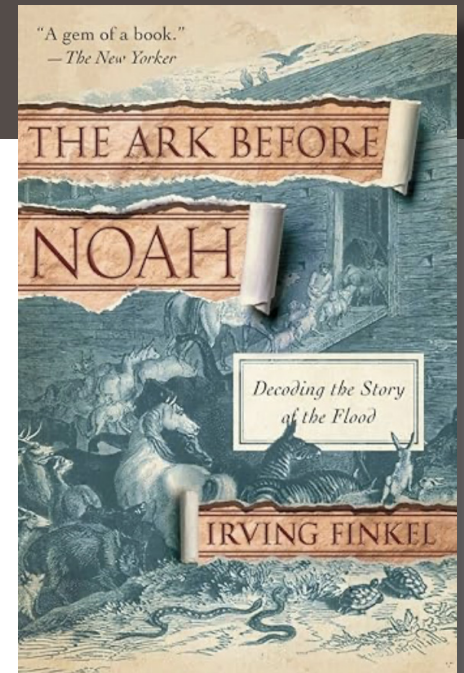




AIA BOOK CLUB SELECTION

Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood by Irving Finkel

When a small, peculiar, palm-sized clay tablet made its way to the desk of Irving Finkel, Assyriologist and Assistant Keeper at the British Museum, Finkel could hardly believe his luck. What he discovered was a missing piece in the story of Noah and the Ark. In this captivating, absorbing work of scholarship, Finkel, a world authority on ancient Mesopotamia, leads the reader on a detective hunt for the prototype of Noah's Ark—from cuneiform wedges to bundles of reeds, from ancient Babylon to modern Iraq, Finkel reveals new information on the origin of the Babylonian Flood story which pre-dates the biblical deluge, including the surprising size and shape of the boat itself, and even where it came to rest. New to this edition, Finkel puts the "Ark Tablet" to the test in building a modern version of the ship. Throughout, *The Ark Before Noah* takes us on an adventurous voyage of discovery, opening the door to an enthralling world of ancient voices and historical lore.



Publisher's Description

Lecture by Finkel

Given at *the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_fkpZSnz2I

This talk will describe what befell the speaker after one quite remarkable cuneiform tablet was brought for examination to the British Museum in London. The inscription on this four-thousand-year-old tablet led to a series of altogether unexpected discoveries, demanding a whole new look at Noah and his Ark, and culminating in a book and a documentary film.



Purchase Links:

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<https://www.amazon.com/Ark-Before-Noah-Decoding-Story/dp/0345804392>

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Possible Discussion Questions

1. How do you think the decision to withhold the ultimate destination affected the expedition? Would knowing have made a difference?
2. Something about losing the equipment and the effect it had on the expedition
3. What surprised you most about the expedition?
4. What was particularly memorable? The biggest takeaway that you didn't know before?
5. What did you learn about the time period in which the book is set that you did not previously know?
6. If you got the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be?
7. What did you like best about this book?
8. What did you like least about this book?
9. What questions do you still have?

