**Discussion Guide:**

*(You may find a map of Ireland helpful.)*

This nonfiction work was originally published as *Walking Along The Border*. Why do you think the title was changed to add *Bad Blood*?

Authors can hide behind their fictional characters, but writers of nonfiction are exposing their ideas and values. What do you know about Colm Tóibín after reading *Bad Blood*?

Reportage is often chronological. Does this hold true for *Bad Blood*? What other organizational / narrative devices did you observe?

What did you learn about the border area following the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985? (Take care not to confuse this with the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.) Does Tóibín’s work help you better understand the historical and political situation in Northern Ireland?

We have been examining stereotypes during this series of readings. What observations would you make about stereotyping in *Bad Blood*?

Did you enjoy Tóibín’s details about literature, writers, music and musicians? How are these references part of the story he is telling?

Mark some of the passages that you found especially insightful/ tragic / funny / well written so that you can share them with us.

**Looking ahead:** Discussion for February 29 will focus on *The Spinning Heart* by Donal Ryan.