

❖ **Intended Audience:**

- AP English Language and Composition students

❖ **Brief Summary and Educational Significance:**

- In the 1920s, the Osage Nation in Oklahoma were the wealthiest people per capita in the world after oil was discovered on their land. By law, the Osage held the mineral rights to their land, but this wealth attracted the attention of ruthless and scheming white Americans. A systematic conspiracy known as the "Reign of Terror" began, in which dozens of Osage were murdered for their headrights, which designated their shares in the tribal oil trust. *Killers of the Flower Moon* offers a multifaceted and compelling text with connections to U.S. history, investigative journalism, and sociology.

❖ **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used:**

- David Grann's nonfiction novel *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* delves into a dark and often overlooked chapter of American history: the series of murders of wealthy Osage Nation members in 1920s Oklahoma. Its complex narrative, which combines true-crime investigation with deep historical context, offers advanced students significant opportunities for critical thinking, interdisciplinary study, and ethical consideration.
- The novel offers opportunities for Interdisciplinary connections and historical depth, analysis of complex themes, development of critical thinking skills and research skills, and allows for fostering empathy and ethical awareness.

❖ **Potential Problems:**

- Explicit violence
- Exploration of systematic racism
- Substance abuse and addiction

❖ **Addressing Potential Problems:**

- Providing lessons with historical contextualization
- Using primary sources to supplement
- Using multiple formats for engagement
 - Journaling
 - Literary analysis - focus on rhetoric
 - Small group discussion
 - Socratic seminars
 - Connections to contemporary issues