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The glass castle quotes with page numbers

Free Study Guide to the Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls Previous Page | Table of contents | Next PageDownloadable / Printable Version The following values are important at various points in the story (Scribner, New York, 2005): 1. I was sitting in a taxi wondering if I'd overdressed for the evening when I looked out the window and saw Mom rooting through a dumpster. (page 3; this is the impressive opening line that immediately differentiates between the author's world and that of her parents.) 2. In my mind, Dad was perfect, although he had what Mom called a bit of a drinking situation. (p. Here Jeannette begins describing the relationship with her father.) 3. She tells them she wouldn't take no for an answer, and she wanted to get away from her mother. He says I had no idea your father would be even worse. This shows how Rose Mary got married to escape the house, but ended up in worse shape than she already had. 4. This is the thing to remember about all monsters: they love to scare people, but the moment I look at them down, they turn the queue and run. (p. 37; this is one of the lessons that Dad taught Jeannette that he always remembered and took to heart.) 5. Years from now, when all the garbage they took is broken and long forgotten, you will still have your stars. (p. 41; this is how Dad justifies not having Christmas presents for kids.) 6. Dad points to the top of the fire, where the flames dissolve in an invisible glowing heat that makes the desert waver like a mirage. He calls the zone known in physics as the boundary between turmoil and order. Dad says, It's a place where no rules apply, or at least they haven't figured out em yet. All of you got a little too close to it today. (p. 61; this idea of the boundary between turmoil and order parallels the lives of children of the Walls.) 7. Mom gave me a startled look. I had broken one of our uns told rules: We were always supposed to pretend our lives were a long and incredibly fun adventure. (p. 69; this comment shows how Jeannette's parents never want their children to express the truth about their lives.) 8. In the dark night, there is nothing to see, but the road ahead is illuminated by the headlights of the car. (p. 90; Jeannette makes this observation as they leave Battle Mountain and head for Phoenix.) 9. There is no need to grieve. We all have to leave someday, and Grandma had a life that was bigger and fuller than most. And now we have a place to live. (p. That's Mom's observation when she tells Jeanette that Grandma Smith is dead.) 10. Who What are they thinking? None of them ever had their hand licked by a cheetah. (p. This is Jeannette's observation when people complain about the family jumping the barrier and touching the cheetah.) 11. 11. Dad's going crazy, we all have our own ways to close and close, and that's what we did that night. (p. Jeannette makes this comment in response to Dad burning down the Christmas tree.) 12. You know you're down and out when the Okies laugh at you. (p. 129; Mom notices this when poor Oklahomans look at them sleeping in their car.) 13. I must believe that they will return... If I don't believe it, they might not come back. They could leave us forever. (p. Jeannette makes this comment after mom and dad decide to drive back to Phoenix and won't let the kids go together.) 14. I got into a race with the mountain and the mountain won. (p. 169; Dad comes home drunk and badly beaten and that's how he explains where he was and what he's done.) 15. That's true, but it could also improve my self-esteem. And at times like these, self-esteem is even more vital than food. (p. 186; that's Mom's comment when she refuses to sell the diamond ring to buy food.) 16. Jeannette believes that a newspaper journalist, instead of hiding in isolation, is in contact with the rest of the world. What the reporter writes affects what people think and talk about the next day; He decides he wants to be one of the people who knows what's really going on. (p. 204; this is a summary of what Jeannette wants to do with her life.) 17. If you want to be treated like a mother, you need to act like one. (p. 219; Jeannette tells her mother this when her mother won't go to work.) 18. Jeannette braces herself, waiting to hear a scream, but there is only silence and then a small, broken whining. (pg. 228; that's after Jeanette tells Lori that Dad stole all their money.) 19. I'm not upset because I'm going to miss you. I'm upset because you can go to New York, and I'm stuck here. It's not fair. (p. 237; this shows mom's supreme ego.) 20. . . . As soon as I finish my classes, I'm going to get on the next bus from here. If the bus stops working, I'll hitchhike. I'll walk if I have to. Go ahead and build the glass castle, but don't do it for me. (p. 238; this is how Jeannette finally convinces her dad she's leaving for New York.) 21. Homeless people sometimes get the lives they want. (p. 256; Jeannette makes this observation about her political science professor from her own experiences.) 22. All these years in Welch without food, without coal, without plumbing, and Mom had sat on land worth a million dollars. (p. 273; Jeannette shows how shocked she is discovered he had this kind of money from the beginning.) 23. After Maureen's referral, the whole family becomes enraged at each other, giving way to all years of pain and anger, unloading him or damaging accumulated grievances and blaming others to allow the most fragile of us to break into pieces. (p. 276; this happens after Maureen's trial.) Previous page | Table of contents | Next PageDownloadable/Printable Version The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls Free BookNotes Summary Later that night, Dad stopped the car out in the middle of the desert, and we slept under the stars. We didn't have pillows, but Dad said it was part of his plan. He taught us to have a good attitude. The Indians didn't use pillows either, he explained, and see how straight they stood. We had our scratchy blankets for the army surplus, so we spread them out and lay there, looking at the star field. I told Lori how lucky we were to sleep under the sky like Indians. We could live like this forever, I said. I think we will, he said. ASK OUR DIRECTOR TO FIND A BETTER OFFER OR IS GET HELP Page Number Things usually work in the end. What if they don't? That means you haven't come to the end yet. You must never hate anyone, even your worst enemies. Everybody's got something good in them. You have to find the redeeming quality and love the person for it. I once saw a tiny Joshua sapling grow not far from the old tree. I wanted to dig it up and replant it near our house. I told Mom I'd protect it from the wind and plant it every day so it could be nice and tall and straight. My mom smirked. You'd destroy what makes it special, he said. It's Joshua's fight that gives him his beauty. He said it was interesting. Use the word texture. He said smooth is boring, but texture was interesting, and the scar meant I was stronger than he had tried to hurt me. I lived in a world that could burst into fire at any moment. It was the kind of knowledge that kept you in a position to keep you in a position. I wanted to let people know that no one had a perfect life, that even the people who seemed to have it all had their secrets. You didn't need a college degree to be one of the people who knew what was really going on. If you were careful, you could pick things up yourself. She had her addictions and one of them was reading. No one expected you to get to much, he told me. Lori was the smart one, Maureen the beautiful one, and Brian the brave one. You've never had much to do except always work hard. Life is too short to care what others think. Besides, we should be accepted for who we are One thing about the whoring: He put a chicken on the table. We laughed about all the kids who believed in the legend of Santa Clause and got nothing but a bunch plastic toys. Years from now, when all the garbage they took is broken and long forgotten, Dad said, you'll still have your stars. Years from now, when all the garbage they have is broken and forgotten, it will still be Your stars. But I also hoped that [she] had chosen California because she thought it was her real home, the place where she really belonged, where it was always warm and you could dance in the rain, get grapes right off the vines, and sleep outside at night under the stars. Why would I spend the afternoon making a meal that will be gone in an hour, he asked, when at the same time, I can make a painting that will last forever? Mom always said people are very worried about their kids. Suffering when you're young is good for you, he said. We immunized your body and soul, and that's why he ignored us kids when we were crying. The fuss about crying children only encouraged them, he said. This is positive reinforcement for negative behavior. Look how you live. You're sold out. Next thing I know, you're going to be a Republican. She shook her head. Where are the values I raised you to be? Anyone who coined the phrase a man got to play the hand he was given was definitely a piss-poorer bluff. You can't cling to the side all your life, that one lesson every parent should teach a child is if you don't want to sink, you better figure out how to swim. Isn't that a sin? I asked Mom. God doesn't mind bending the rules a little if you have a good reason. It's kind of a justifiable homicide. That's justifiable theft. It's not that hard to put food on the table if that's what you decide to do. You're in a horse race, but you think like a sheep. Sheep don't win races. Life there was hard and made people difficult. She was developing what Mom called a sarcastic streak. No child is born a criminal. They only happened like this if no one loved them when they were kids. Undying children grow up to be serial killers or alcoholics.

