

## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN

### Initial Planning

**Suggested Time: 10 minutes**

**Read** the assignment question.



**What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?**

**Write** your controlling idea (thesis statement), which should be a one-sentence answer to the question above.

*If, and only if, one is able to learn and grow from negative experiences, one can thrive.*

**Select a character (or characters) from a text you have studied in ELA 30-2. Remember that while you have the option of writing about “Still Me Inside,” you MUST write about a text you studied previously in the course.**

**Literary Text(s) and Author(s)**

*The Glass Castle* – Jeannette Walls

**Character(s) Chosen**

*Jeannette Walls*

**Briefly identify details about the character(s) that you intend to use to develop your ideas. Make sure the details associated with this character are relevant to your ideas about the topic question. Also make sure at least one of these characters is from a text you studied previously in the course.**

*Jeannette had a rough childhood growing up, bouncing around different communities. Her family life was dysfunctional. She chose to live differently and went to college to establish a stable career, and was eventually able to buy a house, and live with her new family (husband John).*

*Jeannette and her other siblings faced food insecurity, and when it was her turn to take care of the family, she took responsibility for feeding and taking care of her siblings, including budgeting and cooking meals. When the money runs out, she gets a job to continue providing the basics, unlike her parents had ever done consistently.*


*Jeannette witnessed her parents' unhealthy relationship, and, wanting to avoid this for herself, eventually settled down with a calm, stable partner (Eric, then later John).*

*As a child, Jeannette was loyal to her family and was especially close to her dad, but as she grows up she distances herself from them, knowing she cannot live well if she is close to them.*

## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

### 1 Reread your essay question.

What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?



### 2 Decode the question.

- Cross off the stem of the question to focus on what it's asking.
- Then circle the key words.

#### Example:

What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

#### Now You Try (Decode Question):

*"response," "difficult circumstances," "shapes," "future"*



### 3 Rephrase the original question into a simple answer, and write it in the space below.

#### Example:


What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Simple Rephrasing:** Our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

#### Now You Try (Rephrase Question):

*Our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future.*



## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)



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**Choose a character who transforms.**

**Choose a character from a text you have studied in the course. Explain how you could use that character's transformation to answer the essay question.**

**Example:**

What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Here's how transformation could be used to answer the question:**

Wes Holman from the short story "Long, Long After School" could be used to answer the question because **Mrs. Tretheway causes Wes to transform**. Her **actions** toward him **influenced** the way he thought about himself and helped him **transform** into a strong student who felt worthy of love.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

**Now You Try (Choose a Character):** What character could you use to answer that question? Explain in the space below.

*Jeannette Walls in The Glass Castle could be used to answer this essay question because she faces hardship throughout her childhood and learns from her experiences, and these lessons help her grow and shape who she becomes in the future.*



## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)



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**Write your thesis using a “because” or “but” clause. Then plug it into the thesis statement formula.**

Name the type of text (photo, novel, film, etc.), the title, and the author or text creator.

- Titles of longer texts should be italicized or underlined.
- Titles of shorter texts should be in “quotation marks.”

Formula: In [type of text], [text title] [poet/photographer/filmmaker/etc.] suggests that [thesis statement].

**Example:**

What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Thesis:**

In the short story “Long, Long After School,” author Ernest Buckler suggests that other people’s actions can influence or transform our beliefs because they can inspire us to see the best in ourselves.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

**Now You Try (Write Thesis):** In the [insert type of text] [insert text title], [insert author] suggests that [insert thesis statement].

*In the novel The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls demonstrates that the ability to face hardship and learn from one’s experiences can help one grow and thrive despite adversity.*

## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Introduction	
<b>Hook</b> Use a creative attention getter—short anecdote, quotation from the text excerpt, question, strong statement, statistic, etc.	<p>"I was on fire" (p. 9). This is how Jeannette Walls introduces the story of her childhood experiences in the novel <i>The Glass Castle</i>. Her first memory is of cooking hot dogs, unsupervised, and accidentally setting herself on fire.</p>
<b>Background Information</b> Introduce the topic and the text/author/character you'll be discussing. Make sure at least one of the texts you're writing about is one you studied previously in the course.	<p>This is just one example of inappropriate parenting that we see throughout the novel. The story is based on the true-life experiences that Jeannette recalls of her childhood. She describes various challenges including irresponsible parenting, run-down housing, and lack of the basics including proper nutrition. She is especially close to her father, who has far-fetched dreams of building a house made all out of glass, the glass castle. Jeannette and her siblings are left to provide for themselves from a young age and despite poor parenting Jeannette learns how to properly care for herself and others. With time and experience, she is able to improve her own living situation.</p>
<b>Thesis Statement</b> Copy from previous page.	<p>In the novel <i>The Glass Castle</i>, Jeannette Walls demonstrates that the ability to face hardship and learn from one's experiences can help one grow and thrive despite adversity.</p>

Be sure to include the author's name as well.

