

## ***What the Tide Leaves Behind Discussion Questions***

1. The writing features vivid descriptions of the land, sea and sky in Donegal. Does it make you want to visit Ireland? If you've already visited, do the descriptions seem accurate to what you experienced?
2. As the book starts, we learn that Thomas has more or less been drifting through life, working in a bookshop with no real career, ambitions or goals. Have you (or your Millennial/Gen Z children) ever been in this predicament yourself? What did you do, or what happened, to shake you out of your doldrums?
3. Tosa has been described as a big small town. Did any of Thomas' experiences in Dunnybegs remind you of life in Wauwatosa? If you are a transplant, can you think of someone who helped you acclimate to Tosa like Cara did for Thomas?
4. After his mother's death, Thomas learns some things about his mother that he never knew before, for example, the fact that she had a dog and the friendship she had in her youth that ended tragically. Are there things you learned about a parent after his or her death? Are there questions you wished you'd have asked your parents when they were still alive?
5. Have you ever adopted an adult dog and tried to train it? Does Thomas' experience with Molly remind you of that experience? Have you ever found yourself, to your surprise, falling head over heels for a pet?
6. On page 150, Thomas reflects on how he's grown accustomed to the "drumbeats of the day-to-day, week-to-week rhythm of Dunnybegs." Do you recall when you first started to settle into the cadence of your neighborhood? Or has that yet to happen?
7. Living in Dunnybegs changes Thomas in other ways, including his ability to live in the present. What ways can you name? Have you had anything similar happen after spending time in nature?
8. How would you have voted at the town hall meeting? Have you ever opposed a development proposal in your community and why? What are the most important criteria for you when evaluating a proposed development?
9. Author Malcolm Woods is already working on a second book involving characters from Dunnybegs. Where would you guess the story goes from here?