Reading guide for Tara Westover’s *Educated* (2018)

1. Reread the epigraph from Virginia Woolf. Why does the author choose to begin her memoir this way?

2. How does the setting of rural Idaho inform the family’s experience?

3. How does the 1992 standoff at Ruby Ridge cast a shadow over the Westover parents and children and the survivalism that characterizes their upbringing?

4. Why does Westover’s father object to formalized education?

5. In her first class at college, Westover recounts not knowing what the word “holocaust” means. Why is this moment significant?

6. Throughout the book, Westover refers back to journals she kept while growing up. How does her recording of her life’s events inform this book?

7. Who are the people who make the greatest impact on Westover’s life?

8. What does Westover learn about family, forgiveness, trauma, and education?