

Year 7 Drama Knowledge Booklet

Spring Term

Name:

Class:



Year 7 Drama

Blood Brothers

In this unit, students will learn an excerpt from the play 'Blood Brothers' by Willie Russell; they will focus on creating a performance of a monologue. They will apply skills they have learnt throughout previous units including the 5C's, Characterisation and learning lines.

Students will be introduced to two techniques created by Konstantin Stanislavski; 'Given Circumstance' and 'Emotion Memory', as well as the Three Key Features of Characterisation: voice, movement and physicality. These techniques are to support students in creating a realistic performance.

Big Questions

1. What is the storyline of the play 'Blood Brothers'?
2. How do we portray realistic characters?
3. How do we develop a realistic performance?
4. How do we refine and improve a realistic performance?
5. How can you evaluate a realism performance?

Homework

1. Homework 1 - Read the 'The Storyline - Blood Brothers' section of this booklet.
To be completed by lesson 3 _____
2. Homework 2 - Learn your lines for the monologue.
To be completed by lesson 4 _____
3. Homework 3 - Revise Plot, Characters, Realism, Key Features of Characterisation and lines ahead of assessment.
To be completed by lesson 6 _____

*(For Homework 1 you will answer 5 questions as part your engage task, score of 0 = 1BP, for
Homeworks 2 and 3 you will be observed in lesson)*

Knowledge Organiser - Blood Brothers

PLAY CONTEXT

Blood Brothers is a musical with book, lyrics, and music by Willy Russell. The story is a contemporary one focused on nature versus nurture, revolving around fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family. The different environments take the twins to opposite ends of the social spectrum, one becoming a councillor, and the other unemployed and in prison. They both fall in love with the same girl, causing a rift in their friendship and leading to the tragic death of both brothers.

CHARACTERS

The Narrator

Throughout the play breaks the '[fourth wall](#)' to help the story progress and act as a moral compass. He also plays other characters at various points, including: Policeman, Milkman, Judge, Finance Man, Catalogue Man and Bus Conductor.

Mrs Johnstone

The Lyons' cleaner who single-handedly supports her seven (later eight) children. Mother of Mickey and Eddie.

Mrs Jennifer Lyons

The employer of Mrs Johnstone. Mrs Lyons convinces Mrs Johnstone to give her one of her twin sons to raise as her own. (Eddie)

Edward 'Eddie' Lyons

Mickey's twin brother who was given away by Mrs Johnstone, and brought up by Mrs Lyons; he becomes blood brothers with Mickey (his actual brother).

Michael 'Mickey' Johnstone,

The youngest Johnstone child who is kept by his mother; he becomes blood brothers with Eddie (his actual brother).

Sammy Johnstone

The elder brother of Mickey, who fell out of a window as a child resulting in having a metal plate in his head and commits many crimes.

Linda

A childhood friend of Mickey and Eddie and later Mickey's wife.

Mr Richard Lyons

Mrs Lyons's husband, who is unaware of Edward's true parentage.

Miss Jones

Mr Lyons's secretary, who is fired from the firm as a result of the recession.

Donna Marie Johnstone

One of the elder Johnstone children, who was looking after Sammy when they were little and he fell out of a window; by Act II, she is married with three children.

Darren Wayne Johnstone

The eldest Johnstone child.

Knowledge Organiser - Blood Brothers

Mrs Johnstone has been left a single mother with 5 children and is expecting twins. She lives in a council house and struggles to pay the bills.



The boys finally meet when they are 7.

They become best friends and blood brothers



Eddie goes to university and Mickey struggles to get a good job. Mickey marries Linda but continues to struggle with money



Mrs Johnstone works for Mrs Lyons, a well off woman who cannot have children. Mrs Lyons asks Mrs Johnston to give her one of the twins when they are born



The boys get separated as Mrs Lyons moves to the country.

For years they are separated but then Mrs Johnstone moves and the boys are reunited



Mickey turns to crime and serves time in jail. When out of prison he then starts to believe that Linda and Eddie are having an affair



Mrs Johnstone knows her child will lead a better life and agrees. The women swear on the bible and they believe that if the boys discover the truth they will both die.



