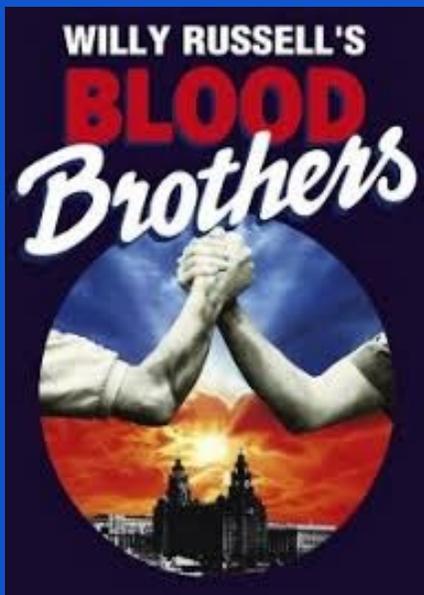


Year 9- Module 2
Blood Brothers
 By: Willy Russell

Written in 1983
 Based from late 1960's-80's



Character List (In order of Appearance):

- Mrs Johnstone**- mother of Mickey, Edward, and Sammy living in **poverty**
- Narrator**- omniscient commenter of all characters and their behaviors
- Mickey**- child that **Mrs Johnstone** keeps
- Edward**- child adopted by the **Lyons**
- Mrs Lyons**- **affluent** wife unable to have children
- Mr Richard Lyons**- **affluent** factory owner
- Linda**- friend of **Mickey and Edward**
- Sammy**- brother living with **Mickey**
- The Policeman**- figures of **authority**

Summary (2 Acts):

Due to the **economic recession** of **Liverpool**, a woman is forced to give up one of her children.

Act 1- Inner city Liverpool

Birth: birth of **Mickey and Edward**, they are separated at birth.

Childhood: **Mickey and Edward** meet for the first time. They are re-separated.

Act 2- Outer city Liverpool

Adolescence: **Mickey and Edward** are reunited in their new homes. Their friendship deepens.

Adulthood: **Mickey and Edward** lead very different lives which creates tension between them.

Settings (importance):

- Liverpool, England**
- Johnstones' House**- symbolises **poverty**
- The Lyons' House** - symbolises **affluence**
- Streets of Liverpool**- provides opportunities for characters to keep **secrets** from others
- Johnstone's New House**- symbolises false **dreams**
- Lyons' New House**- symbolises false sense of **escapism** of fate
- Edward's School**- symbolises **physical** and **metaphorical** separation of twins
- Mickey and Linda's House** - symbolises cycles of poverty
- Town Hall**- symbolises failure of **government**

Themes:

Secrets: Many characters keep secrets from each other that have large impacts like **Mrs Lyons**

Superstition/Fate: Characters like **Mrs Johnstone** lives are believed to be pre-determined

Poverty/Wealth: Characters like **Edward** are strongly influenced by their economic background.

Nature vs Nurture: question of whether people can change their path

Violence: people like Sammy reacting to their injustice

Key Vocabulary/Spelling:

affluent- to be rich

poverty- to be poor

authority- people in positions of power

superstition- belief in the supernatural

social class- division of society based on social and economic status

economic recession- wide-spread financial difficulties

fate- already decided by higher power

social mobility- moving up **social class**

Welfare State- government assistance

Addiction- physical/mental dependency

fraternal- brotherhood

Context:

Margaret Thatcher: Was Prime Minister during the **1980's** and closed many industries across the North of England due to **economic recession** resulting in mass **poverty**. This poverty caused a large rise in crime, **addictions**, violence and **mental illness**.

Social Class: people's lives are heavily pre-determined by where they are born and who they are born to. Factors such as education, jobs, salary and quality of life differ based on their class, and a similar class is passed along to their children.

Subject Terminology:

Tragedy- story where title characters die

Play: a text that is meant to be acted out

Dialect- people speak based on location/**class**

Foreshadowing- hints about future events

Stage Directions: descriptions of character appearance/behavior

Dialogue: characters speaking aloud

