***The Glass Castle***

**Senior Seminar Community Read   
Evaluation Part 2-SLD**

**Possible topics for discussion:**

**General Prompts:**

1. How would you define the tone of the book? How do you think that Walls achieved that effect? Avoid overly simplistic words, such as “happy” or “depressing”.

1. To what extent did Rex and Rose Mary help or hinder their children? What were their strengths and weaknesses as parents? How much can you attribute the Walls children’s adult identities and life outcomes to their parents?
2. What does this book have to say about success? What varying definitions of success does the book contemplate? Who is most successful and why?
3. There is been a lot of controversy surrounding "free range parenting" and the idea that America has become "a nation of wimps." How would the author and her family feel about this topic?
4. When Jeannette tells her mother about Uncle Stanley’s sexual advances, Rose Mary states that sexual assault is a "crime of perception." What are your feelings about this? What do you think she meant by this?
5. The Wells children are by far more mature, responsible, reliable and sensible than their parents. They protect and take care of themselves, each other, and even their parents. And yet, according to the law they are underage, and therefore dependent on their parents. Is it time to examine children’s rights? Should some children be granted more rights at an earlier age?
6. Mom’s big dream is to be an artist and she spends all of her time and the little money the family has on art supplies. Whenever the family moves, her paints and canvases move too. When the family tours Welch, a rundown city with sad people, Mom sees the bright side – she will be the only artist around. She never gives up on her dream. Is there a point when it is time for one to give up one’s dream? If so, what is that point?