[A]: Hey, guys. We’re here to discuss the book “The Glass Castle” by Jeannette Walls. It’s a memoir of her childhood in a poor and dysfunctional family. Let’s start with the first question: Childhood experiences have strong influence on one’s whole life. What is the most memorable thing in your childhood and how did it affect you?

[B]: Well, for me, the most memorable thing in my childhood was when I saw a meteor shower for the first time. It was so beautiful and amazing that I decided to learn more about the universe. It also made me appreciate the wonders of nature and the value of curiosity. It sparked my interest in astronomy and science, and it also made me realize how small we are in this vast cosmos.

[C]: That sounds awesome. For me, the most memorable thing in my childhood was when I moved to a different city with my family. It was hard to leave my friends and adjust to a new environment, but it also taught me how to be adaptable and open-minded. It also exposed me to different cultures and perspectives. I learned a lot of things, like how to play soccer, how to cook different dishes, how to dance salsa, and so on. I also learned about their history and traditions, and their views on various issues. It broadened my horizons and made me more tolerant and respectful of others.

[D]: That sounds challenging. For me, the most memorable thing in my childhood was when I won a writing contest at school. It was the first time I realized that I had a talent for writing and storytelling. It also encouraged me to pursue my passion and express myself creatively. I wrote a short story about a boy who found a magic lamp in his attic, and he had three wishes from a genie. He wished for a new bike, a trip to Disneyland, and world peace. He got his bike and his trip, but he also got into some trouble along the way. And as for world peace, he realized that it was not something that could be achieved by one person’s wish, but by everyone’s actions. It gave me confidence and joy, and it also made me think about what really matters in life.

[A]: Those are all very impressive and meaningful experiences. Thank you for sharing them with us. Now let’s move on to the second question: What does the passage imply about wealth? Do you agree with the implication?

[B]: I think the passage implies that wealth is not important or necessary for happiness. The father in the book doesn’t care about money or material things, and he tries to make his children happy with his knowledge and imagination. He gives them stars and planets as gifts, which are priceless and eternal. But I also think that wealth is important for meeting basic needs and providing opportunities and security. I don’t think the father in the book was very responsible or realistic, and he put his family in danger and hardship.

[C]: I think the passage implies that wealth is relative and subjective. The father in the book thinks that he is rich because he has his family and his freedom, and he looks down on the city folks who live in fancy apartments but can’t see the stars. He claims that his children are better off than those who believe in Santa Claus and get cheap plastic toys. But I also think that wealth is objective and universal, and that poverty is a serious problem that affects millions of people around the world. I don’t think the father in the book was very compassionate or aware, and he ignored the suffering and injustice that his family and others faced.

[D]: I think the passage implies that wealth is a source of problems and conflicts. The father in the book is unable to hold a steady job or provide a stable home for his family, and he often gets into trouble with the authorities or other people because of his debts or his drinking. He also has a strained relationship with his wife, who wants a different life for herself and her children. But I also think that wealth can be a source of solutions and opportunities. I don’t think the father in the book was very capable or supportive, and he wasted his potential and talent.

[A]: Those are all very insightful and valid interpretations. Thank you for sharing them with us. I think we had a very fruitful and enjoyable discussion today.