

PAUL DURCAN



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

FATHER'S DAY

TITLE

- ❖ What emotions and rituals are associated with Father's Day?
- ❖ Do you think there is any significance to the exact date in the title?



OPENING LINES

- ❖ What verbs are used in the first two lines of the poem?
- ❖ What atmosphere is created by the use of these verbs?
- ❖ How would you describe the language in the first six lines of the poem?



DIALOGUE

- ❖ Why do you think Durcan chose to use dialogue at this stage in the poem?
- ❖ What is normal and what is extraordinary about the conversation?

SPEAKER'S PERSONALITY

- ❖ Why do you think the speaker repeats aloud an earlier observation about the taxi 'ticking over outside' in full view of the neighbours?
- ❖ What does this tell us about him?
- ❖ How do you feel he will react to having to carry an unwrapped axe in full view of the other passengers?



ON THE TRAIN

- ❖ Do you think there is any significance to the journey?
- ❖ Is the axe a symbol of anything, in your opinion?
- ❖ How does the speaker imagine his wife feels without him?
- ❖ Does he blame her for this?



- ❖ Why does the speaker mention that his daughters are 'all grown up and gone away'?
- ❖ What is the effect of the anecdote about the wife's pregnancy?
- ❖ What is the effect of the speaker's sudden admission to his fellow passenger?
- ❖ How does the speaker feel at the end of the poem and what words emphasise this feeling?