

## Comparing the times

---

As you read the novel, think carefully about why Sebastian Faulks has chosen to have two time periods for his narrative. What comparisons can you draw between the two? Use the headings here to help you make links between the two eras and develop ideas about why he has done this:

<p><b>Part One: France 1910</b>          Stephen has an illicit affair with Isabelle Azaire and she becomes pregnant (although does not tell Stephen). Isabelle leaves Stephen at the end of Part One.  <i>What is Faulks suggesting about marriage, relationships and children? Is he implying something about human nature?</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth (Stephen's granddaughter) is having an affair with Robert, a married man. She becomes pregnant. At the end of the novel Robert helps deliver the baby and we are left not knowing whether their relationship will continue or not.  <i>Is there a reason for including the birth of children in the novel? What might it symbolise?</i></p>
<p><b>Part Two: France 1916</b></p>	
	<p><b>Part Three: England 1978</b></p>
<p><b>Part Four: France 1917</b></p>	
	<p><b>Part Five: England 1978-1979</b></p>
<p><b>Part Six: France 1918</b></p>	
	<p><b>Part Seven: England 1979</b></p>