

# Atonement Prompt Choices

**PAST** - In many works of literature, past events can affect (positively or negatively) the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a character from *Atonement* who must contend with some specific aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Write a well-planned essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the novel as a whole.

**BILDUNGSROMAN** - A bildungsroman (or coming-of-age novel) recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of *Atonement's* Briony Tallis. Write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

**JUSTICE** - In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life "is a search for justice." Choose a character from *Atonement* who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character's understanding of justice, the degree to which the character's search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the novel as a whole.

*You must physically sign up in the classroom to select your desired essay prompt.*