

YEAR 11 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - SPRING 2

BLOOD BROTHERS REVISION

MAJOR CHARACTERS

1	Mickey Johnstone				Mickey is the biological twin of Edward who Mrs Johnstone opts to keep. Mickey has a harsh working-class upbringing, but at his heart he is honest and sincere. He takes a number of knocks in life that Edward is fortunate enough to avoid. He hardens as the play goes on, becoming cynical
2	Edward Lyons				Edward is the biological twin of Mickey, who Mrs Johnstone gives to Mrs Lyons to raise as her own. Like Mickey, Edward is honest, kind and down-to-earth despite his upbringing with the snobbish Mrs Lyons. Unlike Mickey, Edward benefits from every advantage in life, such as attending private school.
3	Mrs Johnstone				Mrs Johnstone is the biological mother of Mickey and Edward. She is a deeply superstitious woman who has to struggle to get by, however she also has a good heart and a strong sense of right and wrong. She gives up one of her twins as she believes that she has no choice after being left by her husband. As the play progresses, she is overcome by regret, however she always remains kind and loving.
4	Mrs Lyons				Mrs Lyons is snobbish and infertile. She adopts Edward and brings him up as a middle-class boy. Like Mrs Johnstone, Mrs Lyons is racked with guilt from the deed of separating the twins. She eventually becomes so unhinged and paranoid that she will lose her son that she attempts to kill Mrs Johnstone.
5	Linda				Linda begins the play as a tomboy who enjoys playing with Mickey and Edward, but she soon becomes an object for their desire. At first she seems solely attracted to Mickey, telling him that she loves him. However, after years of poverty she turns to Edward for comfort.
6	Narrator				All-knowing and slightly menacing, the Narrator takes on a number of roles throughout the play. He stands back and comments upon the action as it unfolds. He reminds the audience of the terrible act that causes the tragedy to unfold, and warns the audience the tragic events that are to come.

QUESTION BREAKDOWN

Q1: 4 marks	Design Question. DESCRIBE your design ideas for costume, set, lighting, sound or puppets.
Q2: 8 marks	One Line. DESCRIBE how you would use vocal and physical skills to deliver the line and EXPLAIN the effect created.
Q4: 12 marks	Shaded Extract: As Q2 but this time also discuss how the space is used to create a specified effect. E.g. Tension.
Q4: 20 marks	Extract/Whole Play: Show your understanding of the play and how you would interpret the role in three key scenes.

SYNOPSIS

- Mrs Johnstone, a struggling single mother of seven, finds out that she is pregnant with twins. Her employer, Mrs Lyons persuades Mrs Johnstone to give her one of the babies.
- Mrs Lyons takes Edward and brings him up as her own, convincing her husband this is true. Mrs Johnstone goes back to work but fusses over Edward, leading to Mrs Lyons firing her.
- Aged seven, Mickey and Edward meet and become best friends, along with Mickey's neighbour Linda. The three get into trouble with the police when they begin to throw stones at windows.
- Scared of Edward becoming close to his biological family, Mrs Lyons convinces her husband to move the family to the countryside. Soon afterwards, the Johnstones (and Linda's family) are rehoused by the council.
- As teenagers, Mickey and Edward meet again and they rekindle their friendship. Linda and the boys remain close throughout their teenage years before Edward goes to university.
- After marrying a pregnant Linda, Mickey loses his factory job. Unemployed, Mickey is involved in a crime with one of his brothers, Sammy, and both are sent to prison.
- Mickey becomes depressed and takes pills to help him cope, which he continues to take after being released.
- After Mickey comes out of prison and starts a new job, Edward and Linda start a light romance. Mickey finds out and is furious so he finds Sammy's gun and goes to find Edward at his workplace, the town hall.
- Mrs Johnstone follows Mickey and tells him in front of Edward that they are twins. The police also arrive. Mickey waves the gun around and it accidentally goes off, killing Edward. The police shoot Mickey. The twins both lie dead.

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Activities to complete to support you.

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A simple guide on how to structure each response to Section B of the written exam.