

English III – American Literature
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Required Reading:

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
The Things They Carried, by Tim O'Brien

All students are expected to read *The Glass Castle* and *The Things They Carried*. For these novels, the students will answer the following questions in a *dialectical journal* to be turned in on the first day of school. There will be a discussion and literary assignments about these books on the first day of school. Students may use their analysis questions for these first-day assignments, so it is important to answer them as *completely and comprehensively as possible*. You may complete this work on separate sheets of paper. Teachers will check all written work for plagiarism.

What is a dialectical journal? "A **dialectical journal** is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You simply write down passages that make you think or interest you and write about your thoughts. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature."
from: education.llnl.gov/bep/english/10/sdia.html

Directions: Read each and answer each question completely and comprehensively. Your opinion is important! Use quotes to explain your answers.

The Glass Castle:

1. As a successful adult, the author finds her estranged mother digging for food out of dumpsters. When the author speaks to her mother, and voices her concern about her life, the mother tells the author that her values are misplaced. What does this mean?
2. Throughout the book, the author works to escape her poverty-stricken and unpredictable family life that her parents have developed. Yet, her memories still hold her strongly. What does this say about how strongly family ties can bind?

The Things They Carried:

1. Discuss the double meaning of the title of this book. Choose three characters or events and explore the "things they carried."