Before we dive into a year full of reading and writing, let’s work on enjoying the reading process. For this reason, I am asking you to simply read and annotate one text this summer.

**The Text: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls.** A memoir about resilience and redemption, and a fascinating look into a loving but dysfunctional family.

*Please try to secure your own copy of this book. You are required to keep notes (preferably in the margins), as well as have a copy with you in class on the first day.

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### The Assignments:

1. **The Discussion:** We will have a graded discussion about the book during the first week of school. I will give you the specific questions prior; however, to help prepare for this discussion be sure to annotate while you read. If you are working with a borrowed copy, keep your notes on a separate document:

   - (Q) Question – ask about something in the passage/text that is unclear.
   - (C) Connect – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text.
   - (P) Predict – anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage.
   - (CL) Clarify – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction.
   - (R) Reflect – move beyond the plot. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
   - (E) Evaluate - make a judgment about the character(s), their actions, or what the author is trying to say.

2. **The Presentation:** During the first few weeks of school, you will present your position on the following essential question: *Is the American Dream more likely to inspire or destroy us?*

To help you prepare, think about and annotate for *elements of the American Dream as you come across them in the Glass Castle.*

**Elements of the American Dream to Consider:** Perseverance, devotion, hope, charisma, opportunity, intelligence, tenacity, personal achievement, passion, generosity, strength, forgiveness, independence, discipline, self-awareness, and integrity.

**Reminders:**
All work must be done independently; do not use any resources, other than the text itself, to help you. I want to know what YOU observed while reading the novel, not what someone else noted. **Any of these infractions will result in a zero.**

We will go over more specifics of these assessments when I see you in August. If you have any pertinent questions, please try and contact me before the end of the year. Enjoy your summer!