

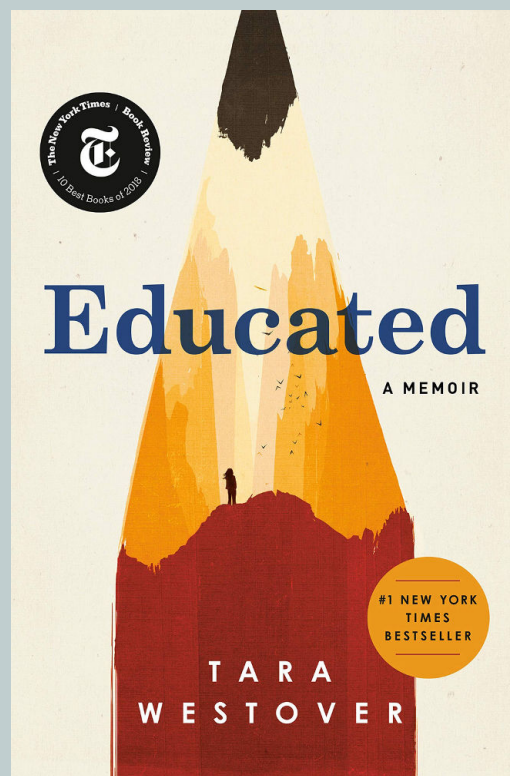
# School for Advanced Studies Academy for Advanced Academics Summer Reading

## *Educated:*

### *A Memoir*

Written by Tara Westover

[Educated by Tara Westover ebook](#)



“You can love someone and still choose to say goodbye to them,” she says now. “You can miss a person every day, and still be glad that they are no longer in your life.”

### **Assignment**

Over the summer, all SAS and AAA students are required to read *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover (2018) for their Language Arts courses.

Furthermore, students are required to answer questions 1-5 on page 2 of this document. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

### **Why did we choose this book?**

Tara Westover's memoir is different from any autobiographical text any of us have ever read. It is powerful, moving, and thoroughly entertaining. You will likely find yourself enjoying the reading, and when you put it down, you will find yourself wanting more. Our goal is for you to consider the question: What are Tara Westover's central arguments within *Educated*?

*Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.

### **Critically Acclaimed**

- Number-one *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Boston Globe* best seller
- Named One of the Ten Best Books of the Year by *The New York Times Book Review*
- One of President Barack Obama's Favorite Books of the Year
- Bill Gates's Holiday Reading List

**Directions:** After reading Tara Westover's Educated, answer questions 1 to 5, due on the first day of school. Your short responses should achieve paragraph structure and include claims, evidence, and commentary. Additionally, you are encouraged to take notes and define any unfamiliar vocabulary encountered while reading.

1. How does Tara Westover use descriptive language to evoke the setting and atmosphere of her childhood in *Educated*? Provide two specific examples and explain how these descriptions contribute to the reader's understanding of her experiences.
2. In *Educated*, Tara Westover recounts several pivotal moments that shape her journey toward education and self-discovery. Choose one such moment and analyze how Westover effectively conveys its significance through her writing.
3. Tara Westover's memoir *Educated* explores themes of family, identity, and the pursuit of knowledge. Select one of these themes and discuss how it is developed throughout the memoir, providing two textual examples to support your analysis.
4. As Tara Westover navigates the tension between her family's beliefs and the outside world,, consider Tara Westover's transformation throughout *Educated*. How does her understanding of education and her sense of self evolve over the course of the memoir? Provide examples from different stages of her journey to support your response.
5. Reflecting on your reading experience of *Educated* by Tara Westover, what aspects of the memoir did you find most compelling or impactful? Discuss any elements you particularly liked or disliked, and provide reasons to support your opinions. Additionally, would you recommend this memoir to others? Why or why not?



**Language Arts teachers can be reached at the following email addresses if you have any questions:**

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