

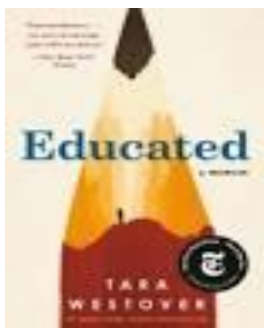
SUMMER READING

11th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment

This summer, you will be required to read the book *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. I have provided a list of questions that will be useful for this assignment. While reading, keep notes that you can use later when writing your answers to each question. You need text evidence for your response to questions, so make sure you are marking down page numbers and direct quotes. There will be a test over the material in this book on Tuesday, August 15th.

Literary Questions

1. Why do you think that Tara Westover chose the Virginia Woolf epigraph at the beginning of her story? Tara's pursuit of education often feels like a rebellion toward her family and upbringing—how does it differ from her other siblings' acts of rebellion? How is it the same?
2. Consider what obtaining an education entails. Oftentimes, when we think of the word, we think of school: classes, lectures, study groups. But much of Tara's education occurred outside of the classroom. Who else, aside from her teachers, helped educate Tara?
3. Tara's father asserts that his homeschooling can't have been that bad, considering Tara went on to do so well in her education and obtained her PhD. Do you think that she succeeded academically because of him or in spite of him? Were there any lessons he imparted to her that helped her succeed academically?
4. How do you think Tara's relationship with her father changed throughout the book? How did her relationship with her mother change as well?
5. Tara writes, "You could call this selfhood many things...Transformation. Metamorphosis. Falsity. Betrayal. I call it an education." What do you make of this? Do you agree with her assessment?
6. Why is it significant that Westover didn't know the word "holocaust" and had no knowledge of race issues in the United States?
7. What role did faith play in the Westover family? How was Tara's upbringing influenced by her parents' faith?
8. What impact does Westover's pursuit of formal education have on her parents? After reading the whole story, where do you think this leaves Tara and her family? Can they still have a relationship? Can she ever go back?



Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she had traveled too far, if there was still a way home.