

Blood Brothers

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Show how class shapes the twins' lives in three stages.

Step 1 · Childhood

At seven they are equals in imagination and friendship, though Edward's polite manners and Mickey's street knowledge already differ.

Step 2 · Adolescence

Edward goes to a private school; Mickey to a local comprehensive. Both are suspended, but consequences and opportunities differ.

Step 3 · Adulthood

Edward goes to university and becomes a councillor; Mickey loses his factory job in the recession, is drawn into crime and goes to prison.

Answer: Russell shows the gap between the twins widening and education take effect.

Check: Three stages across both acts.

2. Now try one with the steps

Analyse the Narrator dramatic device (described, not quoted).

Step 1 · What he does

Step 2 · Effect

Step 3 · Purpose

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. In what year was the musical version of Blood Brothers first staged? Write the year. [1]

2. Which city is the play set in and around? [1]

3. Which twin is raised by Mrs Lyons? [1]
-
-
4. At what age do Mickey and Edward first meet and become blood brothers? Write the number. [1]
-
-
5. How many acts does the play have? Write the number. [1]
-
-
6. What does 'nature versus nurture' mean? [2]
-
-
7. Why does Mrs Lyons invent a superstition about twins? [2]
-
-
8. How does Russell use the Narrator to create tension? [2]
-
-
9. Give one difference in the twins' adult lives and explain what it shows. [2]
-
-
10. Why is the play's cyclical structure effective? [2]
-
-
11. How do the children's games in Act 1 work? [2]
-
-
12. Compare the two mothers in one sentence. [2]
-
-
13. Write a thesis for: 'How does Russell present the effects of social class?' [2]
-
-

14. How does the late-20th-century context of unemployment shape Mickey's story?

[3]

4. Before you hand it in

Treating the superstition 'real' cause.

Weigh superstition against class and show how the Narrator raises the question.

Ignoring the songs and the Narrator.

Analyse how motifs and the Narrator's interventions shape the audience's response.

Writing about Mickey and Edward boys.

'Russell uses the twins experiment to show...'

Quoting songs or lines inaccurately from memory.

Learn a small bank of short, exact quotations from your own copy.