Excellent hook! This will engage the reader immediately!

In a formal essay, you want to refer to the author by her full or last name.

Ok...be sure to include details regarding setting, time frame, years discussed, siblings, characters (and names) etc. Assume that the reader has not read the book.

This is a solid thesis...it can guide your essay well, I think!

## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Body Paragraph #1 – Character <i>BEFORE</i> Transformation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce the character, and explain that character's difficult circumstance.</li> <li>Describe how the character initially responds to the difficult circumstance, before he or she transforms.</li> <li>Discuss specific examples from the text that support your point, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic Sentence</b> Relate it to the thesis and focus on the character's initial response to the difficult circumstance <i>before</i> he or she transforms.	<i>Jeannette faces numerous challenges throughout her childhood, being raised in an unstable environment. We quickly learn that she is quite smart and self-sufficient, and able to navigate these challenges well despite her young age.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Text</b> One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	<i>We see this in the opening passage about Jeannette cooking hot dogs on her own at the age of 3. She was accidentally set on fire and was rushed to the hospital for treatment of her burns. She ended up spending several weeks in the hospital, before her dad took her home without the doctor's permission. Despite her experiences she shows resilience and "A few days after Mom and Dad brought me home, I cooked myself some hot dogs" (p. 15).</i>
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	<i>Although her childhood was filled with adversity, she viewed their lifestyle with a sense of adventure. She describes her family as being constantly on the move, and "we were always doing the skedaddle, usually in the middle of the night" (p. 19). In every new town they would find creative living arrangements within their budgets, like when they moved into the old railroad depot in Battle Mountain and used found items for furniture, and cardboard boxes for beds for the children. Jeannette enjoyed living like this: "We liked our boxes. They made going to bed seem like an adventure" (p. 52).</i>
<b>Concluding Statement</b> Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	<i>From her early years, we see that Jeannette demonstrates resilience, self-sufficiency, a sense of adventure, and loyalty to her family, even when faced with difficult circumstances.</i>

Great topic sentence! This clearly sets out what life was like for the character as she faced her childhood challenges!

Very helpful concluding sentence to drive home how this paragraph relates to your thesis!



## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Body Paragraph #2— <i>CAUSE</i> of Character's Transformation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain what causes the character to begin responding to the difficult circumstance in a different way, causing his or her transformation to begin.</li> <li>Support your ideas with examples from the text that show the causes of transformation, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic Sentence</b> Relate it to the thesis and focus on what <i>causes</i> the character to start responding to the difficult circumstance in a new way.	<i>As Jeannette continues to encounter difficult circumstances throughout her childhood, she starts to doubt her parents and their lifestyle.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Text</b> One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	<i>Once, when she was 7 years old, she and Lori couldn't find any food to eat. Instead, they ate the last of a stick of margarine, mixed with sugar. Their mom is upset that they ate the margarine, and Jeannette explains that she was hungry. Her mom was shocked that she had said that as Jeannette had "broken one of our unspoken rules. We were always supposed to pretend our life was one long and incredibly fun adventure" (p. 69). This is one of the first examples that Jeannette was becoming skeptical of their "adventure" and way of living.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	<i>She also started to feel doubts about her dad's alcoholism, and as a birthday present to herself, she asked him to stop drinking. This causes a distance between her and her dad, who seems hurt by this suggestion and replies with "You must be awfully ashamed of your old man" (p. 116). She trusts he will stop drinking for the good of the family, although he eventually breaks that trust again. She has started to learn that her father may not be reliable to make appropriate, healthy choices for himself and his family.</i>
<b>Concluding Statement</b> Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	<i>Jeannette continues to show resilience despite adversity, but even she begins to doubt her parents, and their "adventurous" lifestyle.</i>

## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Body Paragraph #3—Character <i>DURING</i> Transformation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the character is changing as seen in key moments in the text.</li> <li>Consider the way in which the character has to make a choice between an old and new way of thinking or behaving.</li> <li>Support your ideas with specific evidence that the character is in the process of transforming, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic Sentence</b> Relate it to the thesis and focus on how the character's new way of responding to the difficult circumstance has transformed him or her.	<i>By her teenage years, Jeannette has become very self-aware, and she takes it upon herself to make changes that would help improve her life and her family's life.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Text</b> One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	<i>She started researching ways to improve their situation and help her parents rise out of poverty. Jeannette presents her research to her, mother and at one point tells her, "Mom, you have to leave Dad" (p. 188). She explains that she doesn't blame her Dad, but she knows that he will continue to sabotage their efforts to improve their lives. It is clear that she has lost her faith in her parents' ability to provide and has started taking responsibility in her own hands. She has always been self-sufficient and now we see this in her efforts to influence her parents in a positive direction.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	<i>When Jeannette joins her school newspaper, she starts to learn about the wider world. Prior to this, everything she learns is filtered through her parents' views. Although she learns a lot from her obviously brilliant parents, she realizes that their world views are somewhat biased: "I began to feel like I was getting the whole story for the first time" (p. 205). This shows personal growth and curiosity to explore the world beyond her own experiences. She seems more open and receptive to new information than her parents are.</i>

Note, Tyrone has an additional body paragraph, one focusing on the character *DURING* transformation. Your essay plan does not need to include this paragraph.



## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

<b>Concluding Statement</b> Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	<i>Through her lifetime of facing obstacles, Jeannette shows that she is able to learn from her parents' mistakes and improve her own situation. She does this while also caring for her siblings.</i>
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Body Paragraph #4—Character <i>AFTER</i> Transformation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the character has changed. Explain the outcome of the transformation—who the character “is” at the end of the text.</li> <li>How has the character’s new response to the difficult circumstance transformed him or her?</li> <li>Support your ideas with specific evidence from the text that show the character has transformed in an important way.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic Sentence</b> Relate it to the thesis and focus on how the character’s new way of responding to the difficult circumstance has transformed him or her.	<i>Once Jeannette lets go of the adventurous lifestyle she lives with her parents, she works towards living a healthy stable life, even realizing that she needs distance from her parents in order to live well.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Text</b> One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	<i>Jeannette moves to New York City at the age of 17, meeting up with her sister Lori. She had a clear goal of finding a stable home and a job that would support her in her new life. She moved to New York and “The very next day, I landed a job at a hamburger joint on Fourteenth Street” (p. 247). She settled into an apartment with Lori until she found her own apartment, continuing to be responsible and self-sufficient.</i>
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	<i>Later, the parents follow the children in moving to New York City, which introduces more problems for Jeannette and her siblings. The parents continue to live irresponsibly and the children are now trying to support them. Jeannette decides that they are not welcome to stay at her place, though she still tries to support them in some ways. Her parents end up moving in with Lori, and eventually Lori was unable to cope with their constant presence. Jeannette eventually advises her, “Maybe you’re just going to have to kick mom out” (p. 254), explaining that “she’s driving you crazy” (p. 254). Jeannette realizes that some boundaries are necessary to protect one’s own health.</i>
<b>Concluding Statement</b> Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	<i>After a lifetime of challenging experiences and a traumatic childhood, Jeannette learns how to balance being stable and self-sufficient, yet still generous in trying to help others, like her parents. She continues to show kindness and generosity towards those less fortunate but realizes that she has to set limits on that generosity.</i>

## TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Conclusion	
<b>Thesis Statement</b> Restate thesis in different words.	<i>Having the ability to adapt to and learn from hardship is a good personal quality, because it can help one to rise above any obstacle.</i>
<b>Essay Wrap-Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconnect with your intro paragraph.</li> <li>• How has your character helped you explore the topic?</li> <li>• How does this discussion connect with the excerpt from the text or your personal experience, depending on what you discussed in your intro?</li> <li>• What have you discovered about the topic?</li> <li>• How does it relate to people in society?</li> </ul>	<i>Jeannette Walls had the unfortunate experiences of growing up in an unstable, at times dangerous, environment. She faces bullying, food insecurity, and terrible living conditions. Through this all we see multiple examples of her kindness and generosity towards others, especially in her own family. She meets her challenges with resilience and a sense of adventure. As she becomes more aware of her living situation, she starts to realize her sense of adventure is misguided, and leans towards more stable, secure living arrangements. She loses faith in her parents' abilities to make responsible decisions for themselves and their children. These realizations could have discouraged her, but instead she chooses to learn from her parents' mistakes and improve her life. She continues to try to improve the lives of her siblings and parents as well, although she recognizes that in order to live well for herself, she does need to set appropriate boundaries with her family.</i>
<b>Clincher</b> Include a quotation, an anecdote, or a strong statement or question to leave the reader thinking.	<i>While adversity is not enjoyable, I think it is essential to experience some sort of hardship throughout one's life. Like Jeannette, we can view these experiences as opportunities for growth and learning, which will help us rise above our hardships. Do you have what it takes to face hardship and rise above it all?</i>

