

Educated by Tara Westover

Student Reviewer: Marlena Ciemiega, Grade 10

Marlena Ciemiega

Summary:

Educated is a memoir written by the American author Tara Westover. It tells the story of Tara's journey from a remote childhood in the mountains of southeastern Idaho to overcoming her survivalist Mormon family at the age of seventeen and becoming her own person. The book emphasizes the value of education and broadening one's horizons beyond what one is taught. The youngest of seven siblings, she was homeschooled as a child as a result of her father's politically charged paranoia and fear of the Illuminati. In actuality, there were no real academic instructions, only teachings from the Bible and helping parents with their jobs. Throughout the book, Westover depicts a very traumatizing childhood filled with violence and degradation that has left an undeniable impact and affects her progress in moving on. Slowly, Westover starts to discover herself and learns more of the world during her university degree and graduate studies, and she discovers that she enjoys learning.

Review: ★★★★★

I love this book and couldn't put it down once I started reading it. I feel like I really know and understand Tara and her hardships because of the beautiful writing. The novel is an emotional roller coaster, and I experienced all of Tara's feelings: despair, defeat, anger, desperation, melancholy, and so on. She is a really complex individual, and it is fascinating to watch her change and grow through time, as well as conquer her challenges and achieve her goals.