

English 4: AP Lit & Comp, Level 4 (W230434)

Atonement, Ian McEwan

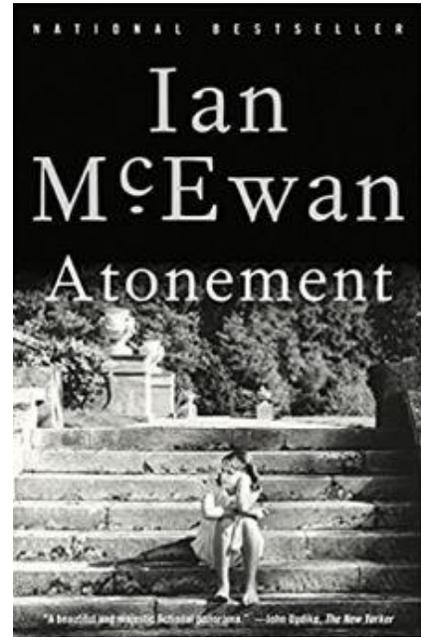
ISBN-13: 978-0385721790

Welcome to AP English 4! To prepare you for the literature and issues explored in the course, you should read and annotate the novel *Atonement* by Ian McEwan.

Ian McEwan's novel of love and war, childhood and class, guilt and forgiveness provides a brilliant narrative about how a moment's flirtation is turned into a crime that will change the lives of all the characters, as it follows that crime's repercussions through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century.

"Ian McEwan's remarkable new novel *Atonement* is a love story, a war story and a story about the destructive powers of the imagination. It is also a novel that takes all of the author's perennial themes -- dealing with the hazards of innocence, the hold of time past over time present and the intrusion of evil into ordinary lives -- and orchestrates them into a symphonic work that is every bit as affecting as it is gripping."

- Michiko Kakutani, NY Times



Awards

Winner of the 2002 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction
Winner of the 2002 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction
Winner of the 2002 WH Smith Literary Award
Winner of the 2002 Boeke Prize
Winner of the 2004 Santiago Prize for the European Novel

We think you will find this novel compelling reading that will enrich your summer and prepare you for the challenges ahead. This work is essential to the curriculum and must be finished by the opening of the school year. When classes begin in August, we will ask you to write an in-class essay addressing the ideas present in the novel. To prepare, consider the following questions as you read:

- What cultural/class conflicts influence Briony's reading of the flirtation?
- Trace how these conflicts unfold for each of the characters as the novel progresses
- What appears to be the author's attitude toward each character's struggles?
- One theme we will be examining this year is the notion of dislocation in a myriad of forms (e.g. - physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, financial etc.). As you read the novel, annotate for the different ways you see dislocation occurring for each character and the effect of that dislocation for each one.