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The Glass Castle Study Guide

The Desert: Chapters 12-18, pages 51 to 75

Section II: The Desert

1. In Battle Mountain, what is unusual about the place where the Walls live? How do they furnish it? What do the kids use for beds? How do they feel about this? (2:12)

2. Describe the piano incident? What does this reveal about Rose Mary? (2:12)

3. What does Rex do in Battle Mountain? When he has money, what does the family do? What is different about Rex' behavior when they first move to Battle Mountain? What do we learn about his personality? (2:13)

4. Describe some of the things the kids do to amuse themselves? What is good and bad about this? (2:13)

4. What is Rose Mary's philosophy on cooking? (2:13)

5. Describe Jeannette's run-in with her teacher, Miss Page? What does this show about kids' education? (2:14)

6. What is Rose Mary's view on parenting, part II? When Jeannette gets hurt on the nail, what is the secondary unspoken reason why they didn't go to the hospital? (2:14)

7. What activity do Jeannette and Brian take up? What rock is Jeannette particularly drawn to? What does it symbolize? (2:14)

8. Where do Jeannette and Brian play? What do they end up doing? How does Jeannette react? What does Rex tell the children about the fire? (2:14)

9. What is Jeannette's reasoning for picking Sugar Daddy candy? How old are Jeannette and Brian at this point? (2:15)

10. What is the Green Lantern? (2:15)

11. What was Rose Mary's attitude toward the animals that the kids brought home as pets? How does this extend to her children? What new item does Jeannette see at Carla's house? Why won't Rose Mary get any? (2:16)

12. How and where does Rex teach Jeannette to swim? Rex tells Jeannette, "If you don't want to sink, you better figure out how to swim." Do you agree with him? Does Jeannette totally trust him? (2:16)

13. When Rex loses his job, how does the family cope? What happens to them?

14. What is significant about the battle over the margarine? What does Jeannette mean when she says, "I'd broken one of our unspoken rules: We were always supposed to pretend our life was one long and incredibly fun adventure." (2:17)

15. Even though Rex and Rose Mary are fighting about work, what is the real issue in their marriage? How do Lori, Jeannette and Brian react to the fight? (2:17)

16. What does **raucous** mean? (2:17)

17. Why does Miss Page get fired? (2:18)

18. After the fight, what does Rose Mary do? How does she cope with this? How do the children cope? (2:18)

20. Respond to Rose Mary's statement: "I'm a grown woman now, why can't I do what I want to do." (2:18)