

**Year 9 English Term 5**

***Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell**

**Worksheets**

Home Learning Resources for Lessons 1 to 10: 20th April to 1st May 2020

Year 9 English Term 5 / *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell / LESSON 1 Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Willy Russell: Timeline of events

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1945    1950    1955    1960    1965    1970    1975    1980    1985    1990    1995    2000    2005    2010    2015

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**Year 9 English Term 5 / Blood Brothers by Willy Russell / LESSON 2 Worksheet**

**Britain and Liverpool 1960s - 1980s**

Research the answers to the following questions using the internet. Be sure to write in full sentences and in your own words.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Housing</u></b></p> <p><i>What was housing like in 1960s Liverpool?</i></p> <p><i>What type of houses were there?</i></p> <p><i>Were there enough houses for everyone?</i></p> <p><i>How many people lived in each house?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Jobs and Opportunities</u></b></p> <p><i>What type of jobs were people doing in Liverpool?</i></p> <p><i>What type of work was available for the working classes?</i></p> <p><i>What happened if you didn't have a job?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Family Structures</u></b></p> <p><i>What was the family structure like? How many people were in each family?</i></p> <p><i>How did working class and middle class families differ in size?</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Politics</u></b></p> <p><i>Which political party was in power from 1951-64?</i> <i>Who was prime minister?</i></p> <p><i>Which political party was in power from 1964-70?</i> <i>Who was prime minister?</i></p> <p><i>How did things change when the political parties altered?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Educational Opportunities</u></b></p> <p><i>What was education like in 1960s Britain?</i></p> <p><i>How did education differ for the working and middle classes?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Extension:</u></b> <b><u>New Towns Programme</u></b></p> <p><i>What was the new towns programme? Explain it in your own words below.</i></p>

## Mrs Johnstone

Appearance:

Key events in the play that link to Mrs Johnstone:



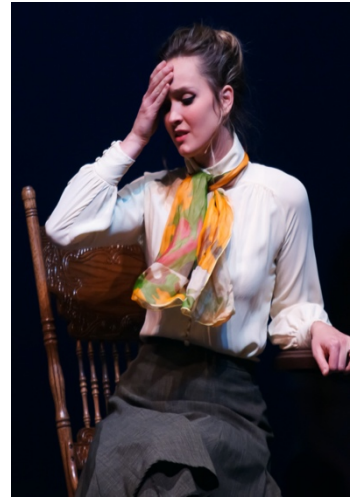
Important quotes which tell us about Mrs Johnstone and her character:

What other people think of Mrs Johnstone:

Important themes that Mrs Johnstone links to:

# Mrs Lyons

Appearance:



Key events in the play that link to Mrs Lyons:

Important quotes which tell us about Mrs Lyons and her character:

What other people think of Mrs Lyons:

Important themes that Mrs Lyons links to:

# Mr Lyons

Appearance:



Key events in the play that link to Mr Lyons:

Important quotes which tell us about Mr Lyons and his character:

What other people think of Mr Lyons:

Important themes that Mr Lyons links to:

# Mickey

Appearance:

Key events in the play that link to Mickey:



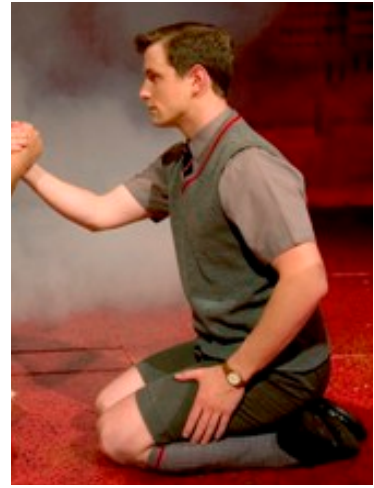
Important quotes which tell us about Mickey and his character:

What other people think of Mickey:

Important themes that Mickey links to:

# Edward

Appearance:



Key events in the play that link to Edward:

Important quotes which tell us about Edward and his character:

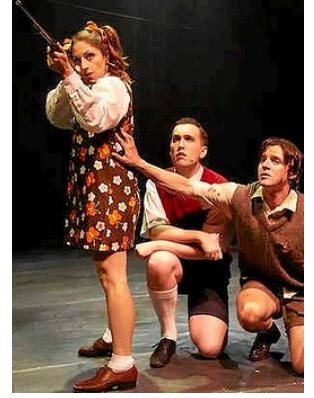
What other people think of Edward:

Important themes that Edward links to:



# Linda

Appearance:



Key events in the play that link to Linda:

Important quotes which tell us about Linda and her character:

What other people think of Linda:

Important themes that Linda links to:

# Sammy

Appearance:

Key events in the play that link to Sammy:



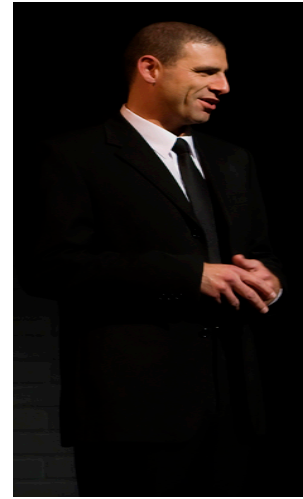
Important quotes which tell us about Sammy and his character:

What other people think of Sammy:

Important themes that Sammy links to:

# Narrator

Appearance:



Key events in the play that link to Narrator:

Important quotes which tell us about Narrator and his character:

What other people think of the Narrator:

Important themes that the Narrator links to:

# Blood Brothers - the Story

**Blood Brothers** is a story about a superstition - the curse of the separated twins.

This curse (made up by the author Willy Russell) states that when twins are secretly parted, if either twin learns that he was once a pair, both twins shall immediately die.

