

## Chapter 1 : The Bedford Reader by X.J. Kennedy

*The Bedford Reader has ratings and 13 reviews. Martin said: good, if dated, overview and guide to the art of essay-writing. full of a nice variety of.*

By Junot Díaz An essay about my mom as a girl trying to get her education. Appeared in *More*, May The brutalized backbone of our world. The kind of Dominican girl who was destined never to get off the mountain or out of the campo. Her own mother a straight-haired terror. Expected her to work on the family farm until she died or was married off, but my mother in those small spaces between the work cultivated dreams, that unbreakable habit of the young. When the field hands were hurt or fell ill, she was the one who cared for them. Opened in her a horizon. A dream of being a nurse in the capital, where she heard that every block had electricity. But to be a nurse, you needed education, and while there were some girls who attended the one-room school at the base of the hill, my mother was not one of them. Her mother, my grandmother, demanded that she stay on the farm, that she stay a mule. No one more threatened by the thought of an educated girl than my grandmother. Any time my mother was caught near the schoolhouse, my grandmother gave her a beating. And not the beatings of the First World but the beatings of the Third— which you do not so easily shake off. For his own complicated reasons the dictator of that time, Trujillo, passed a mandatory-education act stipulating that all Dominican children under the age of 15 had to be in school and not stuck out in the fields. Any parent keeping a child from school would be imprisoned! Nothing short of the threat of a year inside a Trujillo prison could snap the resistance that rural Dominicans had to the idea of educating their young. My mother heard about the law, of course. And she brooded on it. The house, like all other houses in the Dominican Republic, had a portrait of Trujillo hanging in it. The news of the school came at a crucial time. Two days before the move, she got down on her knees beside a stagnant puddle of water, put her mouth in it and drank deeply. She was so sick that the family decided to head into the hills without her. The coffee could not wait. My mother was left with a cousin, and as soon as my grandmother was out of sight, my mother, bent over double from the stomach pains, hobbled down to the schoolhouse and reported my grandmother. I want to go to school, was what she told the teacher. What should have happened was that the teacher should have laughed and sent her poor ass back to the hills to pick coffee. And when she tried to drag my mother up to the hills, the police put her in handcuffs, and that was that. Immigration got in the way of that horizon— once in the United States, my mother never could master English, no matter how hard she tried, and my God, did she try. But strange how things work— her son became a reader and a writer, practices she encouraged as much as possible. I think of that thirst, of that courage. I think of her.

## Chapter 2 : The Brief Bedford Reader by X.J. Kennedy

*The Bedford Guide for College Writers with Reader, Research Manual and Handbook (4-in-1) 11e (Cloth) & Writer's Help, Lunsford Version 5e (Twelve Month Access) Oct 14, by X. J. Kennedy and Dorothy M. Kennedy.*

## Chapter 3 : The Brief Bedford Reader - X. J. Kennedy, Dorothy M. Kennedy, Jane E. Aaron - Google Books

*The Bedford Reader is a college composition textbook published by the Bedford/St. Martin's publishing company. It is edited by X. J. Kennedy, Dorothy M. Kennedy, and Jane E. Aaron. It is widely used in freshman composition courses at colleges across the United States.*

## Chapter 4 : The Bedford Reader - X. J. Kennedy, Dorothy M. Kennedy, Jane E. Aaron - Google Books

*The Bedford Reader by Dorothy M. Kennedy, Jane E. Aaron, X. J. Kennedy and E See more like this The Bedford Guide for College Writers with Reader, Research Manual, and Handbook Pre-Owned.*

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### Chapter 6 : The Bedford Reader - Wikipedia

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