

6.4: 20 mark question. Performer. Blood Brothers

Sample Question (2022 paper)

You are performing the role of **Edward**

Describe how you would use your acting skills to **interpret Edward's character**.

Explain why your ideas are appropriate for

- This extract
- The performance of your role in the play as a whole

A 20 mark answer should contain the following:

Sample answer is from 2022 paper, which scored 18/20

Paragraph 1- short

- Describe the character of Edward and his importance to the play- what are his main qualities?
- How do you intend to interpret his role in the extract?
- What relationships are seen in the extract and the play as a whole that support this extract?

"Throughout this extract we can understand that Edie to be a loveable but stubborn character. We realise his teenage demeanour as he wishes for privacy and to be free of his mother's grasp on him- to have something for himself, yet there is still a sense of concern for his mother which makes him the loveable Edward Lyons that we know. In addition we can understand that he still possesses a certain sense of naivety which never seems to abandon him through the rest of the play."

Paragraph 2

- Pick moment from the extract- use a line and/or stage direction as a quote.
- Describe how you would use your **vocal, physical and spatial skills** to play this moment in the extract
- Be precise and explain what effects these will create on the audience and on the other character in the extract

"Within the start of this extract I would make it clear to the audience that this locket is an item of salience for Eddie. We see this when he states 'Because I wouldn't let them have my locket'. In order to state this line of dialogue effectively I would place emphasis on the word 'have' by deepening my voice and elongating the 'a' sound. I would accompany this with a slight nod of my head towards stage left in order to suggest that it wasn't really the locket's fault for getting him suspended but rather his unwillingness to give over the locket. This not only emphasises Edward's stubborn nature but his loyalty too as he's keeping a secret from long ago. Additionally, I would deliver this line with a tone of assertiveness to demonstrate that his actions are something he is proud of."

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Paragraph 3

- Pick another moment from the extract- use a line and/or stage direction as a quote.
- Describe how you would use your **vocal, physical and spatial skills** to play this moment in the extract
- Be precise and explain what effects these will create on the audience and on the other character in the extract

"Another moment in the extract which I would choose to play upon is when he states 'Mummy, what's wrong?'. This is a moment which displays nicely the genuine love and concern he holds for his mum. I would change my facial expressions here to suit the mood by dropping my eyebrows and squinting my eyes to indicate a sudden rush of sadness or concern. Then using my physicality, I would use a steady stance and a strong forward position to contrast between Eddie and Mrs Lyons at this time. When saying 'Mummy' I would use a soft and breathy tone with a low volume to indicate a sense of comfort to display Eddie as a loveable character, which he is. Furthermore '...what's wrong?' would be said with sincerity as I use my upstage hand to keep her steady and give her a reassuring pat to confirm that everything will be okay. This is effective as it shows Eddie's true love for his mum whilst also showing his naive nature as Mrs Lyons as well as the audience - dramatic irony- know it not to be."

Paragraph 4

- Pick a moment from the whole play that either supports or contrasts your interpretation of the role
E.g. in the example the student has focussed on Edward's loveable nature and found an example of when he shows that quality earlier in the play as 7 years old. If the question was about Mickey and the extract is when Mickey and Eddie meet for the first time. In your introduction, paragraph 1 and 2 you have explained that you interpret his role as cheeky carefree nature, you could pick another moment from the play where these qualities are seen OR pick a moment from later in act 2 when he is a shell of his former self when addicted to pills.
- Repeat the same format of how you would use your **vocal, physical and spatial skills** to play this moment in the extract

"A moment within the full play which further supports the loveable nature of Eddie is just after they have moved house to the countryside and he states 'are you feeling better now mummy?'. Once again, we can realise his selflessness as even though he has done something relatively against her wishes, he still strives to make others feel happy and welcome. To say this line I would make sure I have embraced her in a hug first to demonstrate that although paranoid and often harsh Eddie believes she is a good Mother. I would then make direct eye contact to guide the actress playing Mrs Lyons downstage; always keeping the proxemics close and ask 'Are you feeling better now Mummy?' I would say this in a polite manner with a sincere smile on my face to show that throughout the full play there are always moments in which we realise Edward can be loveable."

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Paragraph 5

- Pick one more moment from the extract- use a line and/or stage direction as a quote.
- Describe how you would use your **vocal and physical skills** to play this moment in the extract
- Be precise and explain what effects these will create on the audience and on the other character in the extract

A moment within the extract where we notice Eddie's teenage demeanour and wish for privacy is when he says 'it's a secret, I can't tell you'. This shows a slight distance from Mrs Lyons at this point in the play. To parallel this, I would perform it physically by walking off stage left before Mrs Lyons delivers the line '..but I'm your mother'. This would highlight his physical distance from her as well as her mental separation. To show he is 14 years of age, I would heighten my pitch and slap my hands across my legs on 'it's a secret' to highlight to him that a secret must be honoured as well as the nature of his loyalty and responsibility - something which becomes distinctive of him.

Word bank:

Physical skills

Eye contact

Spatial relationships

Facial Expressions

Movement

Gestures

Posture

Energy

Gait

Proxemics

Vocal Skills

Pitch

Pace

Pause

Tone

Volume

Emphasis

Accent