

Good words by Jeanette Walls, author of *The Glass Castle* in “Highland Park ISD suspends seven books after parents protest their content” The Dallas Morning News September 21, 2014

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/park-cities/headlines/20140921-highland-park-isd-suspends-seven-books-after-parents-protest-their-content.ece>

The Glass Castle is written by Jeannette Walls, who is scheduled to be keynote speaker at the district’s annual literary festival in February. Walls said she was heartbroken to learn that her book was on the list. Her memoir is about growing up in poverty with a father who spent his money on alcohol and a mother who became homeless.

“My book has ugly elements to it, but it’s about hope and resilience, and I don’t know why that wouldn’t be an important message,” she said. “Sometimes you have to walk through the muck to get to the message.”

Walls said teenage readers have told her the book gave them courage to overcome their own troubled childhood or seek help.

“A lot of teachers told me someone reported an abusive relative after reading it in my book. How valuable is that?” she said. “People tell me about their drug-addicted parents. There are so many complicated situations out there. And we can begin to give kids the tools they need to deal with it, if only to say, ‘You are not alone.’”