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| **Key Concepts**   * **Culture:** the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society * **Identity:** the qualities, beliefs, personality, looks and/or expressions that make a person or group * **Creativity:** the use of imagination or original ideas to create something; inventiveness | | **Key Contexts**   * Marilyn Monroe – An icon of glamour and luxury, she was also troubled and died of an overdose after becoming addicted to various drugs. * Margaret Thatcher – Blood Brothers was completed in 1981, two years after Thatcher became prime minister. Thatcher’s decision to leave Liverpool to ‘managed decline’ meant 30% of the workforce became unemployed, emphasising the differences between the upper and lower classes. * Willy Russell - Willy Russell was born in 1947 in Liverpool, where the play is set. He came from a working class family and became a hairdresser after leaving school at fifteen. In later life he decided to go back to college. It was at college that he started writing plays. | | | |
| **Key Terminology** | | **Characters** | | **Themes** | |
| **Foreshadowing**  **Pathos**  **Structure**  **Form**  **Imagery**  **Motifs**  **Tension**  **Humour**  **Irony**  **Juxtaposition**  **Stage Directions**  **Cyclical Structure**  **Dramatic monologue** | A narrative device in which a storyteller gives an advance hint of what is to come later in the story.  Appeals to the emotions and ideals of the audience and elicits feelings that already reside in them.  Something that consists of parts connected together in an ordered way  The name of the text type that the writer uses  Visually descriptive or figurative language  An object, image, sound, or phrase that is repeated throughout a story to point toward the story's larger theme.  A feeling of nervousness before an important or difficult event  The quality of being amusing or comic  Whenever a person says something or does something that departs from what they (or we) expect them to say or do.  The act or an instance of placing two or more things side by side often to compare or contrast or to create an interesting effect  An instruction written into the script of a play  When the conditions at the end are in the some way the same as they are at the beginning.  Written in the form of a speech of an individual character | **Mickey Johnstone**  **Edward Lyons**  **Mrs Johnstone**  **Mrs Lyons**  **Linda**  **Narrator**  **Sammy** | The lower-class twin. He is honest, sincere and goodhearted.  Is also good-natured but the higher-class twin.  Biological mother of the twins and a horde of other children. She is the moral centre of the play; is tortured by guilt and regret.  Opposite of Mrs J whom she employs as a cleaner. She adopts Edward as her own child. Is haunted by the original act of a mother giving up her child. The guilt turns into suspicion and paranoia.  She loves both twins and is a sympathetic character.  All-knowing and always slightly menacing- takes many roles throughout the play. Narrator constantly reminds the audience of the terrible choice that began this chain of events.  Mickey just wants to be like Sammy. Quickly becomes a juvenile delinquent. | **Education**  **Superstition**  **Violence**  **Money**  **Class**  **Nature vs Nurture**  **Fate**  **Friendship** | Due to class, education is offered differently to the two  The audience is constantly reminded of this, as well as the superstition Mrs Lyons creates  The children play with toy guns and violent games out in the street. This foreshadows the violent path Mickey takes and the ultimate violent ending to the boys’ lives.  Mrs J can’t afford to feed an extra two children and ends up getting her furnishings on the catalogue being taken away whilst pregnant  Mickey has less opportunities, poor education and an unsecure job. Edward has all the opportunities: a good education, university and a good job. Both boys are also treated differently by society and authoritative figures.  Focuses on the idea of what will happen if a person’s character is determined by their genetics or upbringing. In this case, it is their upbringing  The idea that because of class, the boys’ fate was always decided and instead it was fate, not superstition that caused their death.  There are close friendships between the boys as well as Linda which strengthens and suffers at different times, |