## A Cursed Agreement

At the start of the story, the Narrator introduces the story of the Johnstone twins, "as like each other as two new pins" and how they died "never knowing that they shared one name till the day they died". He invites you to judge for yourself how their mother - according to the legend "so cruel there's a stone in place of her heart" - came to play her part.



*Blood Brothers* begins and ends with Mrs Johnstone. Once a beautiful young woman, she sings about how she was duped by a smooth-talking man, who told her she was "like Marilyn Monroe". They go dancing, get married, have lots of children - and then he leaves her, looking old before her time.

Mrs Johnstone struggles to cope. Her home is poor, and she lives from 'the catalogue' - "on the never never". She finds it hard to say no, and is in constant money trouble. She is weak-willed, superstitious and easily bullied. Her children are wild and badly behaved - 'The Welfare' continually threatens to take them from her.

Things seem to be looking up when she gets a cleaning job for a Mrs Lyons - only for them to be shattered again when she finds she is expecting twins.

Although she is rich and middle-class, Mrs Lyons is just as sad as Mrs Johnstone, in her own way. Unable to have children, and with a husband who frequently works away, she is lonely and unfulfilled. When she hears that Mrs Johnstone is expecting twins, she persuades her to hand one over to her - to pretend that it is her own child.



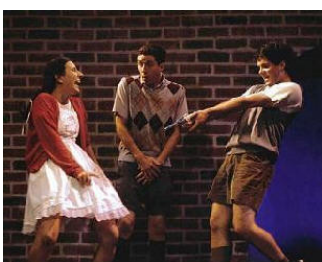
Agreeing at first, Mrs Johnstone has second thoughts when the twins are born, but Mrs Lyons bullies her into giving her one of the twins - "We made an agreement, a bargain. You swore on the Bible..."

Mrs Johnstone thinks she will still see her lost son when she goes cleaning, but Mrs Lyons becomes increasingly jealous and eventually sacks her. And when Mrs Johnstone threatens to tell someone, she is silenced when Mrs Lyons tells her the curse of the separated twins - "You won't tell anyone about this, Mrs Johnstone, because if you do, you will kill them".

At this point, the Narrator lists a whole string of omens of disaster - shoes upon the table, the salt's been spilled, someone broke the looking glass. The play has a sense of doom from this point, as events work themselves out to fulfil the prophecy - "Now you know the devil's got your number. He's gonna find you. You know he's right behind you."

## Children

The next time we meet the characters is when the twins are aged 7 - nearly eight. Mickey Johnstone, while playing Cowboys and Indians, wanders up the 'posh end' of the neighbourhood and bumps into Edward Lyons. Finding they share the same birthday, they become immediate friends. One day, they decide to become 'blood brothers'. Mickey envies Edward his sweets and toys; Edward envies Mickey his naughty adventures and knowledge of swear-words. Both long to be 'in the other's shoes'.



When they find out, both mothers try to stop the children meeting, but the bond is too strong, and the boys disobey their parents to meet each other, and a mutual friend, Linda.

Ominously, their favourite game is cops and robbers, and they have gangster-like pretend 'shoot-outs' - they get 'shot' and 'die', "but you know if you cross your fingers and if you count from one to ten, you can get up off the ground again. It really doesn't matter the whole thing's just a game".

The idea of 'class' comes into many of Willy Russell's plays, and there is a telling scene when the three land up in trouble with the police. Whereas Mickey is returned home with threats of court and prison, Edward is taken home with a smile and the reassurance that it was "just a prank ... he's a good lad".

Mrs Lyons, increasingly mentally unstable, persuades her husband to move to the country. But then Mrs Johnstone, equally, is re-housed nearby on a new out-of-town council estate (where they only fight at weekends). Thus fate throws the two boys together again when they meet by chance, aged 14.

A visit to the pictures and a meeting with Linda re-unites the threesome, and this time they run away from the police! Both boys fancy Linda, but Edward is much too shy to tell her.

### **Depression...**

The boys' friendship, however, finds itself tested by fate, and class. Edward goes to university, returns to a successful career and becomes a local Councillor. Mickey gets a job he hates in a local factory, and he marries Linda because she gets pregnant.

But then there is a downturn in the economy, and Mickey loses his job. To Edward, not having to work seems rather fun, but Mickey tells him that he doesn't know what he is talking about. The two part angrily. Instead, Mickey gets in with his criminal elder brother Sammy, and is persuaded to take part in a robbery in which the night watchman is shot. Mickey is sent to prison for 7 years.

When he comes out, Mickey is a broken man, depressed, hopeless, and dependent on pills. Linda is reduced to despair ... and turns to her influential friend, Councillor Edward Lyons, for help.



