***Educated: A Memoir*, by Tara Westover, Plan of Study**

IB English 3

**Summary**: Tara Westover’s memoir is about growing up in a family of “separatists” (the author’s word), or survivalists, in the mountains of Idaho. Her father operated a junkyard, her mother made and distributed herbal medicines, and the family was isolated from mainstream society. She did not attend school as a child, and there was no official record of her existence. Because her parents were suspicions of the federal government and most institutions connected to government agencies, she and her family did not go to the doctor or use other social services. When one of her brothers got himself into college, Tara decided to apply as well and 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’d traveled too far.

**Content Warning**: Educated has intense scenes of violence and abuse. Many moments in the text may elicit strong emotions in its readers. Additionally, the “N-word” is used by Tara’s brother.

**About the Author:** Tara Westover was born in Idaho in 1986. She received her BA from Brigham Young University in 2008 and was subsequently awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. She earned an MPhil from Trinity College,

Cambridge, in 2009, and in 2010 was a visiting fellow at Harvard University. She returned to Cambridge, where she was awarded a PhD in history in 2014. *Educated* is her first book.

**Reading Schedule and Assignment Overview**

The book is composed of three parts. After a week of getting our momentum going, we will focus on **one part of the book each week** for three weeks. Each of those weeks there will be a quiz on Thursday and a Socratic seminar on Friday (both summative assessments). While everyone will take the quizzes each week, and you will be assigned to Socratic seminar(s) on a specific date(s). In order to help you prepare for quizzes and Socratic seminars, I will provide you **study questions** (formative assessments). These will be due on quiz days. See the calendar for specific due dates.

**Socratic Seminars**

As mentioned above, you will **participate** in Socratic seminars that will take place each week on Fridays. An assigned group will be responsible for maintaining a discussion about that part of the book for the class period. I will provide questions that you and your co-seminarians will prepare to discuss. Your group may use the questions as they are written, or you may build on them to bring your own ideas about the text to the discussion. **Prepare** for the discussion by having notes on the questions prepared with **text evidence**, including page numbers, as support. All of your comments should be grounded in the text and should have text evidence to back them up.

As an IB student**, you are required to orally present** your ideas and analysis about texts and what you are learning in your courses. **There is no alternative for this assignment.** If you do not participate in the discussion you will earn a failing grade for the assignment. Following are the guidelines for the Socratic Seminars:

* Your Socratic seminar will run for **30 minutes**. Seminarians will **turn on cameras and mics** for the discussion if they are conducted via Teams.
* You may need to briefly summarize an event or moment in the text, but you should not rely on the summary as the main part of the discussion.
* You will be graded individually on your ability to keep the conversation going and contributing appropriately to the discussion. You will be graded on your **unique, relevant, and accurate contributions** to the conversation that **uses text evidence as support**.
* **Listen** and **integrate** your comments into the flow of the discussion—part of your grade depends on this, too. Do not simply wait for an opening to put in your 2 cents. A natural conversation takes turns and changes topics, but you may lose points if you blatantly switch topics merely to get your point made. You may also lose points if you are rude to group members, repeatedly interrupt others, or simply repeat or confirm what others have said.
* You are one of several seminarians, so you should be aware that others on your panel my make the same observations and connections you have. Be prepared to **build on** what your fellow panelists say and do not repeat the same ideas.
* As an **observer** of a seminar, you will **take notes on the content** of the discussion and you will **critique discussion skills of one participant**. Your critique will only be viewed by me. The purpose of the critique is to learn from watching others, both what participants do well that you may want to emulate and what they are challenged by so that you might avoid the same problems.

**Calendar**

Below is a tentative schedule of study of the memoir *Educated*. This schedule is designed to help you plan ahead and stay on top of reading assignments. If we need to change this schedule, I will notify you as soon as possible. It is ultimately your responsibility to know about schedule changes and due dates. Keep your eye on Teams, Remind, and my website for updates as well.

**January/February**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| 11  **DUE**: Westover interview response  Writing Reflection Assignment.  Intro to study of *Educated* | 12  **DUE**: Writing Reflection  Discussion of Ruby Ridge | 13  Class work time.  Writing conferences. | 14  Class work time.  Writing conferences. | 15  Q&A |
| 18  **ML King Day**  **No School** | 19  Class work time.  Breakouts for Socratic Seminar planning.  Writing conferences. | 20  Class work time.  Breakouts for Socratic Seminar planning.  Writing conferences. | 21  **Quiz**: Part One  **DUE**: Part One Study Questions | 22  **Socratic Seminar:**  **Part One** |
| 25  Class work time.  Breakouts for Socratic Seminar planning.  Writing conferences. | 26  Q&A | 27  Class work time.  Breakouts for Socratic Seminar planning.  Writing conferences. | 28  **Quiz**: Part Two  **DUE**: Part Two Study Questions | 29  **Socratic Seminar:**  **Part Two** |
| 1  Class work time.  Breakouts for Socratic Seminar planning.  Writing conferences. | 2  Q&A | 3  Class work time.  Breakouts for Socratic Seminar planning.  Writing conferences. | 4  **Quiz**: Part Three  **DUE**: Part Three Study Questions | 5  **Socratic Seminar:**  **Part Three** |