



Educated: A Memoir (2018)

By Tara Westover



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Discussion questions taken from *LitLovers*

1. Many of Tara's father's choices have an obvious impact on Tara's life, but how did her mother's choices influence her? How did that change over time?
2. Tara's brother Tyler tells her to take the ACT. What motivates Tara to follow his advice?
3. Charles was Tara's first window into the outside world. Under his influence, Tara begins to dress differently and takes medicine for the first time. Discuss Tara's conflicting admiration for both Charles and her father.
4. Tara has titled her book *Educated* and much of her education takes place in classrooms, lectures, or other university environments. But not all. What other important moments of "education" were there? What friends, acquaintances, or experiences had the most impact on Tara? What does that imply about what an education is?
5. Eventually, Tara confronts her family about her brother's abuse. How do different the members of her family respond?
6. What keeps Tara coming back to her family as an adult?
7. Ultimately, what type of freedom did education give Tara?
8. Tara wrote this at the age of thirty, while in the midst of her healing process. Why do you think she chose to write it so young, and how does this distinguish the book from similar memoirs?
9. Tara paid a high price for her education: she lost her family. Do you think she would make the same choice again?
(Questions issued by the publisher.)

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Author Bio:



Birth—1986

- Where—Idaho
- Education—B.A., Brigham Young University; M,Phil, Ph.D., Cambridge University,
- Currently—lives in London, England

Tara Westover was born in rural Idaho in 1986. Never having been in a classroom, she undertook her own education, receiving her BA from Brigham Young University in 2008. She was subsequently awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship and earned an MPhil from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 2009.

In 2010 Westover was a visiting fellow at Harvard University and later returned to Cambridge where, in 2014, she was awarded a PhD.

Before decamping to London, where she now lives, Westover remained in Cambridge for several years, frequently joining folk singer/song-writer John Meed on stage. She has also sung in two of his albums.

Educated is her first book.

Read-alikes

North of Normal by Cea Sunrise Person

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance.



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