

VOCABULARY LISTS

"The Glass Castle," Vocabulary from Parts III, IV, and V

September 4, 2017 By Mrs. Lopez (GA)

"The Glass Castle" is a memoir about family, poverty, and growth. Learn these words found in Jeannette Walls's account of her childhood. Here are the links to our lists from the memoir: [Parts I and II](#), [Parts III, IV, and V](#)

malicious

✓ having the nature of threatening evil

*I nodded and smiled back, then I realized there was something **malicious** in her smile.*

preeminent

✓ greatest in importance or degree or significance

*Scrubbing clothes on a washboard until her knuckles bled—that was the **preeminent** memory of Erma's childhood.*

relegate

✓ assign to a lower position

*Erma **relegated** us to the basement after that.*

palatial

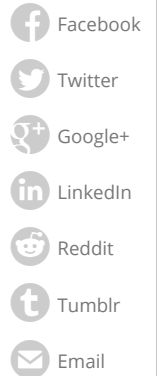
✓ relating to a large and stately mansion

*"It's not exactly **palatial**, so there's going to be a lot of togetherness," Mom said.*

precarious

✓ fraught with danger

The front, including a drooping porch, juttred precariously into the air, supported by tall, spindly cinder-block pillars.



convoluted

✓ highly complex or intricate

*He decided it was too **convoluted** to bother fixing.*

gumption

✓ fortitude and determination

*I stirred it as hard as I could and kept stirring even after I knew the paint was ruined, because I also knew that we'd never get more, and instead of a freshly painted yellow house, or even a dingy gray one, we now had a weird-looking half-finished patch job—one that announced to the world that the people inside the house wanted to fix it up but lacked the **gumption** to get the work done.*

indignant

✓ angered at something unjust or wrong

*Most of the girls my age spent their afternoons sitting on the brick wall surrounding the armory, combing their hair and touching up their lip gloss and pretending to get all **indignant** but secretly loving it if a crew-cut reservist wolf-whistled at them.*

pariah

✓ a person who is rejected from society or home

*The other kids treated her like a total **pariah**, crowing that her mother was a "hoor" and calling her "lice girl."*

jeopardy

✓ a source of danger

*While we were waiting for the preacher, she took out her rosary and prayed for Erma's soul, which she feared was in **jeopardy** since, as she saw it, Erma had committed suicide.*

conspicuous

✓ obvious to the eye or mind

*I was going on thirteen and self-conscious, so I planned to slip my bathing suit on underneath my dress, but I worried this would only make me more **conspicuous**, so I took a deep breath and stepped out of my clothes.*

tirade

✓ a speech of violent denunciation

*I expected Mom to come back with one of her choice remarks, but she listened to my **tirade** in silence.*

confer

✓ have a meeting in order to talk something over

*Banks of fluorescent lights hung down eighteen inches above the slanted, glass-topped desks where men wearing green eyeshades **conferred** over stacks of copy and photographs.*

gaunt

✓ very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

***Gaunt** men with creased cheeks and women with dark red lipstick sat along the bar.*

ostentatious

✓ intended to attract notice and impress others

*One day after Mr. Becker had come back from lunch and **ostentatiously** checked the display cases, I was so furious that I looked around to see if there was anything in the entire darn store worth stealing.*

abrupt

✓ exceedingly sudden and unexpected

She stood up so abruptly she knocked over a bottle of india ink, and ran into the bedroom.

feasible

✓ capable of being done with means at hand

What are your thoughts on the feasibility of flying at the speed of light?

enrapture

✓ hold spellbound

*As he talked, the fidgety students settled into their folding chairs and became **enraptured** by the legendary, world-traveled man who told us how proud he was of his West Virginia roots, and how we, too, should be proud of those roots, roots we all shared; and how, regardless of where we came from, each and every one of us could and should follow our dreams, just as he had followed his.*

auxiliary

✓ functioning in a supporting capacity

*I was in college, Lori had become an illustrator at a comic-book company, Maureen lived with Lori and went to high school, and Brian, who had wanted to be a cop ever since he'd had to call a policeman to our house in Phoenix to break up a fight between Mom and Dad, had become a warehouse foreman and was serving on the **auxiliary** force until he was old enough to take the police department's entrance exam.*

charismatic

✓ possessing an extraordinary ability to attract

*What I wanted to say was that I knew Eric would never try to steal my paycheck or throw me out the window, that I'd always been terrified I'd fall for a hard-drinking, hell-raising, **charismatic** scoundrel like you, Dad, but I'd wound up with a man who was exactly the opposite.*

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