During this time, Linda becomes aware of the fun she has lost ("There's a girl inside the women who's waiting to get free. She's washed a million dishes and she's always making tea") and she and Edward fall in love - "nothing cruel, nothing wrong, just two fools who know the rules but break them all, and grasp at half a chance to play their part in light romance".

### **... and Disaster**

At this point, Mrs Lyons tells Mickey about the relationship between Linda and Edward. Mickey - who has stopped taking the pills to try to rebuild his life with Linda - explodes: "There's a man gone mad, lost his mind tonight ... there's a mad man running round and round" says the Narrator. Linda, terrified, runs to tell Mrs Johnstone, who sets off to find him...

And so the scene is set for the final disaster.

Edward Lyons is speaking in the Council Chamber when Mickey bursts in with a gun.

He is going to kill Edward for taking Linda from him, but he can't bring himself to do it.

Armed police arrive... and so does Mrs Johnstone:

"Mickey. Don't shoot Eddie. He's your brother. You had a twin brother. I couldn't afford to keep both of you. His mother couldn't have kids. I agreed to give one of you away!"

Mickey, who had been lapsing into despair, becomes uncontrollable with rage:

"Why didn't you give me away! I could have been ... him!"

He waves the gun at Edward to point at him.

As he does this, the gun goes off and kills Edward, and the police immediately shoot Mickey dead too.

The play ends with Mrs Johnstone left singing: 'Tell me it's not true'.

At the start of the play, the narrator invites the audience to judge Mrs Johnstone.

At the end of the play, he asks them a different question:

"And do we blame superstition for what came to pass?"

Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as 'class'?"

## Plot gap fill - most difficult version

### Act 1:

Blood Brothers begins at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story, with the deaths of Mickey and Edward. We then go back into the \_\_\_\_\_ to discover why the boys died. The mother of both boys, Mrs \_\_\_\_\_, is introduced by the \_\_\_\_\_ who tells the \_\_\_\_\_ that she gave her \_\_\_\_\_ away and that she has a \_\_\_\_\_ in place of a heart. We then meet Mrs Johnstone who gives us a quick synopsis of her \_\_\_\_\_. We discover that she is a \_\_\_\_\_ mother with 7 \_\_\_\_\_ to look after. She tells us that her \_\_\_\_\_ has walked out on her for a \_\_\_\_\_ woman and that she is expecting another \_\_\_\_\_ soon.

Following this opening scene the setting changes to Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ house where Mrs Johnstone works as a \_\_\_\_\_. We discover that Mrs Lyons is unable to have \_\_\_\_\_ but she desperately wants one and when Mrs Johnstone announces that she is pregnant with \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lyons suggests that Mrs Johnstone should \_\_\_\_\_ one to her. Mrs Johnstone initially \_\_\_\_\_ the idea but Mrs Lyons puts \_\_\_\_\_ on her and reminds her that social services will put one of her children into \_\_\_\_\_ because she can't look after them properly. Finally Mrs Johnstone agrees and they swear on the \_\_\_\_\_ to always keep the deal a \_\_\_\_\_. To frighten \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone into silence, Mrs Lyons tells her that if the twins ever discover they were once a \_\_\_\_\_ they will \_\_\_\_\_ immediately \_\_\_\_\_.

Mickey and Edward meet, aged \_\_\_\_\_. We see that even though they are \_\_\_\_\_ almost \_\_\_\_\_ (sharing the same biological parents) they have been brought up in contrasting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and are very \_\_\_\_\_ children. However, Mickey and Edward fast become \_\_\_\_\_ and discover that they share the same \_\_\_\_\_. Mickey declares that they are \_\_\_\_\_ and they make a \_\_\_\_\_ (reminiscent of Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons) and declare \_\_\_\_\_ to one another and swear they will be friends until they \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons discover that the twins have become friends and, afraid their \_\_\_\_\_ will be discovered, forbid the boys from seeing each other. Edward argues with Mrs Lyons and she \_\_\_\_\_ him. Later, Edward sneaks out to play with Mickey and Linda and Mrs Lyons becomes almost \_\_\_\_\_.

### Act 2:



At the start of Act 2 \_\_\_\_\_ more years have passed and the twins are \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Johnstone has made a new life for herself and appears much \_\_\_\_\_. Mickey is in love with \_\_\_\_\_ but is \_\_\_\_\_ about it and Edward is away at \_\_\_\_\_. Although things are a lot better for Mrs Johnstone we see that her children are still causing \_\_\_\_\_; Sammy pulls a knife out on the \_\_\_\_\_ and Mickey gets \_\_\_\_\_ from school. We learn that Edward too has been suspended for \_\_\_\_\_ at a teacher and while he is back home the twins meet up again. They are excited and quickly \_\_\_\_\_ their good friendship. However, Mrs Lyons is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: she moved here to get away from the Johnstones. She \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone and tries to \_\_\_\_\_ her to move away but this time Mrs Johnstone \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Lyons, desperate, \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone with a \_\_\_\_\_ but Mrs Johnstone manages to overpower her. Here we see a \_\_\_\_\_ of power in their relationship. Mrs Lyons is becoming weaker, more \_\_\_\_\_ and mentally and \_\_\_\_\_ unstable, while Mrs Johnstone is more \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_.

