

First Thursday Book Club Discussion Questions**Title: Days Without End**

April 2018, 2 pm. Barb Selis hosts.
Carol Brain leads the discussion.

1. What is unique about this book - writing style, structure, subject matter? Did the writing style enhance or distract from the story? It has been called "A contradiction of poetry and bloody war which in a weird way works, delivering a heartfelt book". Did you like the prose and the language?
2. With the novel exploring very modern themes like sexuality and gender fluidity, how did the book make you feel while reading it? Did you like the book immediately or did it take you some time to become committed? Why?
3. Of the three main characters, were there any that you particularly liked or disliked? Why? Would you have changed anything about the characters? Could any of the characters be omitted from the book?
4. Did the book alter your perception in any way? Will it change your outlook on future topics or decisions? Moments of brutal violence are intercut with moments of incredible tenderness, did you find that effective?
5. Why was Trooper Pearl executed? Was it because he felt sorry for the Indians and could see their perspective, thus making him ineffective in any future battle?
6. "If you want to know about the Indian reservations, read it. If you want to know about the Civil War, read it. If you want to know about history or geography, read this book," – do you think that there was an accurate accounting of these subjects in the book?
7. Sebastian Barry is an Irishman – do you think he was qualified to write a book about the west? Why do you think he choose to write about this subject? Have you read any books by this author before?
8. Do you think that Sebastian Barry could have made this book longer? Does it seem brief? If longer, would the emotional impact have been as great?