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PSL

9-27-16

### Hunger

Throughout *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls describes many different instances where the family was starving, scavenging, and even the occasional binging. The book is really all about food. With a good majority of the scenes having food as a causing factor for the kids getting into fights, being bullied, ect. Food also was a reward that the family would get after the family somehow came into a lot of money; usually when Rex would win a lot of money gambling or by hustling somebody at a bar. More times then not in the book, Jeannette uses selective word choice and imagery, giving the text a tone that allows the reader to see what emotions the family went through when they didn't have any food or were actually able to get their hands on food.

In Battle Mountain, the family had a home that they stayed in for quite some time and they were happy in. The only problem was Rex and Rosemary not having jobs. With almost no money coming into the house for food, the kids came up with different strategies to get their hands on food. For example, Jeannette would go and play at a friend's house and ask to go to the bathroom, hoping nobody was in the kitchen, so that she could "grab something out of the refrigerator or cupboard and take it into the bathroom and eat it there, always making a point of flushing the toilet before leaving" (68). She added "always making a point of flushing the toilet before leaving" (68), to the end of that scene. By adding this, Jeannette is exhibiting a sneaky tone onto the text, which allows the reader to envision Jeannette sneaking through her friend's

house and stealing food. Brian also used the strategy of stealing, which Jeannette found out when she “discovered him upchucking behind the house” (68), learning that Brian had snuck into somebody’s house and tried stealing a jar of pickles and got caught, “but instead of reporting him to the cops, he made Brian eat the entire jarful as punishment” (68). By using the word “discovered,” Jeannette gives off a tone that suggests her surprise to seeing her brother throwing up, since they haven’t had food to eat in a few days. With the kids stealing food from their neighbors and friends, it doesn’t really come to a shock that somebody in the family would also take food for themselves when groceries did, eventually, come home, like when “the can of corn had disappeared within minutes” (68) of a very tiny amount of groceries Rex brought home. In each example of strategies the kids used to get food, Jeannette projects various tones onto the text, that present what she truly felt, when the scene described originally happened.

The Wall’s used alternative methods of getting food, other than stealing. Sometimes Brian and Jeannette would walk around looking for scrap metal and cans and turn that into a shop to get a little bit of money, which they would then sometimes go get food with, for themselves. Another strategy that Jeannette did, specifically, was when the class was out at recess, she would “slip back into the classroom and find something in some other kid’s lunch bag that wouldn’t be missed” (68). Then there was a time in Phoenix. Brian and Jeanette were out doing their usual rounds of scanning the streets for little pieces of scrap metal and cans, when they came across a dumpster. They usually checked dumpsters because, of course, that would be where the most empty cans would end up being. While digging through the trash, they were both, also, very hungry and “found an astonishing treasure: cardboard boxes filled with loose chocolates” (110). From that point on when there was either no food in the house or Rosemary

didn't want to make food, Brian and Jeannette would return back to that dumpster seeing if chocolates were there, "from time to time, it was" (110). By using words/phrases like "astonishing" and "from time to time" (110), Jeannette allows the readers to be put into her shoes and feel the amazement that she felt when she found the chocolates, that first time and every time after that.

By Jeannette using selective word choice and imagery, she really brings her memoir to the next level; readers are almost seeing the book as a movie. This vision that Jeannette shows is the multiple times in her life when she is going hungry and when this happens, you see her stealing and scavenging for food. Spending her entire life hungry, it's hard to believe her siblings and herself never complained about being hungry, but they didn't. And with Jeannette's use of wording, the reader certainly can believe that the kids never did complain because no matter what each day brought, they always found a way to eat.

