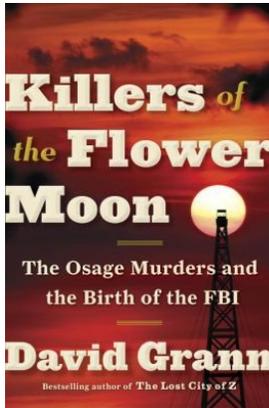


# Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

April 30, 2018

## Biography:



David Grann is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. He graduated from Connecticut College in 1989, and earned a master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and a master's degree from Boston College in creative writing. He has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New Republic*. His stories have been published in numerous anthologies of American writing. His books include *The Devil and Sherlock Holmes*, *The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon* which won the Indies Choice award for the best nonfiction book of 2009, and *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. (Bowker Author Biography)

## Similar Resources:



## Discussion Questions:

1. Before starting the book, had you ever heard of the Osage murders? Why do you think more people hadn't heard of it?
2. The first character we meet is Mollie Burkhardt, whose family becomes a main target of the Osage murders. How does Grann signal to us early on what the murderer may be after?
3. How trustworthy do you find the various authorities who appear throughout the book to investigate the murders?
4. Grann writes: "Although some white guardians and administrators tried to act in the best interests of the tribe, countless others used the system to swindle the very people they were ostensibly protecting." How was this able to happen?
5. As the FBI solved the case, how did J. Edgar Hoover try to shape the mythology of the bureau? What parts of the FBI's investigation of the Osage Murders were left out of the story?
6. Grann ends the book with a quote from the Bible about Cain and Abel: "The blood cries out from the ground." Why do you think he chose to close the book this way?  
(Questions from PBS)