**Atonement study guide- Chapters 7-10**

**Chapter 7:**

1. What is Briony’s fantasy as she walks through the nettles at the Island Temple? What does she eventually realize as she heads home and what vow does she make to herself? Why is this important?

**Chapter 8:**

1. What are Robbie’s complicated feelings for Cecilia?
2. What is Robbie’s background? How did he come to know Cecilia?
3. What is the nature of Robbie’s relationship with his mother, Grace?
4. What is Robbie thinking about as he heads to the Tallis house for dinner? What is the nature of his mood?
5. What does Robbie see in the value of literature for a man who is going to become a doctor?
6. What does Robbie realize a moment after he gives the letter to Briony to give to Cecilia?

**Chapter 9:**

1. What is wrong with the two dresses Cecilia tries on for the dinner?
2. How does Cecilia help the twins?
3. What is revealed about the running of the household and who would likely be responsible for the success of the evening? What event confirms that Cecilia is right about the running of the household?
4. What are Cecilia’s feelings as she is getting things ready for the evening and talking with Leon? What are her plans?
5. What do we learn about Leon and his lifestyle?
6. What does Cecilia realize after she reads Robbie’s letter?
7. Did Briony read the letter? How do you know?

**Chapter 10:**

1. How does Briony’s initial idea of what happened between Cecilia and Robbie at the fountain change after she reads the letter?
2. What does Lola say happened to her? Why doesn’t Briony initially believe it? Is there any evidence to imply that Lola’s story is not true?
3. Why does Briony decide to tell Lola about Robbie, Cecilia and the letter? What is Lola’s reaction?
4. What does Briony think she sees in the library? How does she describe it?
5. What is implied in the following quote? How is it relevant to the story so far? “But she had seen Robbie’s letter, she had cast herself as her sister’s protector, and she had been instructed by her cousin: what she saw must have been shaped in part by what she already knew or believed she knew.” (115)