Autumn arrives and Mickey and Edward's lives begin to take \_\_\_\_\_ roads. While Edward is having fun at \_\_\_\_\_ Mickey is having to cope with the \_\_\_\_\_ of adult life. Linda falls \_\_\_\_\_ and Mickey \_\_\_\_\_ her but soon afterwards Mickey is made \_\_\_\_\_ due to the \_\_\_\_\_ recession. At \_\_\_\_\_ Edward returns home expecting a \_\_\_\_\_ but Mickey is not in the mood. Mickey is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Edward's life and he tells him to "\_\_\_\_\_ before I hit y". Upset, Edward asks Linda to \_\_\_\_\_ him, he doesn't know that she is already married. Desperate, Mickey decides to help \_\_\_\_\_ in a robbery but he is caught, arrested and \_\_\_\_\_ for 7 years.

When Mickey \_\_\_\_\_ from prison he is \_\_\_\_\_ to anti-depressants and is \_\_\_\_\_ to live with. An unhappy \_\_\_\_\_ seeks comfort in Edward's arms but \_\_\_\_\_ tells Mickey about the affair and he flies into a \_\_\_\_\_, grabs Sammy's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Edward at the Town Hall. In a desperate attempt to stop \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs Johnstone tells him the \_\_\_\_\_ but rather than \_\_\_\_\_ things this deepens his \_\_\_\_\_, and as he waves the gun at Edward it \_\_\_\_\_ goes off and kills Edward. The police marksmen then \_\_\_\_\_ Mickey and the play ends with Mrs Johnstone \_\_\_\_\_ over her two dead sons.

**Act 1:**

Blood Brothers begins at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story, with the deaths of Mickey and Edward. We then go back into the \_\_\_\_\_ to discover why the boys died. The mother of both boys, Mrs \_\_\_\_\_, is introduced by the \_\_\_\_\_ who tells the \_\_\_\_\_ that she gave her \_\_\_\_\_ away and that she has a ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' in place of a heart. We then meet Mrs Johnstone who gives us a quick synopsis of her \_\_\_\_\_. We discover that she is a \_\_\_\_\_ mother with 7 \_\_\_\_\_ to look after. She tells us that her \_\_\_\_\_ has walked out on her for a \_\_\_\_\_ woman and that she is expecting another \_\_\_\_\_ soon.

<i>audience</i>	<i>beginning</i>	<i>life</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>child</i>
	<i>stone</i>	<i>end</i>	<i>baby</i>	
<i>Narrator</i>	<i>husband</i>	<i>single</i>	<i>Johnstone</i>	<i>younger</i>

Following this opening scene the setting changes to Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ house where Mrs Johnstone works as a \_\_\_\_\_. We discover that Mrs Lyons is unable to have \_\_\_\_\_ but she desperately wants one and when Mrs Johnstone announces that she is pregnant with \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lyons suggests that Mrs Johnstone should \_\_\_\_\_ one to her. Mrs Johnstone initially \_\_\_\_\_ the idea but Mrs Lyons puts \_\_\_\_\_ on her and reminds her that social services will put one of her children into \_\_\_\_\_ because she can't look after them properly. Finally Mrs Johnstone agrees and they swear on the \_\_\_\_\_ to always keep the deal a \_\_\_\_\_. To frighten the \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone into silence, Mrs Lyons tells her that if the twins ever discover they were once a \_\_\_\_\_ they will immediately \_\_\_\_\_.

<i>cleaner</i>	<i>care</i>	<i>give</i>	<i>pressure</i>	<i>superstitious</i>
	<i>rejects</i>	<i>secret</i>	<i>Lyons'</i>	
<i>twins</i>	<i>pair</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>Bible</i>	<i>die</i>

Mickey and Edward meet, aged \_\_\_\_\_. We see that even though they are \_\_\_\_\_ almost \_\_\_\_\_ (sharing the same biological parents) they have been brought up in contrasting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and are very \_\_\_\_\_ children. However, Mickey and Edward fast become \_\_\_\_\_ and discover that they share the same \_\_\_\_\_. Mickey declares that they are \_\_\_\_\_ and they make a \_\_\_\_\_ (reminiscent of Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons) and declare \_\_\_\_\_ to one another and swear they will be friends until they \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons discover that the twins have become friends and, afraid their \_\_\_\_\_ will be discovered, forbid the boys from seeing each other. Edward argues with Mrs Lyons and she \_\_\_\_\_ him. Later, Edward sneaks out to play with Mickey and Linda and Mrs Lyons becomes almost \_\_\_\_\_.

