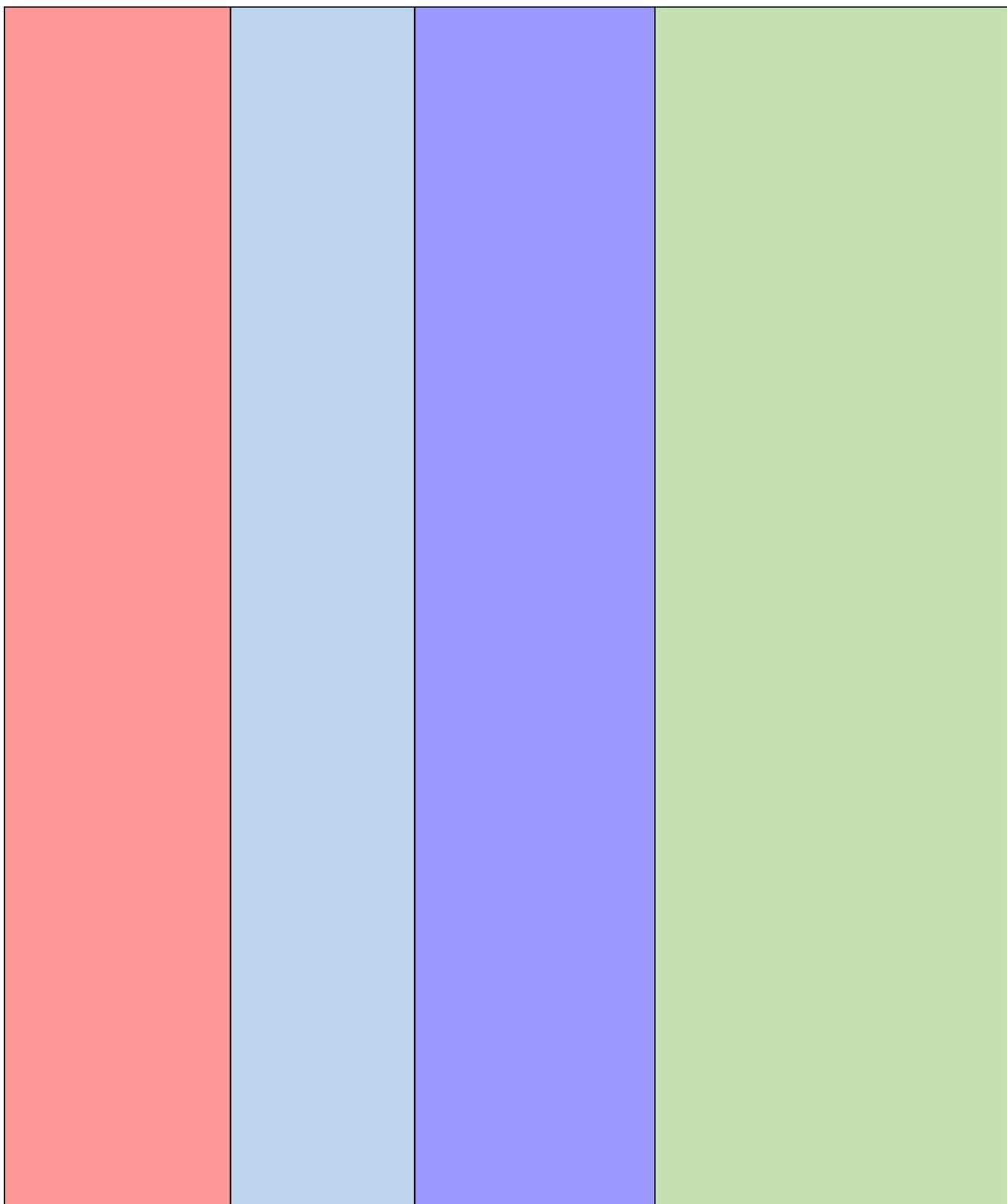


Knowledge Organiser: Blood Brothers by Willy Russell

<p><u>Plot</u></p> <p>Act 1 Prologue. Marilyn Monroe. Mrs Johnstone v Mrs Lyons. The pact. Mrs Johnstone loses her job. Mickey is envious of Sammy. Mickey and Edward meet. Sammy and his attitude towards Edward. Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons try to separate Mickey and Edward. Edwards swears at his mother. Kids games. The police man. Edward moves away and Mrs Johnstone gives him a locket. The Johnstones are rehoused.</p> <p>Act 2 A fresh new start. Sammy and the bus. Mickey and Edward get suspended. Mrs Lyons and the locket. Mickey and Edward meet again. Nymphomaniac rights and Swedish au pairs. Mrs Lyons confronts Mrs Johnstone. Summer montage. Edward leaves for university/Mickey and Linda get together. Linda pregnant. Linda and Mickey get married. Mickey made redundant. Mickey and Edward fight. The robbery. Mickey goes to prison. Mickey becomes addicted to pills. Linda and Edward begin an affair. Mrs Lyons shows Mickey the affair. Mickey shoots Edward and the police shoot Mickey.</p>	<p><u>Ideas and themes</u></p> <p>Class Nature v nurture Parents and children Growing up Fate and superstition Friendship and identity Gender Education</p>	<p><u>Key quotes</u></p> <p>"..never put new shoes on a table." Mrs Johnstone</p> <p>"They say I should put some of them into care...I love the bones of every one of them" Mrs Johnstone</p> <p>"Havin' babies it's like clockwork to me" Mrs Johnstone</p> <p>"I don't want you mixing with boys like that" Mrs Lyons</p> <p>"I feel that something terrible will happen..." Mrs Lyons</p> <p>"I could have been..I could have been him!" Mickey</p> <p>"Take no notice Mickey, I love you" Linda</p> <p>"Make sure he keeps with his own kind!" Narrator</p> <p>"But a debt is a debt and must be paid." Narrator</p> <p>"Why..why is a job so important?" Edward</p> <p>"It's a magpie, never look at one magpie." Edward</p> <p>"...the devil's got your number." Narrator</p> <p>"Mouths to feed. You're expecting twins." Doctor</p> <p>"...if either twin learns that he was once a pair, they will immediately