

STARRING

Keira Knightley,
James McAvoy,
Saoirse Ronan
and later
Romola Garai

Atonement

Directed by Joe Wright (2007)



DVD



Atonement is a 2007 film adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel of the same name, directed by Joe Wright, and based on a screenplay by Christopher Hampton.

The story so far...

The first scene presents the beginning of the film. We see Briony Tallis in her bedroom. In the second scene Briony's cousins have arrived: the twins Jackson and Piero and their older sister Lola. Briony wants to involve them in the performance of her play.

Over to you**Scene 1**

1 Watch scene one carefully twice and tick the things you can see in her bedroom from the list below.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> typewriter | <input type="checkbox"/> toy car |
| <input type="checkbox"/> radio | <input type="checkbox"/> desk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> toy animals | <input type="checkbox"/> cat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> fireplace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> dolls house |

2 In the scene what has Briony just finished doing? Choose.

- writing her diary
 writing a letter
 writing her play

3 From the way Briony walks around the house what conclusions can we come to about her character? Choose from the following (more than one is possible).

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> shy | <input type="checkbox"/> determined | <input type="checkbox"/> strong-willed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> insecure | <input type="checkbox"/> weak | <input type="checkbox"/> confident |

4 Does she correspond to how she is described in the novel?

5 The music which accompanies the scene is based on what sound?

6 What does the music emphasise about Briony's character? Choose.

- her efficiency
 her laziness
 her disorganisation

7 From what we can see of the house what can we say about the Tallis family?

Scene 2

8 Briony wants to involve her cousins in the performance of her play. Watch the scene carefully and then answer the following questions.

- How do Briony's twin cousins feel about participating in her play?
- Piero says that plays are 'just showing off'. Does Briony seem the type of girl who would like to show off?
- Why does the twins' sister, Lola, tell them they should be amenable (cooperative)?

9 Lola asks Briony what her play is about. Complete Briony's reply.

'Well, it's about how love is all very well but

10 What is Briony's reaction when Lola asks her if she can be Arabella, the protagonist of her play?

11 What makes Lola say sorry in a sarcastic way at the end of the scene? Briony's attitude or the fact that she is now the protagonist?

12 How do the twin boys look throughout the scene? Choose.

- enthusiastic excited bored