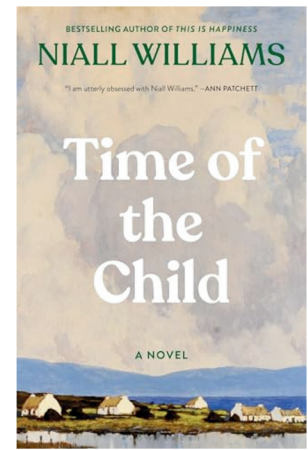


Adult Activities Center Book Club

Discussion Date: October 1, 2025

Discussion Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Title: *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams



1. The familial relationships between characters are central to this novel. How would you describe Ronnie's relationship with her father?
2. In the final chapter, as Noelle is being passed from parishioner to parishioner, the whole congregation comes together to help quiet her cries. Why does this moment become famous in the town? What does this scene represent for you?
3. Why did the doctor wait to attend to the priest at the beginning of the story when Father Tom was struggling to remember whose birthday the church was celebrating that December? Do you think it was the right thing to do—to wait? Do you understand his hesitancy?
4. Why was the doctor unable to tell Annie Mooney about his feelings for her? What was it that stopped him from telling her how he felt while she was alive? Do you think she returned his feelings? Does it matter if she did or didn't?
5. What does this passage mean to you? "Although invisible to Church and State, it was women who knitted the country together, and in Faha, on Sunday morning after Mass, you could see the needles." Do you think this has changed since 1962, when the novel took place?

6. The night the child arrives, there is a significant change in the relationship between Doctor Troy and Ronnie. How did the child change the connection between Ronnie and her father?

7. Why do you think Ronnie felt she had done something wrong that first night when the child didn't immediately take her bottle? Why did she feel that there was some "primal failure and inadequacy in her"? Have you ever felt this way when caring for someone?

8. Then Doctor Troy thinks, "It had to be his fault that she always found fault in herself . . . Her first instinct was always failure." Do you agree with Doctor Troy that it's his fault? What makes people, particularly women, default to failure in this way?

9. Williams writes: "It was a man dancing in a kitchen with a baby, a step, and another, an over and back that repeated and made a pattern that declared its otherness from the ordinary by the fact that human beings move towards purpose." Can dancing have a purpose of its own? How did the passage with Doctor Troy dancing with the baby make you feel?

10. How do you think the doctor's profession informed his personality, and similarly, how did his personality inform his profession? Do you think that Doctor Troy was a good doctor?

Coming Up

Discussion Date: November 5, 2025

Discussion Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Title: *Three Days in June* by Anne Taylor

Gail Baines is having a bad day. To start, she loses her job—or quits, depending on whom you ask. Tomorrow her daughter, Debbie, is getting married, and she hasn't even been invited to the spa day organized by the mother of the groom. Then, Gail's ex-husband, Max, arrives unannounced on her doorstep, carrying a cat, without a place to stay, and without even a suit. But the true crisis lands when Debbie shares with her parents a secret she has just learned about her husband to be. It will not only throw the wedding into question but also stir up Gail and Max's past.