Maybe I should've loosened him up a little bit. With his broken wing and his lifespan eating roadkill, he probably had a lot to be ungrateful about. Too much hard luck can create a permanent wickedness of spirit in any creature. You West Virginia girls are a tough race, she said. You're right, I told him. All seasons have something to offer unlike diamonds, the watches were practical. It was about people on the run, people with appointments to keep and schedules to meet. But positive thoughts would give way to negative thoughts, and negative thoughts seemed to swoop into her mind the way a large swarm of black crows takes over the landscape, sitting thick on trees and on fence rails and lawns, staring at you in ominous silence. That was the thing to remember about the monsters, Dad said: They love to scare people, but the moment I look at them down, they turn the queue and run. All you have to do, Mountain Goat, is show the old demon that you're not afraid. If you had weak eyes, they needed. Needed, to make it possible. The glasses were like crutches. They prevented people with weak eyes from seeing the world for themselves. Once you get to welfare, it changes you. Even if you leave welfare, you never escape the stigma of being a charity case. You're scarred for life. Don't make fun of me or my kids! Some babies are premature. Mine were all memorized. That's why they're so smart. Their brains had more time to develop. Every household needs a piece of furniture in really bad taste. The fuss about crying children only encourages them. This is positive reinforcement for negative behavior. If you want to be treated like a mother, I said, you have to act like a mother. Too much hard luck can create a permanent wickedness of spirit in any creature. Don't worry, God understands, Mom said. He knows your father is a cross we have to endure. People are very worried about their children. Suffering when you're young is good for you. Immunization your body and soul... My dad kept saying that he loved me, that he would never let me drown, but you can't cling to the side all your life, that a lesson every parent should teach a child is if you don't want to sink, you better figure out how to swim. I told Mom I might have made a terrible mistake, but Mom said sometimes you have to get sick more before you get better. Better.

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