

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
JUNE 2020 – “EDUCATED” BY TARA WESTOVER

1. If you could ask Tara anything after reading her memoir, what would it be?
2. Were there any parts in Tara’s journey that you could relate to? Which part in her journey shocked you the most?
3. How do you think Tara’s relationship with her father changed throughout the book? Her relationship with her mother? Did your perception of her parents change as you read?
4. Why do you think Tara buried and hid her brother’s abuse for years? Was it solely because of her family’s denial, or was it Tara’s feelings for her brother as well? What were your thoughts around her depiction of the abuse?
5. Consider what obtaining an education entails. Oftentimes, when we think of the word, we think of school: classes, lectures, study groups. But much of Tara’s education occurred outside of the classroom. What does receiving an education mean to you?
6. A significant moment in the book is when Tara asks a professor for advice and he encourages her to apply to Cambridge, claiming that she must learn what she is capable of and then figure out who she is. Do you agree with that advice? Was there ever a time in your life when you received similar advice? How did it work out for you?
7. Tara talks about “recasting” her mind in college; do you believe that one’s mind can be completely recast? Do you think Tara remade herself, or is she still the same girl she was as a teenager, with more perspective?
8. Throughout the book, Westover works to challenge and sometimes dispel the “truths” that are presented to her by her father, in order to make up her own mind about the world. Was there ever anyone in your life whose words you took to be true but then later found yourself disagreeing? How do you know if something is true?
9. Currently, Tara does not communicate with her parents and family members living in Idaho. After everything they have been through together, is there any hope of reuniting with her family? And even better question, should she?
10. What is your biggest takeaway from reading *Educated* and why?