

Morsels For the Mind Book Group

Date: September 18, 2017

Book Title: Hero of the Empire by Candace Millard

Hostess: Nancy Schellenberg

Food Served: Apartheid tea sandwiches, English Cheddar with spiced peach chutney, gold "nuggets" (Koeze dark chocolate mounds), banket bites, South African wines, Jumbleberry Grunt, coffee

Book Synopsis: Young Winston Churchill, downtrodden after an election defeat, was convinced that he needed to shine on the battlefield to advance his political career. He traveled to South Africa to cover the Boer War. While embedded with the troops, he fought bravely, was captured, taken prisoner, escaped, and traveled enemy territory alone without supplies, compass, water or knowledge of Dutch or Zulu. His escape and later involvement in the Boer War read like fiction, but are factual.

Review: Overall, group members enjoyed the book. We couldn't believe his good fortune to randomly find British folks who sheltered him and, at great personal risk, aided and engineered his escape.

Highlights of Discussion: We pondered WC's entitlement, sense of destiny, family connections, and the fact that his father never thought he'd amount to much. He overcame an

unhappy childhood and early educational failures to become an eloquent statesman. We were also intrigued by his mother Jenny. The intersection of famous people, events and discoveries during that time made the war even more interesting to those of us who knew little about it.

Attendance: 3 Nancys, Ginny, Julie, Laura and Sandy

*Suggestions/Business: Anne Hill will host Hillbilly Elegy
October 16*