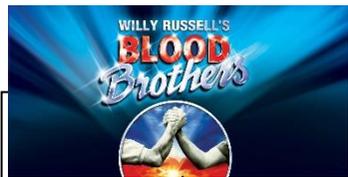


Y9 Drama Knowledge Organiser



Blood Brothers...

Blood Brothers is a play you will explore and perform, as well as your GCSE Set Text. You must know it inside out!

Playwright: Willy Russell

Context: Set between the 1960's-1980's in Liverpool.

Themes: Class Divide, Superstition, Nature vs Nurture, Education, Fate and Destiny, Growing Up

Key Characters:

The Narrator

Upper Class: Mrs Lyons, Mr Lyons, Edward

Working Class: Mrs Johnstone, Mickey and his siblings, Linda



Cyclical Structure – Blood Brothers has a plot that starts with the ending then carries on in a linear order until it reaches the end again.

Genre: Comedy/Tragedy/Musical

Style: Blood Brothers has elements of more than one style. There is naturalism, as well as non-naturalism.

CHALLENGE: Using SEMIOTICS to communicate

Semiotics = Anything that is used to communicate meaning, other than the words themselves. This could be through lighting, set, costume or your **physical** skills.

- S** pace
- G** estures
- m** ovement
- F**ac i al Expressions
- B** o dy language
- t** echnical (lights, sound, set, costume)
- P**roxem i cs
- E**ye c ontact
- L**evel s

Devising Terminology

Stimulus: The starting point for your drama performance. It should be used to spark initial ideas and inspire the concept for your piece. It could be a piece of music, a picture, a sculpture, an object, a news article, a poem or a story.

Devising: The process of creating your own piece of drama, using a stimulus to kick start the journey.

Intention: What you set out to achieve in your performance. What do you want the audience to think/feel/learn/understand? This

Exposition: How the plot starts: giving plot/character information

Rising Action: The things that happen to build up the pace and excitement of the story

Climax: Matters come to a head - highest point of tension when the audience feel emotion

Denouement: Everything is explained and the drama finishes.

TOP TIPS FOR DEVISING: BE CREATIVE, BE A TEAM PLAYER, BE EXPERIMENTAL, TRY ALL IDEAS!

Vocal Skills:

1. Projection	Ensuring your voice is loud and clear for the audience to hear.
2. Volume	How loudly or quietly you say something. (Shouting, whispering)
3. Tone	The way you say something in order to communicate your emotions. (E.g. Angry, worried, shocked tone of voice)
4. Pace	The speed of what you say.
5. Pause	Moments of pause can create tension, or show that you are thinking.
6. Accent	Use of an accent tells the audience where your character is from.
7. Pitch	How high or low your voice is.
8. Emphasis	Changing the way a word or part of a sentence is said, in order to emphasise it. (Make it stand out.) Try emphasising the words in capital letters and see how it changes the meaning: "How could YOU do that?" "How could you do THAT?"

Y9 Drama Knowledge Organiser

Writing a drama evaluation/theatre review:

Start by introducing:

- What the performance was called/about
- A brief summary of the plot
- How well you think the performance went

Then use **PEEL** to evaluate any of the areas below (unless specified otherwise)

- Physical or Vocal Skills (Choose from your Knowledge Organiser)
- Use of staging/stage space/spatial awareness
- Use of props/lighting/sound
- The overall structure of the performance.

Conclude with: How successful the performance was overall and why.

P oint: What is the area you will be evaluating and what is the **point** of your paragraph?

E xample: Give a **specific** example of what acting skills were used - paint a picture of this moment using words!

E xplain: **Explain** the effect of this moment on the audience - why were these acting skills used?

E valuate: Now **evaluate** - was this moment effective? Why/why not?

L ink: **Link** it back to the original point and draw the paragraph to a conclusion - how **successful** was the moment?

Stage Types:

Proscenium Arch/End-on

A stage where the audience sits on one side only is called a proscenium arch stage (you might know this as end-on staging). The audience faces one side of the stage directly, and normally sits at a lower height.

Thrust

A thrust or open stage is one that juts out from a back wall so that an audience sits or stands on three sides. This sort of stage can give the performers the same sort of close relationship with the audience as theatre-in-the-round, but also allows the back wall to be used to suggest different locations.

Traverse

A traverse stage has a long central acting area and the audience sits on the two sides; on either side of the stage facing each other, like a cat walk.

In-the-round

An in-the-round stage is positioned at the centre of the audience - i.e the audience is around the whole stage. This type of stage creates quite an intimate atmosphere, and is good for drama that needs audience involvement.

Promenade

In a promenade performance, the audience does not sit down. Rather, the performers work in different parts of the performance space and the audience moves around to see what is being presented.

Live Theatre

Analysing and evaluating live theatre is a crucial aspect of your written exam. When watching live theatre, always make notes on the key areas below:

Staging - What stage type has been used and why? Was this appropriate for the performance?

Semiotics - What semiotics have been used and what meaning was being communicated?

Characterisation - How did the actors portray their role and was this effective? Pick out **SPECIFIC** examples!

Genre/Style - how was this communicated to the audience?

Remember, when reviewing live theatre; make it personal and always justify your opinion.

Play Text Terminology

Plot: The significant points of the text and overall storyline.

Themes: The main ideas that occur throughout the piece.

Context: When, Where, What, Why, Who? Social, Cultural, Historical.

Intention: The playwright's intention is what they want to communicate to the audience. Think of it as the 'message' of the piece. What are they trying to get the audience to think/feel/learn/understand?

Structure: How is it put together and why?

Genre: The type of drama that is being performed (comedy, tragedy, musical etc.)

Style: The way it is presented (naturalistic, non-naturalistic, epic theatre, physical theatre etc.)