**Sample Elevator Speech  
Mrs. Trentanelli / Exemplar**

Draft One

“Mom and Dad talk[ed] about buying us kids real beds, and we said they shouldn’t do it. We liked our boxes.

They made going to bed seem like an adventure.” For author Jeannette Walls and her family, life appeared to be an adventure that went well beyond the norms of society.

From sleeping beneath the stars, to planning a “great big [glass] house in the desert, to racing across the west in a beat up station wagon, *The Glass Castle* is filled with incredible stories that highlight the beautiful moments of Walls’ childhood, while also revealing the hopelessness engendered by extreme poverty, mental illness, and addiction that threaten to tear her family apart.

Her story challenges us to see beyond stereotypes, and to help others find hope as they build their own “glass castles.”

Revisions

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