

Long Time, No See
2011
Dermot Healy
(1947-2014)

Saturday, April 29, 2017
Norton Room
Irish Cultural Center
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Recommended website: www.irishwriters-online.com/healy-dermot

(Biography and a video featuring Healy reading from the novel, as well as many other clips)

Other works by Dermot Healy:

Discussion Guide

- Be forewarned! This novel lacks some of the usual signposts for readers: Quotation marks are missing; the narrative features voices and dialogues filtered through a teenager's perception; reality and dreams may not be clearly delineated; characters are called different names. Our advice: Just keep reading! Try reading some passages aloud, especially the conversations that seem almost slapstick routines.
 - Constructing a brief chronology of events may prove useful. Are there mysteries to resolve?
 - The novel portrays three generations: (1) Joseph Feeney (Joejoe) and Tom Feeney (Blackbird), Miss Jilly, the General, the Judge; (2) Phillip's parents, Tom Feeney and Geraldine Lockett Feeney (3) Philip Feeney (Mister Psyche) and Anna. Characterize the preoccupations of each of these groups.
 - Share your insights on the importance of family and community in this novel. (This might be a place to consider the deeper philosophical observations made in the novel.)
 - The novel weaves in history while it characterizes the west of Ireland in 2006. What historical references did you notice? What changes are occurring in modern Ireland?
 - What kinds of humor do you see in this novel? Note some examples to share.
 - In describing the novel in 2011, Roddy Doyle used these words: "Funny, sad, wild, tender, profound, brilliant" and called Healy "Ireland's finest living novelist." Would you agree? What episodes might illustrate each of these adjectives?
 - How would you describe Healy's style? Do you see the influence of the poet in his prose style?

Poetry: We'll provide a couple of poems by Healy.



Looking ahead: Suggestions needed for next year!!