

Robert Morgan Educational Center

Summer Reading Assignment

Grade 11 Home of the Pirates – Setting a Course of Literacy

11th grade regular, honors, gifted – REQUIRED for ALL students – *The Glass Castle* – Jeanette Walls

YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ***The Help* – Kathryn Stockett**
- ***Kindred* – Octavia**

All assignments are due the first week of school, at your English teacher's discretion. These assignments could make up as much as 10% of your first nine weeks grade. Please do your best. All work must be typed, 12-pt font, double spaced

Required book (teacher's choice) – *The Glass Castle*

What you learned

- This novel, in many ways, speaks about dysfunction in our society. What societal dysfunction(s) does this book speak mostly about? Using 5 support statements from the novel to explain your choice.
- Read the following excerpt from The Cleveland Clinic:

Fostering a Positive Self-Image

What is self-image?

Self-image is the personal view, or mental picture, that we have of ourselves. Self-image is an internal dictionary that describes the characteristics of the self, including intelligent, beautiful, ugly, talented, selfish, and kind. These characteristics form a collective representation of our assets and liabilities as we see them.

How is self-image developed?

Self-image is a product of learning. Early childhood influences, such as parents and caregivers, significantly influence our self-image. They are mirrors reflecting back to us an image of ourselves. Our experiences with others such as teachers, friends, and family add to the image in the mirror. Relationships reinforce what we think and feel about ourselves.

The image we see in the mirror may be a real or distorted view of who we really are. Based on this view, we develop either a positive or a negative self-image. The strengths and weaknesses we have internalized affect how we act today. We continually take in information and evaluate ourselves in multiple domains such as physical appearance (How do I look?), performance (How am I doing?), and relationships (How important am I?). With a positive self-image, we recognize and own our assets and potentials while being realistic about our liabilities and limitations. With a negative self-image, we focus on our faults and weaknesses, distorting failure and imperfections.

Self-image is important because how we think about ourselves affects how we feel about ourselves and how we interact with others and the world around us. A positive self-image can enhance our physical, mental,

social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Conversely, a negative self-image can decrease our satisfaction and ability to function in these areas.

How can we create a positive self-image?

Self-image is not permanently fixed. Part of our self-image is dynamic and changing. We can learn to develop a healthier and more accurate view of ourselves, thus challenging the distortions in the mirror. Self-image change is a process occurring over a lifetime. A healthy self-image starts with learning to accept and love ourselves. It also means being accepted and loved by others.

Specific steps to foster a positive self-image

- Take a self-image inventory
- Make a list of your positive qualities
- Ask significant others to describe your positive qualities
- Define personal goals and objectives that are reasonable and measurable
- Confront thinking distortions
- Identify and explore the impact of childhood labels
- Refrain from comparing yourself to others
- Develop your strengths
- Learn to love yourself
- Give positive affirmations
- Remember that you are unique
- Remember how far you have come

1. In the book, *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls and her siblings struggle with self image. Describe self-image for each of the Walls children.

2. Locate and explain the most significant events that you believe shaped each of the children's lives and self image. Please use specific passages from the book.

Required Book (Your Choice)

What you learned:

- **The American Dream** is a concept that will be explored in your 11th grade year. The following questions need to be answered and fully explained (150-250 words each) using the novel of your choice:
 - ◆ How is the American Dream defined in this novel?
 - ◆ How are society's values corrupted by social factors?
 - ◆ How do race, gender, and economic status affect one's social standing in America?
- You have the power. You must choose whether we include the book you read on next year's list. First decide whether or not you think it should be included. Then, write a letter to your teacher arguing for or against the book's inclusion from next year's list.
- Humor is included in each of these books. Humor does not have to be truly funny but can be implemented to "lighten" a mood. Explain how humor is used in the book you read.