Mickey and Eddie both fall in love with their friend Linda



Mickey goes to the office where Eddie works with a gun. Mrs Johnstone follows and tells the boys the truth, they are brothers. As she does Mickey shoots Eddie and a policeman shoots Mickey. Both boys lie dead.



Knowledge Organiser—Blood Brothers

Key Words and Definitions

Role Play: pretend to take on a character

Monologue

Mono (meaning one) + logue (meaning to speak) = one person speaking alone

Genre	Explanation	Leading Practitioners & Companies	Examples of Professional Repertoire
Realism	A type of drama performance which seeks to replicate real life. The actors use a variety of techniques created by Stanislavski which help them act as realistic as possible. The actors want the audience to believe they are the actual characters	Konstantin Stanislavski	The Crucible by Arthur Miller A Doll's House and Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen A Street Car Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Key Features of Characterisation:

Voice

Tone - Harsh/Soft. **Pitch** - High/Low. **Pace** - Fast/Slow.

Projection - Loud/Whisper/Shouting. **Pause** - Short/Long

Movement

Gestures - point at someone/off stage/to an object.

Hands - arms out, clench fists, hands up, folding arms, etc.

Size - Large/Small. **Moving** - Walking/Crawling/Jumping/Skipping

Physicality

Body posture - Upright/Hunched. **Pace** - Fast/Slow. **Levels** - High/Low.

Control - Balance/Loss of balance.

Precision - Movements add meaning to the dialogue.

MonologueScript

Mickey's Monologue Script

I wish I was our Sammy
Our Sammy's nearly ten.
He's got two worms and a catapult
An' he's built a underground den.
But I'm not allowed to go in there,
I have to stay near the gate,
'Cos me Mam says I'm only seven,
But I'm not, I'm nearly eight!

I sometimes hate our Sammy,
He robbed me toy car y' know,
Now the wheels are missin' an' the top's broke
off. An' the bleedin' thing won' go.
An' he said when he took it, it was just like that,
But it wasn't, it went dead straight,
But y' can't say nothin' when they think y' seven
An' y' not, y' nearly eight.

I wish I was our Sammy,
Y' wanna see him spit,
Straight in y' eye from twenty yards
An' every time a hit.
He's allowed to play with matches,
And he goes to bed dead late,
And I have to go at seven,
Even though I'm nearly eight.

Y' know our Sammy,
Y' know what he sometimes does?
He wees straight through the letter
Box of the house next door to us.
I tried to do it one night,
But I had to stand on a crate,
'Cos I couldn't reach the letter box
But I will by the time I'm eight.

Sample Assessment

Who created 'realism' performances?		(1pts)
Name the 2 Stanislavski techniques you have used in this unit to help you portray realistic characters.	1. _____ 2. _____	(2pts)
For one of the techniques above, explain what it is and how it is used.		
Which of the Key Features of Characterisation is where an actor adapts his body to suit a character:		(1pt)

Performance Assessment

Acting	Achieved	Comment
1		Voice - clearly expresses character
2		Voice - performed with significant confidence and control
3		Movements - clearly express the character
4		Movement - performed with significant confidence and control
5		Physicality - clearly used to express character
6		Physicality - performed with significant confidence and control

Realism	Achieved	Comment
1		Performed without the use of a script for most of the performance (Learnt most lines)
2		Performed without the use of a script throughout (Lines clearly all learnt)
3		Characters portrayed effectively as young children
4		Effective portrayal of individual character - through voice and movement
5		At least 1 of the Stanislavski techniques used.

Wider Reading/Watching

Performances of Mickey's Monologue and Mickey and Eddie's Meeting Scene:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-81K7aIKlg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TFwU9AudUo>

'Blood Brothers' Website

<http://www.bloodbrothersmusical.com/>

Willy Russell – Playwright

<http://www.willyrussell.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willy_Russell

Konstantin Stanislavski—Practitioner

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zxn4mp3/revision/1>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin_Stanislovski

<https://heatheractingwork.wordpress.com/2012/12/20/emotion-memory/>

