

Literary Elements in the trilogy:
Kathryn's Beach, High Tide, Atonement
Discussion Guide

1. A few parallels in the books are KB: The letter from Judge Jones, HT: Ioseph's invitation to Ireland, and AT: Grandfather's news conference; were all moments that rerouted Kathryn's direction in life. Doors are another group: The sluggish lock at the bar, the door to Karen's office, the door at LAX, the door to Kathryn's apartment, the secret passage, and the doorman. What are the significance of these parallels? What other parallel items did you find, and what is their significance?
2. There are quite a few metaphors in this trilogy: the snow storm in the beginning of KB, the storms in the ocean, rain/sleet, coffee, going through the gears.... What other metaphors did you find? What do they mean?
3. The author uses metaphors, alteration, imagery, personification, juxtaposition, parallels... What other literary devices did you find? Which is used most effectively?
4. Words were misused, e.g. as the lighting spidered across the sky, Ioseph's caramel voice. Was this an effective use of words?
5. Was the use of speech style within the dialogue effective in developing the characters? (Shasta, Mr. Goldstein, the parade lady)
6. Did the diaries enhance the story? Why or why not?
7. What social issues does the author address in her social commentary?
8. Kathryn loves all things Hollywood. She has movie posters framed as art; she watches old movies; and she sometimes interprets the events of her life in terms of movies. What movies are "winked at" in the trilogy? E.g., Dana's red sneakers are for The Wizard of Oz.
9. What do you like best about this author's writing style?
10. What "tag line" or "log line" would you write to describe this trilogy?