*families*  
*genetically*  
*friends*

*birthday*  
*seven*  
*die*

*different*  
*loyalty*  
*environments*

*identical*  
*pact*  
*secret*

*blood brothers*  
*hysterical*  
*hits*

### Act 2:

At the start of Act 2 \_\_\_\_\_ more years have passed and the twins are \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Johnstone has made a new life for herself and appears much \_\_\_\_\_. Mickey is in love with \_\_\_\_\_ but is \_\_\_\_\_ about it and Edward is away at \_\_\_\_\_. Although things are a lot better for Mrs Johnstone we see that her children are still causing \_\_\_\_\_; Sammy pulls a knife out on the \_\_\_\_\_ and Mickey gets \_\_\_\_\_ from school. We learn that Edward too has been suspended for \_\_\_\_\_ at a teacher and while he is back home the twins meet up again. They are excited and quickly \_\_\_\_\_ their good friendship. However, Mrs Lyons is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: she moved here to get away from the Johnstones. She \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone and tries to \_\_\_\_\_ her to move away but this time Mrs Johnstone \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Lyons, desperate, \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone with a \_\_\_\_\_ but Mrs Johnstone manages to overpower her. Here we see a \_\_\_\_\_ of power in their relationship. Mrs Lyons is becoming weaker, more \_\_\_\_\_ and mentally and \_\_\_\_\_ unstable, while Mrs Johnstone is more \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_.

*trouble*  
*fourteen*  
*suspended*  
*refuses*

*re-establish*  
*confronts*  
*Linda*  
*knife*  
*emotionally*

*upset*  
*boarding school*  
*bus conductor*  
*paranoid*  
*responsible*

*happier*  
*attacks*  
*seven*  
*pay*  
*control*

*swearing*  
*embarrassed*  
*angry*  
*shift*

Autumn arrives and Mickey and Edward's lives begin to take \_\_\_\_\_ roads. While Edward is having fun at \_\_\_\_\_ Mickey is having to cope with the \_\_\_\_\_ of

adult life. Linda falls \_\_\_\_\_ and Mickey \_\_\_\_\_ her but soon afterwards Mickey is made \_\_\_\_\_ due to the \_\_\_\_\_ recession. At \_\_\_\_\_ Edward returns home expecting a \_\_\_\_\_ but Mickey is not in the mood. Mickey is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Edward's life and he tells him to " \_\_\_\_\_ before I hit y". Upset, Edward asks Linda to \_\_\_\_\_ him, he doesn't know that she is already married. Desperate, Mickey decides to help \_\_\_\_\_ in a robbery but he is caught, arrested and \_\_\_\_\_ for 7 years.

*party*                      *university*                      *Christmas*                      *marries*                      *responsibilities*  
*pregnant*                      *redundant*                      *economic*                      *marry*                      *beat it*  
*imprisoned*                      *jealous*                      *separate*                      *bitter*                      *Sammy*

When Mickey \_\_\_\_\_ from prison he is \_\_\_\_\_ to anti-depressants and is \_\_\_\_\_ to live with. An unhappy \_\_\_\_\_ seeks comfort in Edward's arms but \_\_\_\_\_ tells Mickey about the affair and he flies into a \_\_\_\_\_, grabs Sammy's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Edward at the Town Hall. In a desperate attempt to stop \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs Johnstone tells him the \_\_\_\_\_ but rather than \_\_\_\_\_ things this deepens his \_\_\_\_\_, and as he waves the gun at Edward it \_\_\_\_\_ goes off and kills Edward. The police marksmen then \_\_\_\_\_ Mickey and the play ends with Mrs Johnstone \_\_\_\_\_ over her two dead sons.

<i>truth</i>	<i>Linda</i>	<i>Mickey</i>	<i>difficult</i>	<i>gun</i>
<i>addicted</i>	<i>rage</i>	<i>emerges</i>	<i>confronts</i>	<i>anger</i>
<i>accidentally</i>	<i>shoot</i>	<i>crying</i>	<i>calming</i>	<i>Mrs Lyons</i>

## Plot gap fill - extra help version

### Act 1:

Blood Brothers begins at the e\_\_\_\_\_ of the story, with the deaths of Mickey and Edward. We then go back into the b\_\_\_\_\_ to discover why the boys died. The mother of both boys, Mrs J\_\_\_\_\_, is introduced by the N\_\_\_\_\_ who tells the a\_\_\_\_\_ that she gave her c\_\_\_\_\_ away and that she has a 's\_\_\_\_\_' in place of a heart. We then meet Mrs Johnstone who gives us a quick synopsis of her l\_\_\_\_\_. We discover that she is a s\_\_\_\_\_ mother with 7 c\_\_\_\_\_ to look after. She tells us that her h\_\_\_\_\_ has walked out on her for a y\_\_\_\_\_ woman and that she is expecting another b\_\_\_\_\_ soon.

*audience*

*beginning*

*life*

*children*

*child*

*stone*

*end*

*baby*

*Narrator*

*husband*

*single*

*Johnstone*

*younger*

Following this opening scene the setting changes to Mrs L\_\_\_\_\_ house where Mrs Johnstone works as a c\_\_\_\_\_. We discover that Mrs Lyons is unable to have c\_\_\_\_\_ but she desperately wants one and when Mrs Johnstone announces that she is pregnant with t\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lyons suggests that Mrs Johnstone should g\_\_\_\_\_ one to her. Mrs Johnstone initially r\_\_\_\_\_ the idea but Mrs Lyons puts p\_\_\_\_\_ on her and reminds her that social services will put one of her children into c\_\_\_\_\_ because she can't look after them properly. Finally Mrs Johnstone agrees and they swear on the B\_\_\_\_\_ to always keep the deal a s\_\_\_\_\_. To frighten the s\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone into silence, Mrs Lyons tells her that if the twins ever discover they were once a p\_\_\_\_\_ they will immediately d\_\_\_\_\_.

