Rex provide Jeannette with her interview questions?

**Lori had been writing to us regularly from New York. (pp. 235-238).**

***REACT/RESPOND:***“Go ahead and build the Glass Castle, but don’t do it for me.” (p. 238).

1. What is Jeannette’s professional goal?
2. What advice does Jeannette get from the college guidance counselor regarding college? What is her

reaction to this advice?

1. Why is Mary sad when Jeannette says that she is planning on moving to New York City?
2. How does her father react to her decision? Why does he resurrect his dream at that point in time?

**It had been a mild winter, and summer came early to the mountains. (pp. 239-241).**

***REACT/RESPOND****: I wanted to look ahead to where I was going, not back at what I was leaving, but then I turned around anyway. (*p. 241)

1. What reasons does Mary give for not seeing Jeannette off at the bus station? Do you believe these

excuses are the real reasons? Why or why not?

1. Why does Rex give Jeannette his jackknife? Why is this ironic?