

Dr. Jay Seller

**Directions for your Constructive Response to *Atonement***

- After you have read each of the constructed response questions below, select one to answer. The constructed response verbiage is listed below to assist you in this process.
- Responses are graded on quality not quantity, looking for thinking in your writing, and reflection on the article above.
- Use the film *Atonement* to explore the characters and storyline in order to provide support for your answers and to properly address the questions.
- You may compose your response in a *Microsoft Word document*.
- Make sure to include your name and hour attached to your work.
- Email your assignment as an attachment or within the email your instructor. Subject line: *Atonement* Assignment



**Option One**

What sort of social and cultural setting does the Tallis house create for the novel? What emotions and impulses are being acted upon or repressed by its inhabitants? What does “atonement” mean for the various characters: Briony, Cecilia, and Robbie? Do any of these three characters ever find the atonement that they seek? What does *Atonement* have to say about books and the interpretation of their meanings?

**Option Two**

What is the importance of the scene between Robbie and Cecilia at the fountain? Trace the interactions of Robbie and Cecilia. How does their relationship sustain them both? What does this say about love?

**Option Three**

Why does Briony denounce Robbie so forcefully and maintain that position with such determination? Why does Briony choose to enter nursing and turn her back on her family? Do you sympathize with Briony? Can you understand why she acted as she did? Did the ending surprise you? In what ways did it surprise you?

**Option Four**

Lola has a critical role in the story’s plot. What are her motivations? Why does Briony decide not to confront Lola and Paul Marshall at their wedding five years later?

**Key Verbs and Tasks used in Constructive Response**

- Analyze - Examining carefully by looking at the different parts of the whole and figuring out how they are related to each other.
- Apply - Using what you have learned to demonstrate show, or relate something.
- Compare - Using examples to show how things are similar.

## Constructed Response for the novel *Atonement*

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- Contrast - Using examples to show how things are different.
- Evaluate - Making a judgment backed up with support.
- Infer - Making an educated guess or hypothesizing... reading between the lines.
- Interpret - Explaining a possible meaning of a text
- Paraphrase - Putting the author's ideas into your own words
- Predict - Using information available to make an educated guess about future events
- Summarize - Presenting the author's main ideas in a shortened form
- Support - Using specific facts to "back up" your answer, utilize details and examples from the text.
- Synthesize - Combining several ideas and making something new