

Governor Livingston High School  
English 2 Honors  
2026 Summer Reading Assignment

Your summer assignment is to read *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann, and complete the following prompts. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Toporek @ [stoporek@bhpsnj.org](mailto:stoporek@bhpsnj.org) or Ms. Carney @ [scarney@bhpsnj.org](mailto:scarney@bhpsnj.org) **prior to the end** of the 2026-2027 school year.

**PART 1: HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** Learning about the historical context of a text allows readers to understand the cultural, political and social circumstances of the period in which the story is set. These are the factors that provide the framework for the telling of the narrative, analyzing motivations and actions of individuals, and putting the events in a time and place.

As *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann is non-fiction, based on true events, understanding the historical context provides insight into the Osage Nation's forced relocation, the exploitation of their oil wealth, and the systemic racism that fueled the murders

Before reading *Killers of the Flower Moon*, review the [Osage Murders Slideshow](#) to learn about the context of the novel. In the chart, take notes on the following ideas:

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| <b>Who are the Osage people?</b>                                                                                                       |  |
| <b>What was the “Reign of Terror” and how did it affect the Osage people?</b>                                                          |  |
| <b>Why were the Osage targeted for their wealth? Who were their perpetrators?</b>                                                      |  |
| <b>What is the Dawes Act? What is the Curtis Act? What is the Osage Allotment of 1906? How did these acts impact the Osage people?</b> |  |
| <b>What are headrights?</b>                                                                                                            |  |
| <b>Who is Mollie Burkhart?</b>                                                                                                         |  |
| <b>Explain the idea of guardianship. Why did the Osage people need guardians?</b>                                                      |  |

**PART 2: ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** The following essential questions should guide your reading. Be prepared to discuss these questions in the fall when you return to school. Take notes on these ideas in the chart provided below. You should have at least three examples from different parts of the text to support your response.

| ESSENTIAL QUESTION                                                                                 | RESPONSE TO QUESTION | TEXTUAL EVIDENCE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <i>How do historical and cultural perspectives contribute to the meaning of a historical text?</i> |                      |                  |
| <i>How do an author's stylistic choices affect purpose and meaning in a nonfiction text?</i>       |                      |                  |
| <i>Why is it important to use multiple perspectives when interpreting the past?</i>                |                      |                  |
| <i>What lessons can modern society learn from historical events and their aftermath?</i>           |                      |                  |

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| <i>How do societal structures perpetuate systemic injustices, unfairness, and/or inequality?</i> |  |  |
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