**Ghost Soldiers, *by Hampton Sides***

**Book Circle Discussion Questions**

1. This book told two stories in tandem – the story of the raid itself and the story of the prisoners of war. Did you find Hampton Sides’ writing technique to be effective or confusing?

2. The raid on the Cabanatuan camp was successful because of the teamwork of multiple groups. There were the American Rangers, the Alamo Scouts, the Filipino guerillas, and even the Filipino civilians. Talk about the roles that each group played in the raid and their importance.

3. How would you describe Mucci and Prince? What was it about them that made them so successful in planning and executing the raid?

4. Claire Phillips was an American spy and the owner of the nightclub called the Tsubaki Club. Talk about her bravery, her ingenuity, and the ultimate price that she paid. How did ‘High Pockets’ help with the POWs and Cabanatuan camp?

5. The will to survive is extraordinary in this story. What stood out to you about how the men survived in captivity? How did they set up their community to give some semblance of normalcy to their days? Do you think the men were loyal to each other?

6. The men who managed to survive in Cabanatuan camp long enough to be rescued exhibited extraordinary resilience and grit. However, they were the sickest and weakest of the group of POWs – the most able had been sent by the Japanese to work camps in Japanese-controlled Asia. Prior to reading this book, had you heard of the Hell Ships that took the POWs to these camps?

7. I had trouble reading at the end of the book because I had tears streaming down my face. Did anyone else have a similar reaction?