



Year 9 Blood Brothers by Willy Russell

Characters		Themes	Historical, Political and Social Context of the Play					
Mrs Johnstone		Social class	<p>Willy Russell wrote Blood Brothers in 1981. This was during the period that Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was in power. There was very high unemployment during this time, particularly in industrial working-class areas in northern England, such as Liverpool - where Russell is from and where the play is set. Mickey and his family represent the working classes, who were badly affected by the economic downturn, whereas Edward and the Lyons family embody the middle classes, who thrived in the 1980s.</p>					
Mrs Lyons		Superstition						
Mickey Johnstone		Money						
Edward Lyons		Nature verses nurture						
Linda		Fate						
Narrator		Friendship						
Sammy		Education						
Mr Lyons		Violence						
Genre		Style						
<p>Blood Brothers is a musical, a play that features songs as an important part. They are spread throughout and used to develop the plot of the play.</p>		<p>It combines aspects of naturalistic theatre with more stylised elements, such as multi-rolling, use of song and exaggerated characters.</p>						
Plot								
<p>The play follows in chronological order, the lives of Mrs Johnstone and her sons Mickey and Edward. It is bookended with the Narrator's comments relating to the death of the twins.</p>								
<u>Act 1 - Opening Late 1950s/ early 1960s</u>	<u>Seven years pass – 1960s</u>	INTERVAL: seven years pass	<u>Act 2 – Seven years later</u>	<u>Over several years – 1970s</u>	<u>Several years pass - Late 1970s/ early 1980s</u>			
<p>The narrator introduces Mrs J and the play.</p> <p>Mrs J is pregnant with twins</p> <p>Mrs L convinces Mrs J to give up her one of the twins.</p> <p>The twins – Mickey and Edward – are born.</p> <p>Mrs Lyons takes one of the twins.</p> <p>Mrs Lyons fires Mrs Johnstone.</p>	<p>Mickey and Edward meet and become 'blood brothers'.</p> <p>Mickey, Edward and Linda get into trouble with the police.</p> <p>The Lyons decide to move away.</p> <p>Edward comes to say goodbye and Mrs J gives him a locket.</p> <p>The Johnstones are told they too are relocating to the countryside.</p>		<p>Sammy gets into trouble for robbing a bus conductor.</p> <p>Mickey and Linda attend a secondary modern school.</p> <p>Edward attends a boarding school.</p> <p>Mickey and Linda are suspended for being rude to a teacher.</p> <p>Edward is suspended for not surrendering his locket to a teacher.</p> <p>Linda and Mickey walk in a field and argue.</p> <p>Mickey and Edward meet again and their friendship resumes.</p> <p>Mrs Lyons attacks Mrs Johnstone.</p>	<p>Mickey, Edward and Linda become close friends.</p> <p>Edward goes off to university.</p> <p>Linda becomes pregnant.</p> <p>Mickey and Linda marry.</p> <p>Mickey is made redundant.</p> <p>Edward returns from university and he and Mickey argue.</p> <p>Mickey takes part in a robbery with Sammy and goes to prison.</p>	<p>Mickey comes out of prison; he is depressed and addicted to pills.</p> <p>Edward is a councillor.</p> <p>Linda and Edward start a relationship.</p> <p>Mrs Lyons tells Mickey about the relationship.</p> <p>Mickey interrupts a town council meeting to confront Edward.</p> <p>Mickey shoots Edward</p> <p>The Police Shoot Mickey</p> <p>The Narrator brings the play to its conclusion.</p>			