

## SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT (2024)

Dear AP English Language and Composition Student,

I'm so pleased you have chosen to challenge yourself by investing in this elective course. You will, potentially, have the opportunity to earn college credit but, more importantly, you will have the opportunity to deepen your emerging English skills by continuing your growth in rhetorical analysis and critical thinking, developing skill in argumentation, and practicing your research writing skills. Over the summer, I would like you to read ***Educated* by Tara Westover**. This memoir chronicles the life of someone who witnessed first-hand the isolated life inside a survivalist family and who experienced transformation when she began her quest for knowledge. Four questions should guide your reading of this novel:

- In *Educated*, Westover writes: "Everything I had worked for, all my years of study, had been to purchase for myself this one privilege: to see and experience more truths than those given to me by my father, and to use those truths to construct my own mind. I had come to believe the ability to evaluate many ideas, many histories, many points of view, was at the heart of what it means to self-create." How do you know something is true? Are you willing to take someone else's (a parent, a teacher, a religious leader) words as truth? Why or why not?
- By Chapter 22, Westover writes that her life was often "narrated for me by others. Their voices were forceful, emphatic, absolute. It had never occurred to me that my voice might be as strong as theirs." Westover eventually finds her voice and realizes it's just as powerful as the people who have influenced her life. What is voice, and why is it important to find *your* voice?
- Westover's life would certainly have been different had she chosen not to leave home and attend college. In what ways? What risks did she face and what fears did the author have to overcome to be able to leave home and pursue higher education? How did Westover change because of her formalized education?
- Westover says she believed she could "be remade, my mind recast" at her university. And in the end, she writes that she is a "changed person" from the person she was as her father's daughter and from her 16-year-old self. "You could call this selfhood many things," she writes. "Transformation. Metamorphosis. Falsity. Betrayal. I call it an education." Explain these final lines.

Enjoy the summer! When August 27<sup>th</sup> arrives, you will need to buckle up and hang on because the AP vehicle will be traveling on the expressway! ☺

Mrs. Piehl