



Subject:	English	Form:	Lower 6th Form
Teacher:	Miss E. Tardios	Term:	Autumn 2026

Week	Week Beginning	Topic: Atonement (Foundations and Part One)
1	7th September	Introduction to Ian McEwan and the historical context of interwar England, class, and the country house novel tradition.
2	14th September	Overview of the novel's structure, narrative voice, and the significance of the title "Atonement."
3	21st September	Opening chapters: Briony's character, her play "The Trials of Arabella," and her craving for order and control
4	28th September	The fountain scene: analysing perspective, symbolism, and dramatic irony.
5	5th October	Cecilia and Robbie's relationship: class tension and repressed desire.
6	12th October	The library scene and its consequences, focusing on transgression and misinterpretation.
7	19th October	Lola and the Quincey twins: subplots and their thematic function.
8	2nd November	The dinner party and the search for the twins: building tension and foreshadowing
9	9th November	The accusation against Robbie: examining false testimony and the abuse of narrative authority.
10	16th November	Consolidation of Part One: themes of imagination, guilt, and childhood versus adulthood.
11	23 November	Contextual study: 1930s class structures and their influence on the novel's events.
13	7th December	Essay skills: writing about narrative perspective using textual evidence.
12	30th November	Robbie's journey through France: trauma, memory, and survival.



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Week	Week Beginning	Topic: Atonement Part Two and Three
1	4th January	The Dunkirk retreat: depiction of war and its symbolic connection to atonement.
2	11th January	Contextual study: World War Two and literary responses to conflict.
3	18th January	Comparing Robbie's wartime narrative with Briony's earlier fictionalising.
4	25th January	Introduction to Part Three: Briony's nursing experience and the discipline of hospital life.
5	1st February	Guilt and penance: Briony's psychological development and attempts at redemption.
6	8th February	The reunion with Cecilia and Robbie: tension, forgiveness, and unresolved conflict.
Spring Half-Term (15th February to 19th February)		
8	22nd February	Mini Test week
9	1st March	Consolidation of Parts Two and Three: tracking Briony's moral development.
10	8th March	Essay skills: structuring arguments around character development across the novel.
11	15th March	Contextual study: memory, trauma, and post-war literature



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Week	Week Beginning	Topic: The Epilogue, Themes, and Critical Approaches
1	12 th April	The "London, 1999" epilogue: the metafictional twist and questions of authorship.
2	19 th April	Fiction as atonement: examining whether Briony can be forgiven through storytelling.
3	26 th April	Postmodern narrative techniques: unreliable narration and reader complicity.
4	3 rd May	Thematic study: love and its obstruction by class and misunderstanding.
5	10 th May	Thematic study: guilt, punishment, and the impossibility of true atonement.
6	17 th May	Critical perspectives: feminist readings of gender and agency in the novel.
7	24 th May	Critical perspectives: postmodernist and metafictional readings.
Summer Half-Term (31st May to 4th June)		
8	7 th June	Summer Exam week
9	14 th June	Comparative study: linking <i>Atonement</i> to The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
10	21 st June	Comparative study: linking <i>Atonement</i> to The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
11	28 th June	Comparative study: linking <i>Atonement</i> to The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.
12	5 th July	Comparative study: linking <i>Atonement</i> to The Rime of the Ancient Mariner