*cleaner*

*care*

*give*

*pressure*

*superstitious*

*rejects*

*secret*

*Lyons'*

*twins*

*pair*

*children*

*Bible*

*die*

Mickey and Edward meet, aged s\_\_\_\_\_. We see that even though they are g\_\_\_\_\_ almost i\_\_\_\_\_ (sharing the same biological parents) they have been brought up in contrasting f\_\_\_\_\_ and e\_\_\_\_\_ and are very d\_\_\_\_\_ children. However, Mickey and Edward fast become f\_\_\_\_\_ and discover that they share the same b\_\_\_\_\_. Mickey declares that they are b\_\_\_\_\_ and they make a p\_\_\_\_\_ (reminiscent of Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons) and declare l\_\_\_\_\_ to one another and swear they will be friends until they d\_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons discover that the twins have become friends and, afraid their s\_\_\_\_\_ will be discovered, forbid the boys from seeing each other. Edward argues with Mrs Lyons and she h\_\_\_\_\_ him. Later, Edward sneaks out to play with Mickey and Linda and Mrs Lyons becomes almost h\_\_\_\_\_.

*families*  
*genetically*  
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*birthday*  
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*die*

*different*  
*loyalty*  
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*identical*  
*pact*  
*secret*

*blood brothers*  
*hysterical*  
*hits*

## Act 2:

At the start of Act 2 s\_\_\_\_\_ more years have passed and the twins are f\_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Johnstone has made a new life for herself and appears much h\_\_\_\_\_. Mickey is in love with L\_\_\_\_\_ but is e\_\_\_\_\_ about it and Edward is away at u\_\_\_\_\_. Although things are a lot better for Mrs Johnstone we see that her children are still causing t\_\_\_\_\_; Sammy pulls a knife out on the b\_\_\_\_\_ and Mickey gets s\_\_\_\_\_ from school. We learn that Edward too has been suspended for s\_\_\_\_\_ at a teacher and while he is back home the twins meet up again. They are excited and quickly r\_\_\_\_\_ their good friendship. However, Mrs Lyons is u\_\_\_\_\_ and a\_\_\_\_\_: she moved here to get away from the Johnstones. She c\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone and tries to p\_\_\_\_\_ her to move away but this time Mrs Johnstone r\_\_\_\_\_. Mrs Lyons, desperate, a\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Johnstone with a k\_\_\_\_\_ but Mrs Johnstone manages to overpower her. Here we see a s\_\_\_\_\_ of power in their relationship. Mrs Lyons is becoming weaker, more p\_\_\_\_\_ and mentally and e\_\_\_\_\_ unstable, while Mrs Johnstone is more r\_\_\_\_\_ and in c\_\_\_\_\_.

*trouble*  
*fourteen*  
*suspended*  
*refuses*

*re-establish*  
*confronts*  
*Linda*  
*knife*  
*emotionally*

*upset*  
*boarding school*  
*bus conductor*  
*paranoid*  
*responsible*

*happier*  
*attacks*  
*seven*  
*pay*  
*control*

*swearing*  
*embarrassed*  
*angry*  
*shift*

Autumn arrives and Mickey and Edward's lives begin to take s\_\_\_\_\_ roads. While Edward is having fun at u\_\_\_\_\_ Mickey is having to cope with the r\_\_\_\_\_ of

adult life. Linda falls p and Mickey m her but soon afterwards Mickey is made r due to the e recession. At C Edward returns home expecting a p but Mickey is not in the mood. Mickey is b and j of Edward's life and he tells him to "b before I hit y". Upset, Edward asks Linda to m him, he doesn't know that she is already married. Desperate, Mickey decides to help S in a robbery but he is caught, arrested and i for 7 years.

<i>party</i>	<i>university</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>marries</i>	<i>responsibilities</i>
<i>pregnant</i>	<i>redundant</i>	<i>economic</i>	<i>marry</i>	<i>beat it</i>
<i>imprisoned</i>	<i>jealous</i>	<i>separate</i>	<i>bitter</i>	<i>Sammy</i>

When Mickey e from prison he is a to anti-depressants and is d to live with. An unhappy L seeks comfort in Edward's arms but M tells Mickey about the affair and he flies into a r, grabs Sammy's g and c Edward at the Town Hall. In a desperate attempt to stop M, Mrs Johnstone tells him the t but rather than c things this deepens his a, and as he waves the gun at Edward it a goes off and kills Edward. The police marksmen then s Mickey and the play ends with Mrs Johnstone c over her two dead sons.

<i>truth</i>	<i>Linda</i>	<i>Mickey</i>	<i>difficult</i>	<i>gun</i>
<i>addicted</i>	<i>rage</i>	<i>emerges</i>	<i>confronts</i>	<i>anger</i>
<i>accidentally</i>	<i>shoot</i>	<i>crying</i>	<i>calming</i>	<i>Mrs Lyons</i>

Prologue

**Narrator** (*speaking*):

So did y' hear the story of the Johnstone twins?  
As like each other as two new pins,  
Of one womb born, on the selfsame day,  
How one was kept and one given away?  
An' did you never hear how the Johnstones died,  
Never knowing that they shared one name,  
Till the day they died, when a mother cried  
My own dear sons lie slain?

