

TAB Club Book Report – September 9, 2026

As usual, opinions of the book ranged from “couldn’t put it down” to “can barely get through it”... and that was just among the three of us who actually made it to the discussion! We wondered about the wisdom of trying to understand the history of the Renaissance by speculating about the life of a single individual, particularly one about whom surprisingly little is actually known. Some found Greenblatt’s writing style rather turgid, while another thought it flowed beautifully. Clearly, we were not reading quite the same book.

The discussion then broadened into the perennial book-club question: **What makes a good book-club book?** It seems that most members favour lighter fare, while others are happy to sink their teeth into something more substantial. Perhaps the real challenge is finding a book that is neither too fluffy nor too chewy.

As always, however, the discussion was at its liveliest when we wandered completely off topic. When Leah mentioned that she had used ChatGPT to come up with discussion points, we quickly found ourselves debating whether AI enhances or constricts human creativity. From there, naturally, we moved on to the uses and misuses of AI in higher education. And so, once again, the book provided merely the launching pad for a conversation that had very little to do with the book by the time we finished!

Next up: ***The Free World*** by David Bezmozgis