



[The Glass Castle](#) by Jeannette Walls

ISBN: 9780743247542 (Trade Paperback)

Scriber, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2006

*Age/Grade Range: High School & Up (Suggested by Publisher)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

The Glass Castle is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

The memoir was also made into a major motion picture from Lionsgate in 2017 starring Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, and Naomi Watts.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Walls has joined the company of writers such as Mary Karr and Frank McCourt who have been able to transform their sad memories into fine art." – *People*

"Walls has a God-given knack for spinning a yarn, and *The Glass Castle* is nothing short of spectacular." – *Entertainment Weekly*

"Extraordinary." – *Time*

"On the eighth day, when God was handing out whining privileges, he came upon Jeannette Walls and said, 'For you, an unlimited lifetime supply.' Apparently, Walls declined His kind offer." – *Chicago Tribune*

"Charles Dickens's scenes of poverty and hardship are no more audacious and no more provocative than those in the pages of this stunning memoir." – *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"Some people are born storytellers. Some lives are worth telling. The best memoirs happen when these two conditions converge. In *The Glass Castle*, they have." – *New York Newsday*

Updated 4.7.25

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
Contact: Education.library@simonandschuster.com

"*The Glass Castle* is the kind of story that keeps you awake long after the rest of the house has fallen asleep."
– *Vogue*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- PSLA Fiction List
- ALA Alex Award
- Pennsylvania School Librarian Association (PSLA) "Top Ten (Or So)" Young Adult Books
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award
- Virginia Readers' Choice Award List
- ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults - Top Ten
- Heather's Pick – Fiction
- #1 *New York Times* Bestseller

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [Meet Jeannette Walls](#)
- [Embracing a Life with Texture with Jeannette Walls](#)
- [Appalachia and The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls from the National Geographic Education Blog](#)
- [Velshi Banned Book Club: 'The Glass Castle' with Jeannette Walls](#)
- [CBS Sunday Morning: Jeannette Walls on writing *The Glass Castle*](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [After Parents Censor, Student Drafts Petition In Defense of 'Glass Castle'](#)
- [NCAC Defends the Glass Castle over Concerns of 'Disturbing' Content; UPDATE: Review Committee Votes in Favor of Keeping the Book](#)
- ["Glass Castle" Stays in Traverse City Schools After KRRP Letter](#)
- [CBLDF Joins Defense of *The Glass Castle*](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

"What I worry about is, that in an effort to protect students, we may be taking away the tools they need to protect themselves later on."—Jeannette Walls on banning books

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

Updated 4.7.25

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
Contact: Education.library@simonandschuster.com