*The lights come up to show a re-enactment of the final moments of the play - the deaths of Mickey and Edward. The scene fades.*

*Mrs Johnstone enters with her back to the audience*

**Narrator:**

An' did y' never hear of the mother, so cruel,  
There's a stone in the place of her heart?  
Then bring on her and come judge for yourselves  
How she came to play this part.

Questions on the Prologue:

1. What is a prologue? Define it!

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2. Why are prologues used?

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3. What do we learn about Mrs Johnstone's two sons on the first page? **Include quotations.**

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4. How do we know that the musical will result in tragedy? Use **two** quotations.

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5. How would you describe the atmosphere at the beginning of the musical? Use quotations to explain your answer.

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Extension activity:

6. What do we realise about the rhyme scheme of the narrator's prologue? (Label it first) Why has the writer used language in this way?

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Living on the Never Never

Although poverty was widespread during the 1960s in many parts of Britain this was a time of economic growth and unprecedented prosperity. High levels of employment and increasing wages meant that people had more money than ever to spend and new consumer goods such as washing machines, refrigerators, TV sets, cookers were within the reach of more households than ever before.

However, many families like the Johnstones, caught in the poverty trap, were left behind, unable to afford such luxuries. The only way the poor could obtain consumer goods was through Hire Purchase agreements.

In post war Britain Hire Purchase (HP, or the "Never Never,") was booming. In 1956 the British spent £400 million on Hire Purchase goods, only nine years later in 1965 the amount had tripled to £1200 million.

Hire Purchase is a way of paying for goods in weekly instalments. The advantage in HP agreements is that the customer receives the goods immediately and then pays off the balance.

However, there are dangers in taking out HP agreements. Firstly, by paying in instalments people often pay far more for the goods and if payments are not kept up then the goods are repossessed even if the customer has paid off the majority of the balance.

We see this happen to Mrs Johnstone near the beginning of Act one when the Finance Man and the Catalogue Man confront Mrs Johnstone and remove hire purchase goods from her home because she hasn't kept up the repayments. In one scene she recollects how debt collectors turned up during a meal and took away the kitchen table while the family were eating.

Read the play up to the scene where the catalogue and finance men repossess goods from the Johnstone's house, then answer the questions below.

1. Why are the goods repossessed?

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2. Why do you think Mrs Johnstone orders things she cannot afford?

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3. Why does Willy Russell include this scene in the play?

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4. Can you think of another character that Mrs Johnstone owes a debt to?

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Living on the never never is one way of obtaining goods that you otherwise could not afford. Think about the following characters: Mrs Johnstone, the Finance Man and Mrs Johnstone's children. What would they think and feel about the system of hire purchase?



Contrasting Characters: Edward and Mickey

Mickey and Edward are contrasting characters. How many examples of contrasts can you find?

<u>Edward</u>	<u>Mickey</u>

Using your knowledge of the characters of Mickey and Edward write a paragraph explaining how Russell presents these contrasting characters to the audience.

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What have you learned already about Mickey and Edward?

Below are a few sentence starters to help with your paragraph:

- The first difference we notice about Mickey and Edward is...
- Mickey is...whilst Edward...
- The way they speak conveys to the audience that...
- The way they act towards one another gives us an insight into their relationship...

**The Policeman's two visits - most difficult version**

Read Act One up to the scene with the policeman talking to Mr Lyons. Think about how the policeman speaks to each family. Consider Russell's use of **stage directions**, **actions**, and the **dialogue** the policeman uses.

Read the scene between the policeman and Mrs Johnstone. What does the policeman say and do? What does it reveal about his attitude to the Johnstones?

<u>POINT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>	<u>LINK TO THE Q...</u>

Read the scene between the policeman and Mr Lyons. What does the policeman say and do? What does it reveal about his attitude to the Lyons?

<u>POINT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>	<u>LINK TO THE Q...</u>

Using the information you have gathered write a couple of paragraphs explaining how the policeman treats each family differently for committing the same 'offence'. In your answer try to explain why the policeman speaks to the parents in contrasting ways.

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What is the purpose of this scene? What is Willy Russell trying to suggest to the audience?

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Extension questions:

1. Find three quotations in which the policeman threatens Mrs Johnstone.

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2. Look at the language used by the policeman when he visits each family. Why does Russell use more colloquialisms when he speaks to Mrs Johnstone?

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3. How does Mrs Johnstone respond to the policeman? What does this show about her? What does it suggest about her social status? Does it remind you of another scene earlier in the play?

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4. What does the policeman mean by 'Make sure he keeps with his own kind'?

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5. How does Russell use stage directions to create a different mood when the policeman speaks to Mr Lyons?

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### The Policeman's two visits - regular version

Read Act One up to the scene with the policeman talking to Mr Lyons. Think about how the policeman speaks to each family. Consider Russell's use of **stage directions, actions, and the dialogue** the policeman uses.

Read the scene between the policeman and Mrs Johnstone. What does the policeman say and do? What does it reveal about his attitude to the Johnstones?

