

The Glass Castle

Reflection #1 OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

- How do parenting styles and familial dysfunction create a child's coping mechanisms?
- How do we disguise trauma in our lives?
- How does our attitude towards our parents change with different perspective (ex: child's view versus adult view)?
- What does the culture of poverty and abuse look like and how does it affect a family (structure)?
- How might similar parenting styles be adopted by children?
- How do gender roles, familial values, religion, and expectations impact our upbringing?
- How do we deal with traumatic decisions and find healing?
- What role does forgiveness and expectation play in our families?
What makes a parent or family member toxic?

Reflection #2

AFTER LEARNING ABOUT PARENTING STYLES, REFLECT ON YOUR OWN PARENT'S STYLE. WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS? DID THEY CHOOSE THE RIGHT STYLE? EXPLAIN.



Reflection #3

When Jeannette fell out of the car and her parents didn't immediately come back, we see her fear of abandonment come to life. Then a flash of her parents coping mechanisms and handling of trauma. How do her parents handle this situation and how do you think they should have handled it? How have you handled a tough situation in life? Looking back did you respond appropriately?



CHOOSE A MOMENT TO GIVE
JEANNETTE ADVICE. FOR EXAMPLE,
THE FIGHT BETWEEN ROSE MARY AND
REX. OR THE FIGHT AT SCHOOL ETC.



REFLECTION #4



Reflection

#5

Time to choose.
Which parent
would you prefer,
Rex or Rose Mary,
and why? Explain
and use specific
details to support
your decision.



Reflection #6-

"Mom always said people worried too much about their children. Suffering when you're young is good for you, she said. It immunized your body and your soul, and that was why she ignored us kids when we cried. Fussing over children who cry only encouraged them, she told us. That's positive reinforcement for negative behavior."

~Jeannette Walls The Glass Castle (28)

Consider Rosemary's parenting. Do you agree with Rosemary's views about how to take care of her children?

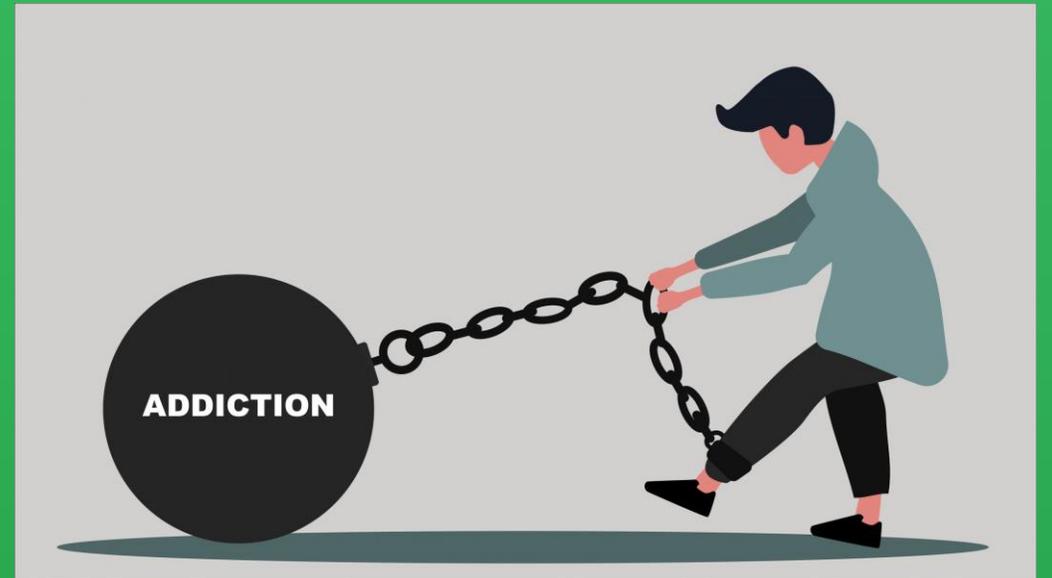
Make a connection between the attachment theories and how they are represented in her children.

Is she a good or a bad parent? Be specific.



Reflection #7

Watch: [Everything You Know about Addiction is Wrong](#)
Then respond: Do you agree with Hari's premise about addiction and does it apply to Rex in the novel? How so? Explain with detail. Do you know someone who struggles with addiction (alcohol, drugs, sugar, cell phones, exercise, over buying)? How does it feel to love them and deal with their addiction?



"You should never hate anyone, even your worst enemies. Everyone has something good about them. You have to find the redeeming quality and love the person for that."

