



The Glass Castle

Jeanette Walls



The Glass Castle ...is a Memoir.

A collection of memories that an individual writes about moments or events that took place in their past.

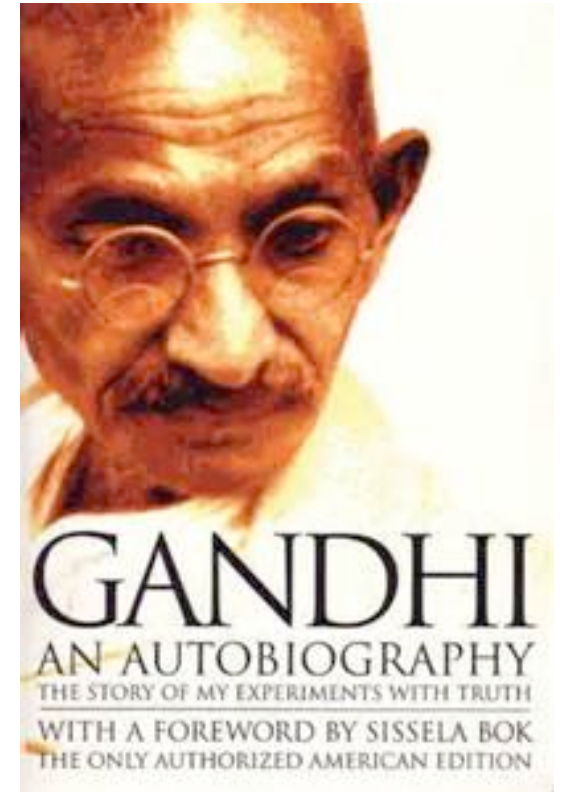


“A memoir is how one remembers one’s own life, while an autobiography is history, requiring research, dates, facts double-checked.”

Autobiography:

1st person →

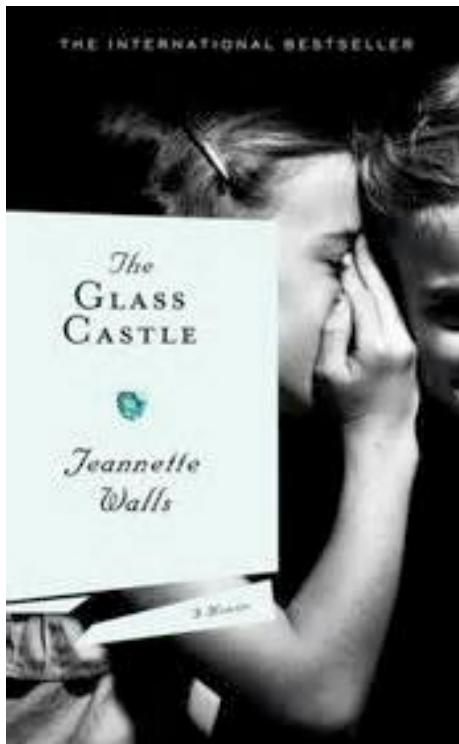
Summarizes a life
in whole



← Memoir:

1st person

Narrower focus on
moments in a
life



Jeanette Walls...



is the author of
The Glass Castle.

She's an American
writer and
gossip
journalist.



Reporter: “What is your take on “memoirist” who fudge details or even make things up wholesale, without letting the reader know? Is it a major betrayal of the reader, or should we expect memoirs to be somewhat subjective?”

“Of course memoirs are subjective. That’s the genre-this is one person’s perspective on his or her life-and I think it’s one that most readers understand. None of my siblings have contradicted a single fact in *The Glass Castle*, but if any of them had written about our lives, it would have had an entirely different tone and perspective.”



The Glass Castle

Is the story of Jeanette's unconventional upbringing.

“She'd grown up both loved and neglected by parents who embraced adventure and ignored basic responsibility...her father dreamed big and drank even bigger...and as her family drifted from place to place, she and her siblings often had to use their own ingenuity to remain clothed, fed, housed, and healthy.”

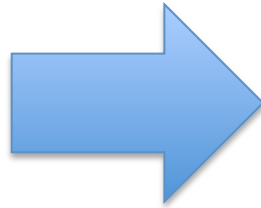
Jeanette was born on
April 21, 1960
in Phoenix, Arizona.



She lived with her family in
cars and hotels for much
of her childhood.

You won't believe some of
the wild events that she
describes in her book!

Her parents embraced 60's and 70's "counterculture"



Counterculture of the 1960s was identified with the rejection of conventional social norms of the 1950s.





Parents: Rex and Rose Mary Walls



“To me, the whole point of writing a memoir is to say, here is the story of my life, and maybe you can learn something from my experience without actually having to go through it.”

Following is an interview that Walls did with Stephen Colbert in 2007.

<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/niryzs/the-colbert-report-jeannette-walls>

Write a response:

- ✓ How can a person use writing as a means to come to terms with the difficult times in his or her life?
- ✓ How might the story of Jeannette Walls and her family connect to the theme of the American Dream?