<u>POINT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>	<u>LINK TO THE Q...</u>
	<i>"he was about to commit a serious crime."</i>		
The policeman has no respect for the Johnstone family			


Read the scene between the policeman and Mr Lyons. What does the policeman say and do? What does it reveal about his attitude to the Lyons?

<u>POINT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>	<u>LINK TO THE Q...</u>
	<i>"it was more of a prank really."</i>		
The policeman is polite and respectful to the Lyons family			

Using the information you have gathered write a couple of paragraphs explaining how the policeman treats each family differently for committing the same 'offence'. In your answer try to explain why the policeman speaks to the parents in contrasting ways.

If you are finding it hard to get started here are a few sentence starters to help with your writing:

- When the policeman speaks to Mrs Johnstone he is....
- He says ... which shows that....
- The way he speaks to Mr Lyons is...
- He says ... shows us that...
- In this scene Willy Russell is suggesting that...



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Extension:

What is the purpose of this scene? What is Willy Russell trying to suggest to the audience?

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## The Policeman's two visits - easier version

Read Act One up to the scene with the policeman talking to Mr Lyons. Think about how the policeman speaks to each family. Consider Russell's use of **stage directions, actions, and the dialogue** the policeman uses.

Read the scene between the policeman and Mrs Johnstone. What does the policeman say and do? What does it reveal about his attitude to the Johnstones?

<u>POINT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>	<u>LINK TO THE Q...</u>
	<i>"he was about to commit a serious crime."</i>	The words "serious crime" ....	Therefore...
The policeman has no respect for the Johnstone family			Consequently we can see...
			The audience realises...

Read the scene between the policeman and Mr Lyons. What does the policeman say and do? What does it reveal about his attitude to the Lyons?

<u>POINT</u>	<u>EVIDENCE</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>	<u>LINK TO THE Q...</u>
	<i>"it was more of a prank really."</i>	The word "prank" ....	Therefore...
The policeman is polite and respectful to the Lyons family			Consequently we can see...
			The audience realises...

Using the information you have gathered, finish off the sentence starters explaining how the policeman treats each family differently for committing the same 'offence'. In your answer try to explain why the policeman speaks to the parents in contrasting ways.

When the policeman speaks to Mrs Johnstone he is \_\_\_\_\_

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To Mrs Johnstone, he says that Mickey \_\_\_\_\_ which shows that \_\_\_\_\_

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The way he speaks to Mr Lyons is \_\_\_\_\_

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He says Edward \_\_\_\_\_ which shows us that \_\_\_\_\_

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In this scene Willy Russell is suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

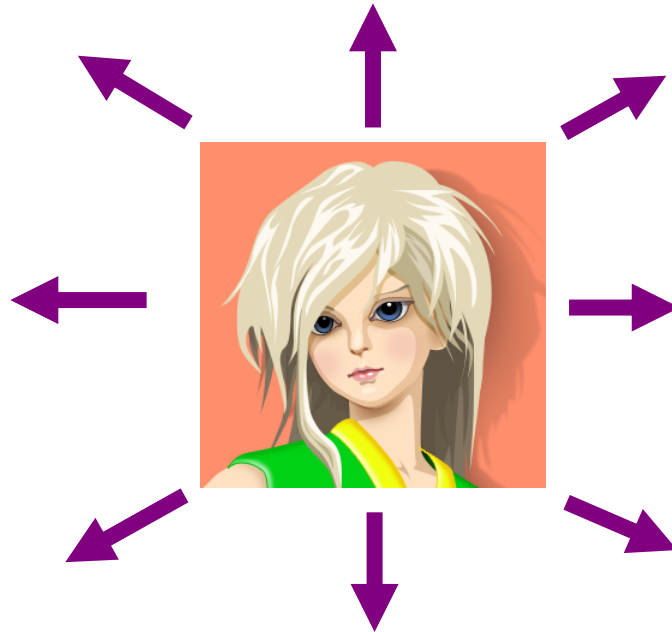
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## Linda's character

What are your first impressions of Linda? Think of words or phrases which convey her personality.



Find three quotes from the text that show that Linda cares about Mickey.

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1. How does Russell present Linda as courageous and willing to stand up for what is right?

2.Linda says to Mickey, 'When you die you'll meet your twinny again, won't y'?' What does she mean by this? Explain how this is an example of dramatic irony. (You may need to research what dramatic irony is first!)

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3.How does Willy Russell present Linda as a likeable and friendly character?

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4. Using your knowledge of stage directions, dialogue and action write a paragraph explaining how Willy Russell presents the character of Linda.

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Here are a few sentence starters to get you going...

Linda is presented as something of a tom boy by Willy Russell...  
Willy Russell presents Linda as being...  
Mrs Johnstone can be seen as representing...

Using Quotations to Support Your Opinions:

Point:	Evidence	Analysis:	Link to q:
Mrs Johnstone is a superstitious woman.			
Mrs Lyons is a cold and manipulative character.			
Mickey completely idolises Edward.			
Mr Lyons is a hard-hearted employer.			
Lynda is a warm and loyal character.			
Edward is a compassionate and generous character.			
The prologue acts to inform the audience of events to follow.			