-Rose Mary Walls pg. 144

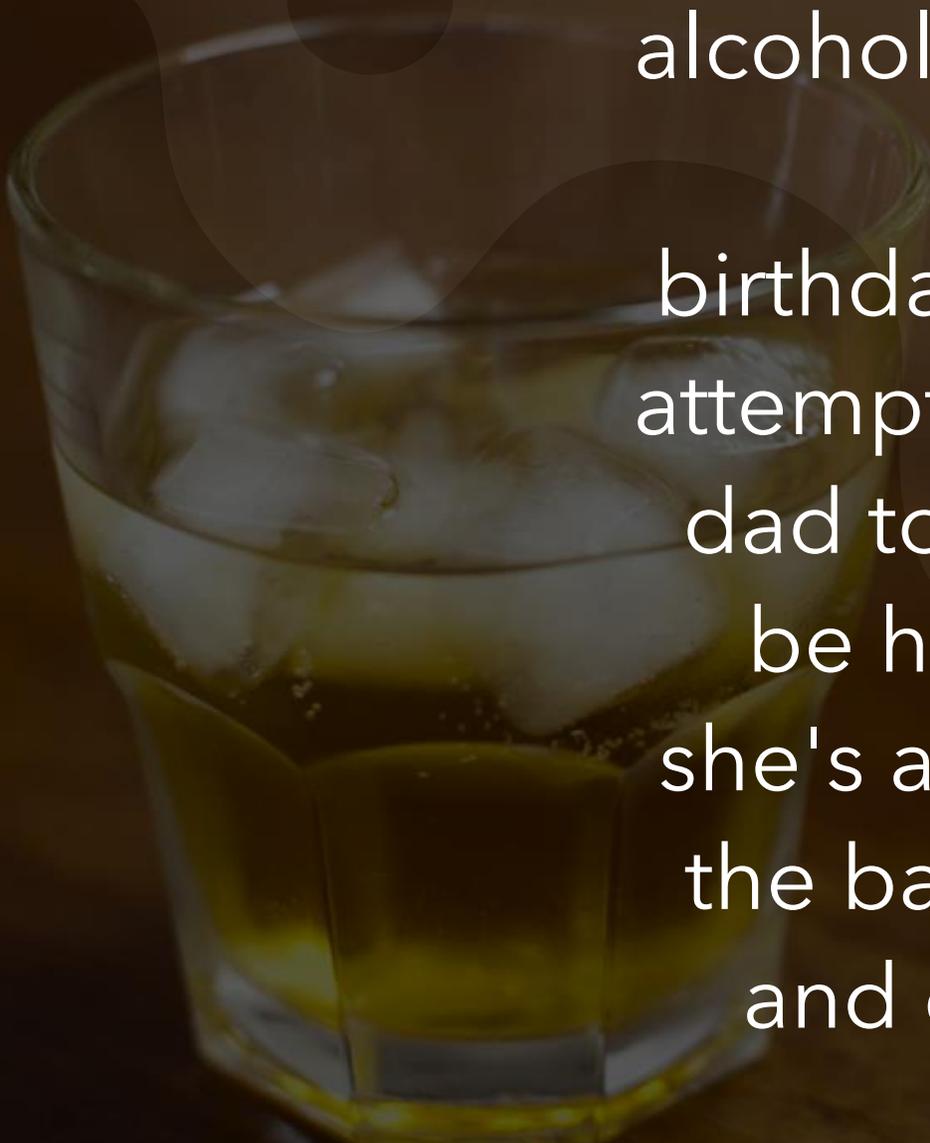
Reflection

#8

Jeannette learns that the world is not simply black and white. Life is full of complications that often are the roots of conflict: hypocrisy, compassion, forgiveness, a time to speak up and a time to be quiet. Do you agree with Rose Mary Walls? Do you know people who can't "let go of their misery"? Does everyone have a redeeming quality?

Reflection #9

Sadly (or maybe not so sad), Erma Walls has passed. Rex and his kids react to her death very differently, though they most likely all feel the same way about it. Your job is to write an obituary for Erma Walls from Jeannette's perspective. Because you are writing from Jeannette's perspective, you should be honest in this obituary about your feelings of Erma. Include information about Erma such as who she is survived by, what her life was like, and the "legacy" she has left, but try to include at least one positive thing about her. After all, this obituary will be in the *Welch Daily News* for the whole town to see. You must also include at least one quote from the text in your obituary to support Jeannette's feelings of Erma.



Take a moment to look back at Rex's alcohol use. When Jeannette asks him to stop drinking as her birthday present, he makes an honest attempt. Jeannette so badly wants her dad to be her hero, and Rex wants to be her hero too. However, now that she's a teen he really lets her down at the bar. Take a moment to look back and determine his triggers, desires, efforts, and shortcomings.

Reflection #10