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# **The Glass Castle- Final Essay Assessment Practice**

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**Sample: Time Management and Values:** On page 57, Jeannette Walls tells us, “Mom didn’t like cooking much— ‘Why spend the afternoon making a meal that will be gone in an hour,’ she’d ask us, ‘when in the same amount of time, I can do a painting that will last forever?’” What does this suggest about Rose Mary’s value systems and how she values time and how that impacts the way she operates in the world? In what ways do your value systems inform your sense of time on a day-to-day basis (study habits, punctuality, time for friends/family/Facebook?).

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## How to respond to a literary prompt:

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“When you are writing about literature, you are not writing about literature.”

-Professor Ken  
Thompkins

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- You are really writing about a topic, an issue, or a theme.
  - You are using a piece of literature (a book) to talk about a topic, an issue, or a theme.
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# What am I being asked?

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1. What does this suggest about Rose Mary's value systems and how she values time and how that impacts the way she operates in the world?
  2. In what ways do your value systems inform your sense of time on a day-to-day basis (study habits, punctuality, time for friends/family/Facebook?).
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# What is my “writer’s purpose”?

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-Rosemary Walls values the long-term aesthetic and cultural meaning of experiences and artifacts. Every moment, especially the difficult and unpredictable ones, were learning experiences and adventures for Rosemary. Something has value to Rosemary only if it has an effect on her intellectual well being. She does not focus on the mundane, the routine, or the details of life. Hence, her opposition to spending time cooking is a reflection of her need to always “feed her soul”. Like Rosemary, a person’s values are manifested in how he/she uses his/her time and resources.

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# Thesis:

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In Jeannette Walls' memoir, *The Glass Castle*, her mother, Rosemary Walls values the long-term aesthetic and cultural meaning of experiences and artifacts, and she does not allow herself to focus on the mundane, the routine, or the details of life.

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# Introduction:

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A person's values are manifested in how he/she uses his/her time and resources. If a person values punctuality, he/she will make it a priority to be on time for all events. Likewise, if a person values time "family/friends" time, he/she will structure his/her day around events that involve interaction with loved one. If a person values staying "connected" with friends and "friends", there may be ample time spent on social networking sites. Additionally, a person's monetary budget and spending habits also dictate what his/her values are. In Jeannette Walls' memoir, *The Glass Castle*, her mother, Rosemary Walls values the long-term aesthetic and cultural meaning of experiences and artifacts, and she does not allow herself to focus on the mundane, the routine, or the details of life.

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# Body paragraph Structure:

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- Topic Sentence
  - Introduction to Evidence
  - Evidence
  - Analysis
  - Closing Sentence
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Rosemary Walls values the long-term aesthetic and cultural meaning of experiences and artifacts. Every moment, especially the difficult and unpredictable ones, were learning experiences and adventures for Rosemary. In New York, Jeannette is concerned about her parents living on the streets. Rosemary informs Jeannette that “they slept on park benches or in bushes that lined park paths...being homeless is an adventure” (Walls 255). Something has value to Rosemary only if it has an effect on her intellectual well being. Rosemary was focused on enjoying the cultural experiences of New York City, instead of worrying about securing a home or food. Rosemary found the “adventure” of being without a home filled with “piano recitals...movie screenings...and museums” (255). She does not focus on the mundane, the routine, or the details of life. Hence, her opposition to spending time cooking is a reflection of her need to always “feed her soul”.

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