

Book Review Competition 2024-25

Name: Nausheen S Shaikh, Class: TYBAMMC A, Roll No: 17



Title of the book: Educated; **Author:** Tara Westover; **Publication:** Random House; **Year:** 2018

The objective of the book "Educated" is to explore the transformative power of education and the struggle for self-identity. Tara Westover shares her journey from growing up in a strict and isolated household in rural Idaho to pursuing higher education, ultimately seeking to understand her place in the world beyond her upbringing. It also helps people to overcome adversity and achieve great things if they have a growth mindset and persevere. It shows the human capacity to overcome adversity and break free from limiting circumstances.

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she

studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge.

Best line from the book is “Knowledge is power. It has the power to change you, to change your life, and to change the world.”

I found "Educated" to be deeply moving and inspiring. Tara Westover's writing style is both lyrical and poignant, allowing readers to connect with her struggles and triumphs. The language is vivid, painting a clear picture of her experiences, from the harsh realities of her childhood to the liberating moments of learning. The story is compelling, showcasing the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of education in breaking cycles of ignorance. Personally, I appreciated her honesty and vulnerability, as it made her journey relatable and impactful. The book encourages readers to value their own education and to reflect on the forces that shape their identities.

