

**ATONEMENT: IN-CLASS ESSAY QUESTION(S) II**



**Choose ONE of the following AP Exam “open questions” (from past AP exams) and answer it using Atonement in a clear, well-organized essay.**

**1971 AP QUESTION:** The significance of a title such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is so easy to discover. However, in other works (for example, *Measure for Measure*) the full significance of the title becomes apparent to the reader only gradually.

Select a literary work of merit (like, say, *Atonement* ☺!!) and show how the significance of its title is developed through the authors’ use of devices such as contrast, repetition, allusion, and point of view.

**--OR--**

**1973 AP QUESTION:** An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant closure has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide with or adjust to ambiguity and uncertainty.

In an argumentative essay, discuss the ending of a novel or play of acknowledged literary merit (yep, *Atonement*!!). Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do *not* merely summarize the plot.

**--OR---**

**1985 AP QUESTION:** A critic has said that one important measure of a superior work of literature is its ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude.

Select a literary work that produces this “healthy confusion” (i.e. *Atonement* ☺). Write an essay in which you explain the sources of the “pleasure and disquietude” experienced by readers of the work.