

## How does McEwan write chapter 12?

McEwan uses the theme of trust to show the breaking down of Clarissa and Joe's relationship. We see in chapter 12 Clarissa's reservations about the letters that Joe is receiving from Parry "His writing's rather like yours" this suggests that Clarissa does not whole-heartedly believe that Parry wrote these letters. We also see McEwan suggesting that Joe and Jed are similar in many ways including the way they write. During chapter 12 we see the similarity between Joe and Parry in Joe's "attack on Clarissa's privacy" Joe invades Clarissa's privacy the way Parry has invaded on Joe and Clarissa's home.

McEwan uses certain techniques to illustrate the deterioration of Joe and Clarissa's relationship "She was trying to help me, but I had become in the space of just a couple of days so manic, so feverish in my attention to Parry, so..... *Alone* Joe. You're so alone in all this, even when you speak to me about it. I feel you're shutting me out" The use of the ellipses symbolises the distant and weakening of Clarissa and Joe's relationship. McEwan also uses this quote to show the theme of obsession between Joe and Parry however, we see that Joe is obsessed with Parry the way Parry is obsessed with Joe "so manic, so feverish in my attention to Parry". The quote begins with Joe has the narrator and telling the story from his perceptions and mid way through the quote it changes to Clarissa's actual dialogue.

The author uses cross purposes of thought between Joe and Clarissa "She misread my expression" we see Clarissa and Joe believing they both know what one another is thinking. This links back to Parry and his misreading of Joe's actions and believing something else from them. Joe's thoughts about evolutionary psychologists is ironic because he uses words such as "cunning", "selective blindness" and "self-deluding individuals", these words fit Parry's description and are a symptoms of his obsession.

The stapler can be seen to signify Joe and Clarissa's relationship "I slid the stapler into my pocket but did not leave the room" a stapler is an object that is used to hold things together, and by Joe putting the stapler in his pocket he may be trying to holding on to their relationship, to protect it and for it to closer to him. Has Joe finished searching through Clarissa's stuff he "touched my pocket to confirm – or give the impression or confirming – the presence of the stapler" this could be seen has Joe making sure their love is there and trying to reassure himself that their relationship is intact. The breaking down of the double Decker bus could also be seen as a symbolism of Joe and Clarissa's relationship "A double-decker bus had broken down beyond the lights where the road was already narrowed by a repair team" the bus symbolises both Joe and Clarissa's relationship and the repair team is a symbolism of Joe and him trying to repair their relationship and the love they have for one another.

At the end of the chapter we see the reason why Joe wanted to visit Mrs Logan “I hadn’t come to tell Mrs Logan of her husband’s courage, I had come to explain, to establish my guiltlessness, my innocence of his death” Joe has gone to Mrs Logan house for selfish reasons, he has gone to her house to feel closure and to rid himself of any guilt that he may have felt after John Logan’s death.

In conclusion, McEwan uses a certain words and techniques in order to show the breaking down of Joe and Clarissa’s relationship. The chapter mainly focuses on the theme of trust and the lack of it between Joe and Clarissa. During the chapter the theme of paranoia arises as Joe believes that Clarissa is hiding something from him and she believes that Joe is hiding something from her. Their lack of communication has led to their downfall and inevitable breaking of their relationship.