

TOOTS – Book Club Questions

1. Annie Smith—Toots was only ten years old when she left her home in Ireland. What did you think about her journey to America? How different was that from a young girl traveling today?
2. There was a lot of history in the novel. Did you have a favorite part? Did you learn something new about either the Irish or the American aspects? Did you find the history interesting or helpful? Or did it distract from Annie's story?
3. What did you think about the relationship between Annie and Nellie? Did you see differences between sisters then and today?
4. Did you have a favorite character? Why?
5. Favorite scenes in the book? Why did these scenes stand out for you? What did they make you feel? Laugh? Cry? Cringe?
6. How did Toots change or grow throughout the story?
7. What did you think about Toots' life in Nebraska compared to her life in the cities?
8. This book was loosely based on the author's great-aunt and certain parts of Toots' life had to be imagined. Did this make you think about people in your own family—people about whom you might wish to know more? Did the story make you reflect on your own life and experiences?
9. What was the most satisfying or disappointing part of the novel? Why?
10. Were you satisfied with the novel's ending? With Toots' life journey? Did it inspire you or challenge you in any way?