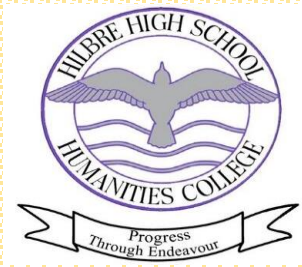


Year 9 Drama Knowledge Organiser: Term 5 - Blood Brothers by Willy Russel



The Plot

- "Blood Brothers" is a musical play written by Willy Russell.
- It tells the story of twin brothers, Mickey and Eddie, who are separated at birth and grow up in different social classes.
- The play explores themes of class division, identity, fate, and the consequences of choices made.
- Set in Liverpool, it follows the lives of the two brothers and the tragic events that unfold as their paths cross later in life.

Eye Contact	In drama, eye contact means looking into someone's eyes when you act, showing emotions, and connecting actors with each other and the audience to create an exciting and meaningful play.
Thought Track	When an actor says their thought out loud to the audience.
Stereotypes	A stereotype is when people have a simple and general idea about a whole group of people or things, but it's not always true for everyone.
Over Exaggerated	An actor uses their body to create an over the top performance.
Synchronisation	When actors do something together at the same time. This could be a sound or movement.
Marking the Moment	To highlight an important moment of a performance.

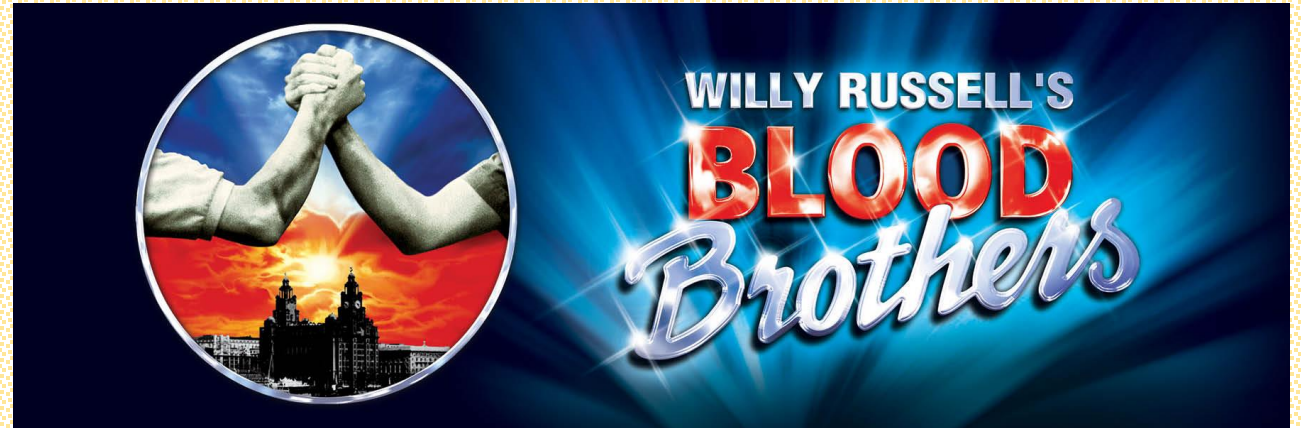
Key Characters:

Mrs Johnstone	Mrs Johnstone has a very low social status. She is a working class, single mother with a large number of children which she struggles to control. As such she represents a social group that is often much maligned by society, the single parent, living on benefits with a large number of children.
Mickey	Mickey is the twin brother who is brought up by his biological mother with his seven older siblings. We first meet him when he is seven years old and he is friendly and excitable. He looks up to his brother Sammy, and is jealous of the freedom that he has.
Eddie	Edward is a warm and kind boy, who enjoys interacting with other children. When he meets Mickey at the age of seven, he is excited by his new friend's rebelliousness. He is drawn to Mrs Johnstone, who is very different to his own mother. As a teenager, Edward is a loyal friend.
Mrs Lyons	Mrs. Lyons: She is a good woman, though she is made out to be mean. As her adopted child grows up, she gets increasingly paranoid that her secret will be found out, and she tries to control Eddie. The fact that she is not in control of this one situation in her life, takes over everything else in her life.



Writing your own script: How to write a script

- Develop fun ideas for your script's story and characters.
- Plan with a clear beginning, middle, and end, noting important scenes.
- Create interesting characters with unique personalities and backgrounds.
- Use dialogue to tell the story, develop characters, and showcase their uniqueness.
- Include stage directions for actors' movements and actions (*italics*).
- Describe scene settings and important objects.
- Use clear language in directions for understanding.
- Show character entrances, exits, and movements.
- Seek feedback from drama teacher/friends to improve.
- Enjoy the process and let your imagination soar!



★ Characterisation- Physical Skills ★	
Facial expression	The way an actor uses their face to convey their character
Body language	The way an actor uses their body to convey their character
Posture	The way an actor sits or stands
Hand gestures	An action that an actor does with their hands e.g. thumbs up or beckoning
Gait	The way an actor walks that conveys meaning
Proxemics	Positioning characters close or far apart to show their on stage relationships.

Playwright: Willy Russell is a British playwright who is known for his works exploring social issues and working-class themes. He is from Liverpool

★ Characterisation- Vocal Skills ★	
Accent	The pronunciation of words, depending on where the character is from.
Tone	The emotion or mood conveyed in a voice e.g. mischievous, worried.
Pitch	How high or low a voice sounds
Volume	How loudly or quietly an actor speaks.
Pace	How fast or slow an actor speaks.
Stutter	Saying a word with difficulty.
Pause	When an actor stops and waits before speaking.