***Atonement***

**Study guide chapter 11-14**

**Chapter 11:**

1. What is the atmosphere at the beginning of the dinner? Give some support and context.
2. What is the significance of the mention of the scratch above Paul Marshall’s eye?
3. What is the irony of the boring, seemingly trivial nature of the dinner conversation?
4. As Robbie recounts what happened with Cecilia in the library, are his assumptions about why Briony came in correct?
5. As the conversation grows around Lola’s injuries, what does Robbie wonder about Paul Marshall? What is McEwan implying?
6. What does Robbie think as they go outside to look for the twins?
7. Much of this chapter is from Robbie’s perspective. How is he characterized?
8. What is the literary technique used in the last line of chapter 11?

**Chapter 12:**

1. What do we learn about Emily as she is reflecting on her childhood as she thinks about the drama that evening?
2. What do we learn about Emily and Jack’s marriage? What do we learn about Emily as she recounts how she has behaved throughout her marriage and life?
3. How does the last part of the chapter and Emily’s reaction to Leon, Briony , Cecilia and Lola come in confirm how she has been characterized?

**Chapter 13:**

1. As Briony is wandering the grounds, searching for the twins, what is she thinking about? What is the “pretense” she is “aching” to “expose”?
2. Look at the quote on page 150, 2nd paragraph (3 lines down) which begins with, “Her childhood had ended…” to the end of the paragraph. Why is this important?
3. When thinking about her mother’s death and funeral, what does Briony imagine?
4. In the context of what happens in these chapters, what is the significance of Briony’s thought about herself that, “Then, precisely because the day had proved to her that she was not a child, and that she was now a figure in a richer story and had to prove herself worthy of it, she forced herself to walk on and cross the bridge.”
5. How does McEwan structure the conversation between Lola and Briony when Briony finds Lola? What is the effect of this structure?
6. Pay attention to the prolepsis on pages 157-160. What is the effect?

**Chapter 14:**

1. What is Cecilia’s behavior as everyone is waiting for Robbie?
2. Why does Briony show the policemen the letter?
3. Why does Briony have a hard time sleeping?
4. What does she imagine about the encounter between Cecilia and Robbie? Consider how Briony is viewing this….looking through the window.
5. Does Briony believe her version of her story or is she lying intentionally? Explain. What is McEwan’s purpose here?