



# One Book, One Community:

Questions prepared by Dr. Hugh Foley, Rogers State University

✦ **MY BOOK DISCUSSION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

[Need to reschedule your discussion date? Call (405) 372-3633 x8106.]

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## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss anything you know about the Osage people, Osage Nation, or Osage history.
2. Discuss anything you had heard about the “Osage Reign of Terror” before reading this book.
3. Explain the intent of the Federal government in breaking up communally held lands into individual allotments for tribal members.
4. Why were Osage people appointed guardians after allotment? a. Who were these guardians and how did they benefit from their guardian status?
5. What were the Osage “headrights” in relationship to the Osage minerals estate? How did these headrights lead to the series of murders of Osage people?
6. What did you learn about Oklahoma history you did not know before reading this book?
7. Describe and discuss some of the most shocking elements of this story.
8. Discuss the writing of this book by David Grann in terms of tone, word choice, narrative organization, or his perspective of Oklahoma and Oklahoma history. What passage or passages of text crystallize the themes of the book?

# One Book, One Community: **Killers** of the **Flower Moon**

Questions from [www.litlovers.com](http://www.litlovers.com) + Need more info? Visit [library.stillwater.org/flowermoon.php](http://library.stillwater.org/flowermoon.php)

## Extra Questions

1. Trace the "path" by which the Osage Indians eventually landed on the swatch of land in what would become the state of Oklahoma. Talk about their treatment at the hands of the U.S. government and others over the years. What angered or shocked you most?
2. Describe the early days of the Bureau of Investigation, its founding under Theodore Roosevelt, its original purpose, structure and operation, as well as its corruption, ineptness and bungled investigation of the Osage murders.
3. What made young J. Edgar Hoover an unlikely choice to head the Bureau of Investigation? What was his vision for the bureau—why, for instance, a nationalized police force rather than the existing patchwork structure?
4. How would you describe Tom White? Talk about how he approached the investigation into the Osage murders? When he solved the crime, were you surprised by the identity of the mastermind? Or had you figured it out along the way.
5. Grann writes that "history is a merciless judge." What does he mean by that?
6. Talk about the last 70 pages of the book, in which Grann writes about working with current tribal members to uncover an even deeper conspiracy. By the book's end, what were your feelings about the Osage nation, its history, and its people?
7. What is the significance of the book's title?
8. Does this story have relevance to current events? Are there parallels regarding the Standing Rock Lakota nation and the Keystone pipeline?