

THE ASSIGNMENT-AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Read and enjoy *Atonement*, by Ian McEwan.

Also read the following chapters (and more if you wish) from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, by Thomas Foster:

5. Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before; 7. ...Or the Bible; Interlude: Does He Mean That?;
25. Don't Read with Your Eyes; 26. Is He Serious?

- As you read Foster, **annotate**, marking places that seem interesting, new, informative, or funny.
- Read and **annotate** *Atonement*, marking places that seem striking, significant, moving, or puzzling.
- After you have read both books, go back and look through *your* literature text **to find five significant passages** (from one to three paragraphs) each of which relates in some way to each of the assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Each of the five chapters should be addressed in a single journal that showcases the best example of your ability to read and apply the lens from each Foster's chapter (**5 journals total**).
- **For each passage, write one page** (typed, double spaced, 12-point font) **applying the ideas and approaches in a relevant chapter** to your analysis of and response to the passage in *Atonement*.
 - **Title each entry with the name of the chapter from Foster, followed by quoting the passage from *Atonement* and citing the page number in parentheses after.** The response itself should be about one page, without the quotation.
- Bring these responses (ALREADY PRINTED) and both books to class the first day of school.

Try to have some fun here. Play with ideas. Don't worry about being "right" but enjoy exploring how your main character tells her story. What does she reveal and how or why? Or consider how irony is developed—how does the situation and the conversation exhibit truths or contradictions? How about how *you* understand the story as it is told?

Remember, these aren't formal essays. These aren't papers. They are informal explorations written **to yourself—a kind of conversation with yourself about the passages**. And notice that we are not asking you to say what happens in the story. We ask for your responses to the story. **Please do not retell the story.** Bring these responses and both books to class the first day of school.