

**First Thursday Book Club Discussion Questions****Title**

The Immortal Irishman

June 2017, 2pm. Diane Grubel hosts. Sharon Heydet leads the discussion

1. What makes a great biography?
2. What are the responsibilities of a biographer? Can you trust what the writer of the biography you have read is telling you? How far does your biography reveal the author's particular interests and attitudes? Should we feel the biographer's presence as we read?
3. What makes some lives worth reading about? In what ways was the life in your chosen biography remarkable or admirable? What most influenced that person? How far did the consequences of their actions and decisions spread? In what way? To what effect?
4. If the biographer you are discussing is debunking a person or showing a completely new side of their subject, how controversial are those assertions? Are they a total surprise to you?
5. A biography should feel "true." What creative liberties do we allow biographers to take to make their stories interesting? Consider A Scott Berg's words about the challenges of writing biography: Biography is the toughest form of writing....
6. Just as important as getting the history right is getting the drama right...it behooves the biographer to tell his tale as compellingly as the novelist does. If the biography you are discussing uses techniques you would more expect to find in a novelist's repertoire, what is the effect of this?