



# Educated

Tara Westover

Tara Westover's luminous memoir about growing up off-grid in rural Idaho and finding her way to formal education, family, and selfhood. It is tender, harrowing, and unforgettable in the best book club way.

**Reading level:** Moderate

**Best for:** clubs that love deeply personal memoirs and heartfelt, reflective conversation

## Discussion

### WARM-UP

1. Where were you when you read most of this book, and what made that spot feel right for it?
2. Was there a scene early on that pulled you in and made you want to keep turning pages late into the night?

### DIGGING IN

1. Tara writes so vividly about the mountain and her childhood landscape. What place from your own life came to mind while reading?
2. Which moment in the book made you want to wrap Tara in a blanket and hand her a warm drink, and why did it move you?
3. The book is full of small kindnesses from teachers, siblings, and strangers. Which one stayed with you, and has anyone shown up for you in a similar way?
4. How did the book shift the way you think about what 'education' really means, beyond classrooms and credentials?

### GOING DEEP

1. Memory and truth weave through every chapter. How did the book make you feel about your own family stories and the way they get retold?
2. Without giving anything away, what feeling did you carry around the day after you finished reading, and what comforted you while sitting with it?

## On the table

### 🍲 **Slow-simmered beef stew with crusty bread**

A hearty, rural-kitchen kind of meal that nods to Idaho winters and feels like a hug in a bowl

### 🍞 **Honey-buttered cornbread muffins**

Simple, homey, and easy to pass around the couch as conversation deepens

### 🍏 **Apple crumble with vanilla ice cream**

Orchard-warm and nostalgic, the perfect comfort dessert for a memoir about home and growing up

## To sip

### ☕ **Spiced honey chamomile tea (no alcohol)**

Gentle, soothing, and great for long, thoughtful conversation

### ☕ **Mulled apple cider (no alcohol)**

Cinnamon and clove warmth that suits the mountain setting and cozy mood

### ☕ **Hot toddy with lemon and honey**

A grown-up nightcap for unwinding into the deeper questions

## Run of show

**7:00**

### **Soft landing**

Greet guests with a warm drink, slippers welcome, soft playlist already humming

**7:15**

### **Stew and settle**

Serve dinner buffet-style so people can curl up wherever feels comfy

**7:45**

### **Warm-ups**

Use the first two questions to ease people in while they finish their plates

**8:10**

### **Heart of the book**

Move through the theme questions slowly, letting silences and side stories breathe

**8:45**

### **Crumble and depth**

Bring out dessert and toddies before easing into the two deeper questions

**9:20**

### **Scorecards and goodnight**

Fill in scorecards together, trade favorite passages, send everyone home with a bookmark

## HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low with lamps and candles so the room feels safe for personal sharing
- Have a basket of throw blankets by the couch and invite people to grab one
- If a question gets quiet, share your own answer first to model openness

## Playlist

*Soft folk and acoustic Americana, warm enough for candlelight and slow conversation*

01 Holocene - Bon Iver

03 Rivers and Roads - The Head and the Heart

05 Re: Stacks - Bon Iver

07 Carry Me Home - Sons of the East

02 The Night We Met - Lord Huron

04 Wagon Wheel - Old Crow Medicine Show

06 Helplessness Blues - Fleet Foxes

08 Landslide - Fleetwood Mac

# Trivia

1. In what U.S. state did Tara Westover grow up? (Idaho)
2. What year was *Educated* first published? (2018)
3. At which university did Tara earn her PhD? (Cambridge)
4. Which prestigious scholarship helped fund her studies at Cambridge? (The Gates Cambridge Scholarship)
5. What U.S. university did Tara attend for her undergraduate degree? (Brigham Young University)
6. What family business did Tara grow up working in? (Her father's scrapyard)
7. What field is Tara's doctoral work in? (History (intellectual history))
8. *Educated* is written in which nonfiction genre? (Memoir)

## Rate the book

How it made you feel ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Warmth of the writing ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Moments that lingered ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Conversation it sparked ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Would re-read on a rainy day ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for this book: \_\_\_\_\_

A passage I want to remember: \_\_\_\_\_

Something it made me want to do or call: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU'RE INVITED

## Stew, Stories, and *Educated*

Bring your slippers and an open heart. We are gathering for warm bowls, soft lamplight, and a gentle conversation about Tara Westover's unforgettable memoir.



**Plan your own book club night**

Scan the code or visit [bookclubnight.com](https://bookclubnight.com)

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