



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *The Never-Ending Present: The Story of Gord Downie and the Tragically Hip* by Michael Barclay

1. The Tragically Hip is well-known across the nation; they have experienced intense media attention regardless of individuals' interest in music genres, and they are argued to embody the Canadian identity. Why do you think The Hip had such a National influence?
2. What is the significance of the title?
3. Downie said, "the band hit the Canadian music scene at a good time, when the winds of change are blowing." Why was it a good time?
4. Why do you think the Tragically Hip didn't want to do an in-store appearance? What was the compromise?
5. What is the significance of Downie's seven metallic suits? Who was Downie's silver suit named after? Why?
6. Was it an honour for the Tragically Hip to be appointed to the Order of Canada?
7. Why do you think that Downie's public announcement that he had terminal cancer had such a powerful impact across Canada? What happened when Canada learned Gord Downie had died?
8. This is an unauthorized biography and the Hip did not participate in the writing of this biography. Does this affect your appreciation of the book? Should this book have been written without The Hip's participation?
9. What is the role of art and artists in society?

These questions were created by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

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