

## ***Atonement* Constructed Response Questions**

**Respond to each of the following questions utilizing the verbiage for constructed responses. Feel free to use quotes from the novel or film to support your thoughts. Cite your quotes correctly. Type your answers, Times New Roman font, size 12, with one inch standard margins.**

1. 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?
2. What is the importance of the scene between Robbie and Cecilia at the fountain?
3. Why does Briony denounce Robbie so forcefully and maintain that position with such determination?
4. 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?
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. What does *Atonement* have to say about books and the interpretation of their meanings?
8. Did the ending surprise you? In what ways?
9. Trace the interactions of Robbie and Cecilia. How does their relationship sustain them both? What does this say about love?