



Tim book club guide

L L Rose



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You can visit the author's website at <https://www.rose-prose.com>

You can reach the author at hello@rose-prose.com

Tim: a book club guide

Let's start a conversation—with each other and with *Tim*, itself! Every book comes alive in different ways for different people. What do you and *Tim* have to say?

All the questions in this guide are meant as starters—to get the conversation going; and then you and your club will take it from there.



- 1 What are the main **themes** that jump out at you? For you, what's the overarching one? As an adult looking back and remembering, which theme was most relevant to you? Why?
- 2 **Friendship**—its lack, its complications, and the pain and joy it brings—is a recurring challenge throughout the book. What are some of the friendship moments that you related to, or that you found yourself reflecting upon?
- 3 Atlas is in a rush to **grow up** and **be responsible**. What do you think the book has to say about this? Does it converge or diverge from your ideas about growing up and taking responsibility?
- 4 Poor Atlas has some rough and embarrassing **growing-up moments**. Did they remind you of any experiences from your own youth?
- 5 **Betrayal** crops up throughout the book. Why do you think this is threaded through the story? What are the different ways that betrayal is manifested?
- 6 The book talks about both **heroes** and **mentors**. For you, what's the difference between them? Is the distinction important? Have you been disappointed by a hero? It is in human nature to want to worship heroes? Or is this something cultural that's instilled in us?
- 7 What did you know about **Tim Horton** before reading this book? What have you found out since?
- 8 The book uses some **famous hockey names** in different ways and places. Which ones did you catch?
- 9 Seeing something through someone else's eyes is a recurring motif in the book. As we know, **empathy** is an ability we develop as we mature. Do you remember a time when, as a child, you were struck by a new insight about what someone else thought or felt? What was that like?
- 10 Atlas has to learn to **trust himself**, which he's forced to do when Tim leaves and never returns. Yet, when Peter shows him the booklet with the doodles and words describing recent experiences, Atlas says, "But most of this is stuff *I* said, not Tim." What do you think is going on here?
- 11 Although Atlas has a **limited perspective** as a child, are there ways in which he sees things more clearly than adults do? What about Peter?
- 12 Atlas' name is a clear reference to the **Atlas of mythology**, who was made responsible by Zeus for bearing the weight of the heavens upon his shoulders. In artworks, he is often depicted as carrying the earth. What is the relationship of the mythical Atlas to the one in the book? Why do you think the author choose this name for the protagonist?

- 13 The story is bookended by chapters in which **Atlas is an adult**, reflecting on and remembering his experience with Tim. What does this bring to the story?
- 14 Do you think **Tim**, in the mirror **was real**? Or was there something else going on here? What are your thoughts?
- 15 What is a favourite **quote** from the book?
- 16 Who was your favourite **character** in the book? Why? If you were casting for a movie version of this story, who would you choose for each character?
- 17 If you had a chance to ask the author one **burning question** about the book, what would it be? (P.S.: you can, at hello@rose-prose.com!)