Nice! Ending with a rhetorical question is always a solid idea!

# TYRONE'S 2.5 LITERARY EXPLORATION RUBRIC

	THOUGHT AND SUPPORT	FORM AND STRUCTURE
<b>FOCUS</b>	When marking <b>Thought and Support</b> , the teacher should consider how effectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the <b>student's ideas</b> reflect an understanding of the topic</li> <li>the <b>literary example</b> relates to the student's ideas</li> <li>the <b>support</b> explains and/or clarifies the response</li> </ul> <b>Consider ideas presented in the <i>Personal Reflection on Choice of Character(s) from Literary Text(s)</i>.</b>	When marking <b>Form and Structure</b> , the teacher should consider how effectively the <b>student's</b> organizational choices result in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development and maintenance of a <b>controlling idea</b> or <b>unifying effect</b></li> <li>the creation of a <b>coherent, shaped, and concluded</b> discussion in response to the assignment</li> </ul>
<b>Excellent E</b>	An insightful understanding of the topic is demonstrated. The student's ideas are perceptively explored. The literary example is related effectively to the student's ideas. Support is precise and effective.	A focused controlling idea or unifying effect is skillfully sustained throughout the response. Development of ideas and explanations is smooth and coherent.
<b>Proficient PF</b>	A well-considered understanding of the topic is demonstrated. The student's ideas are thoughtfully explored. The literary example is related competently to the student's ideas. Support is specific and relevant.	A controlling idea or unifying effect is sustained throughout the response. Development of ideas and explanations is coherent.
<b>Satisfactory S</b>	A defensible understanding of the topic is demonstrated. The student's ideas are appropriately and straightforwardly explored. The literary example is related adequately to the student's ideas. Support is relevant but tends to be general.	A controlling idea or unifying effect is evident, but unity may falter on occasion. Development of ideas and explanations is generally clear and coherent.
<b>Limited L</b>	An understanding of the topic is evident but is only partially demonstrated or is not always sustained. The student's ideas are incompletely or unclearly explored. The literary example is lacking or does not relate adequately to the student's ideas and/or to the topic. Support is overgeneralized, inconsistent, and/or marginally relevant.	A controlling idea or unifying effect is evident, but unity falters frequently. Development of ideas and explanations is uncertain and/or unclear.
<b>Poor P</b>	A minimal understanding of the topic is demonstrated. The student's ideas are underdeveloped, unexplored, and/or incomprehensible. The literary example is absent or unrelated to the student's ideas and/or to the topic. Support is deficient and/or irrelevant.	A controlling idea or unifying effect is absent or is not sustained. Development of ideas and explanations is deficient, ineffective, and/or incoherent.
<b>Insufficient INS</b>	<b>Insufficient is a special category. It is not an indicator of quality.</b> Assign insufficient when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The teacher can discern no evidence of an attempt to fulfill the assignment <b>OR</b></li> <li>The writing is so deficient in length that it is not possible to assess Ideas and Impressions</li> </ul>	
<b>Total: 27.5/30 = 92%</b>	<b>18.5/20</b>	<b>9/10</b>
 <b>Assessment</b>	<b>Areas of Strength: Thank you for this submission, Tyrone! Here are a few comments:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Your thesis is solid, and can guide your essay well. Good job!</b></li> <li><b>You have included many specific details from the text! Well done! Ensure, though, that you do not become overwhelmed as you write. Maintain manageable paragraphs.</b></li> <li><b>Great 'clincher'! Rhetorical questions are always a great idea!</b></li> </ol>	
	<b>Might I Suggest:</b>	