**Atonement Study Guide**

**Pages 212-250**

1. What are the memories which “sustain” Robbie while he is fighting in the war?
2. Why is Robbie inspired by Cecilia’s last letter?
3. What does Cecilia’s letter reveal about what Briony is doing? Did she go to college? Is there any significance to the line of work she is pursing? Consider the context of Cecilia’s letter and the title of the novel.
4. While Robbie wants Cecilia to reconcile with her family, what is his concern if she does?
5. What is the one memory that holds up as Robbie is trying to understand “a child’s mind”? What does this revelation imply?
6. Is Robbie’s perception of Briony’s feelings and reaction that day (answer to #4) correct?
7. What is the “lasting damage” resulting from Briony’s lie as far as Robbie is concerned?
8. In the context of the motifs we have discussed, what is the effect of so much description of Robbie’s experience in the war?
9. What is the effect of the story about the abuse of the RAF clerk and Mace’s rescue of him?
10. How has the war changed Robbie?
11. As Part 2 comes to a close, Robbie is sleeping and Nettles tells him he is shouting in his sleep. What is he dreaming about?
12. What is the effect of this part being primarily about the war?