# Closed Casket

Reading Group Questions

1. Very few characters in the novel are surprised to discover the truth about Joseph Scotcher. If they suspected it all along, why did no one say anything?

2. What do you think about the character of the nurse, Sophie Bourlet, who stands by a discredited dead man?

3. Some characters in the book tell stories, some tell lies and others can't see the truth. Which of the characters find it difficult to tell the difference between stories and lies? Which care most about the truth?

4. How does Edward Catchpool develop as a character over the course of the novel?

5. Do you agree with Poirot about the importance of psychology?

6. At the end of the book, there is a disagreement between Lady Playford and Randall Kimpton about whether or not the most important mystery has been solved. With whom do you agree?

7. Do you understand Scotcher's motivation and psychology by the end of the novel? Does it matter if you don't?

8. Closed Casket is set in Ireland in 1929, which was not a good time for Anglo-Irish families living in the new Free State. When Gathercole mentions the 'unpleasant business', Catchpool says it is 'not something [he] care[s] to discuss.' Does political instability form an important backdrop to the plot? How does it fit in with the rest of the story?