

Y9 Play: Blood Brothers – Willy Russell

Why?

This unit allows us to explore a modern-day play with issues still prevalent in today's society. Through superstition, fate and relatable characters, Russell advocates for the working class Liverpudlians and the issues they face because of the Government.

Literacy Knowledge

Declarative sentence	A statement.
Interrogative sentence	A question.
Imperative sentence	A command.
Exclamative sentence	Shows sudden or strong emotions. Ends with an exclamation mark !
Synonym	A word that means the same/similar to another.
Antonym	A word that is the opposite to another.
Comparative	An adjective which compares the object to another. E.g. The left tomato was bigger.
Superlative	An adjective which describes the extreme. E.g. tallest, happiest, angriest.

Key Concepts:

Social disparity

The difference between lower class and middle/upper classes. This includes treatment from others, jobs, education, opportunities and power.

Superstitions

Beliefs that are not based on human reason or scientific knowledge but are connected with old ideas about magic. In the play, this is seen to be a lower-class belief rather than an upper class belief.

Nature Vs Nurture

Describes a person based on their genetics or the environment which they have been brought up in. Nature defines their genes, their DNA and personal appearance. Nurture defines the opportunities and environment someone has been brought up with, such as, education, experiences, family etc.

Relationships

How relationships change in the play is a major theme. These are family relationships, romantic relationships, friendships and the relationship with wider society.

Violence

As there was a high unemployment rate, violence and crime soared as people became desperate. This is mirrored through the lower class in the play.

Vocabulary

Disparity	A difference in level or treatment (specifically when it is unfair).
Impoverished	Someone or somewhere that has been made poor/ is suffering from poverty.
Privileged	Someone or something which has special rights or advantages.
Criticism	An expression of disapproval about something which is perceived to have faults.
Vulnerability	The quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.
Inevitability	Something being certain to happen.
Cynicism	An inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; scepticism, not trustworthy.
Superstition	A widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck, or a practice based on such a belief.

Recall and Embed...

Stage Directions	Text in a play script which is not meant to read aloud but used to guide the actors and staging in how the play should be performed.
Cyclical Narrative	A narrative (story/plot) which ends as it begins.
Comic Relief	When a writer uses humorous content within a scene to detract from the serious or tragic nature.
Foreshadowing	A narrative device in which suggestions or warnings about events to come are dropped or planted.
Motif	Recurring image or idea in a piece of literary work.
Juxtaposition	Placing two concepts or objects next to or near each other, highlighting their differences and similarities.
Character foil	A device used by writers to contrast or reflect another character by highlighting their traits, appearance, personality or morals.