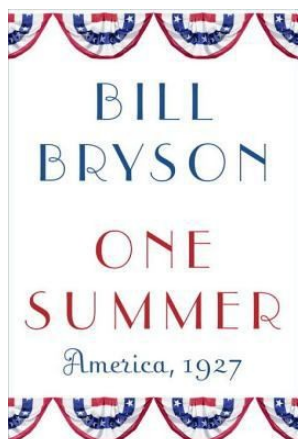


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

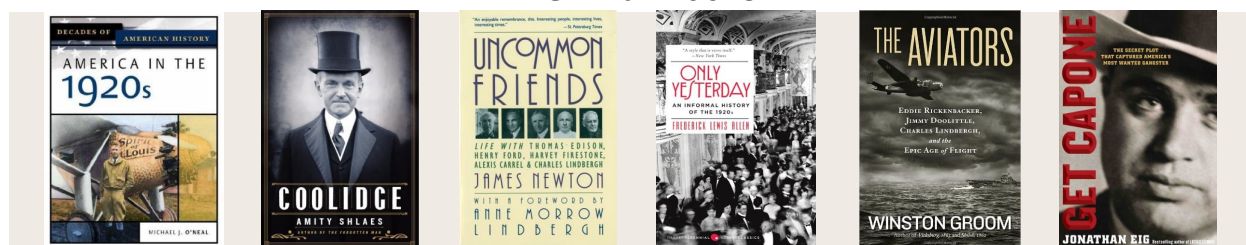
September 28, 2015

Biography:



Bill Bryson was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on December 8, 1951. In 1973, Bryson went backpacking in England, where he eventually decided to settle. He wrote for English newspapers as well as supplementing his income by writing travel articles. Bryson moved back to the States in 1995. His first travel book chronicles a trip around small town America. While primarily a travel writer, he has also written about language, science, biography and history. He and his wife returned to England in 2003. He was the chancellor of Durham University from 2005 until 2011. The Royal Society of Chemistry have given him the President's Award for the advancement of chemistry and created the Bill Bryson prize to promote science writing in schools. He is the first non-Briton to be elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society.

Similar Books:



Discussion Questions:

1. Of all the stories that Bryson tells in *One Summer*, which one do you find most interesting? Which story most surprised you?
2. Of all the heroes covered in the book, whom do you have the most sympathy for? Which hero do you most admire? Most despise?
3. How did Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray bungle the coverup of their murder?
4. How would you describe Robert Elliott, America's top executioner? What in his background shaped him to do his job? Would you want him as a father...or husband?
5. Bryson's trademark humor is on display in *One Summer*. What parts, in particular, did you find funny?
6. How much, if anything, have you learned from *One Summer*?
7. Is there anything about the episodes in this book that mark them as distinctly American? Is there something that links them together in a way that defines the culture of this country?
8. The book has been criticized as "light"—lacking any deeper analysis—that it's merely a collection of disparate historical anecdotes whose purpose is to amuse. Do you agree...or disagree? (*Questions by LitLovers.com*)