



Book Group Discussion Questions **for *Road Longer Than Memory*** by Melanie McCabe

1. How did the historical background of the novel add to your understanding of and connection to events in the story? Were you familiar with the I-66 controversy beforehand? Or did you experience a similar community-disrupting event where you grew up?
2. What was your own life like in 1976? In 1986? (Or, if you weren't living then, perhaps discuss the lives of your parents.) How were your own experiences during those times similar to or different than Sara's?
3. Does the place where you grew up still exist as it did when you were a child—or has it changed significantly? How do you feel about that past place and whatever changes have occurred there?
4. Some themes that run through this novel are the effects of guilt, of secrecy, of loss/grief, and of progress at the expense of history. Which resonated most for you? Which had the most profound impact on Sara?
5. What were your own high school experiences like? Sara saw herself as an outsider. Do you identify with her in that—or were you more socially-connected than she was? How much of our teenaged self-images do we carry with us into adulthood?
6. What do you think complicated the relationship between Sara and her mother? Did Marian, as she states at one point, neglect Sara?
7. Sara's relationship with and ultimate loss of her sister Suzanne affects her deeply. What impact do those feelings have on who Sara becomes?
8. What is it about Sara's past and her character that makes her so vulnerable to Devlin?
9. Are these same tendencies what led to her relationship with Andy—or not? Why do you think so?
10. Did you find some of Sara's actions surprising? Forgivable? Unforgivable? Why?
11. Are her choices about what to do upon encountering Mark Raleigh ten years later logical? Unwise? How would you have handled such a discovery?
12. Which characters did you find most likable? Most unlikable? And why?
13. What was the most memorable or shocking scene in the story and how was it resolved?
14. Were you surprised at all by the book's ending?
15. Do you think Sara's troubles are over by the conclusion—or will she encounter more trouble ahead?
16. Which developments in the story have the greatest impact on Sara by the conclusion? Has she changed?