die!" Mrs Lyons</p> <p>"There's a girl inside the woman, She's waiting to break free," Narrator about Linda</p> <p>"..this means we're blood brothers." Mickey</p> <p>"..everybody has secrets.." Edward</p> <p>"I can't cope!" Mickey</p>	<p><u>Context</u></p> <p>Willy Russell Born in a working class family. He grew up near Liverpool. Father had various jobs inc mining and factory work. Annoyed at the treatment of intelligent working class. Left school at 15 with one O'Level. Went to evening classes then university and became a teacher.</p> <p>Liverpool A major port and centre for trade providing jobs. In the 80's the docks were shut and unemployment rates soared. Some turned to crime to support families. Riots in the poorer parts in the 80's.</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher First woman Prime minster (1979) Reduced the power of the trade unions. Closed many industries eg steel and mining leading to wide spread unemployment.</p> <p>Skelmersdale In the 1960's the government began to build new towns where working class families were rehoused breaking up traditional communities.</p> <p>Education The Education Act 1944 led to "secondary modern" and "grammar" schools. Top 20% went to more academic grammars while secondary moderns taught more practical subjects.</p> <p>Class Working class v middle class divide More opportunities for middle class reflected in education, job prospects, housing and wealth. They also had a nuclear family structure (2.4 children) due to wider availability of contraception and birth control education.</p>
	<p><u>Key vocab</u></p>		
	<p>Tragedy.</p>		
	<p>Parallels and contrasts.</p>		
	<p>Narrator.</p>		
	<p>Stage directions.</p>		
	<p>Song.</p>		
	<p>Dialogue.</p>		
	<p>Montage.</p>		
	<p>Foreshadowing.</p>		
	<p>Symbols.</p>		
	<p>Motifs.</p>		
	<p>Accent.</p>		
	<p>Dialect.</p>		
	<p><u>Characters</u></p>		
	<p>Mrs Johnstone</p>		
	<p>Mrs Lyons</p>		
	<p>Mickey</p>		
	<p>Edward</p>		
	<p>Sammy</p>		
	<p>Linda</p>		
	<p>Narrator</p>		



Act 1

Prologue.
Marilyn Monroe.
Mrs Johnstone v Mrs Lyons.
The pact.
Mrs Johnstone loses her job.
Mickey is envious of Sammy.
Mickey and Edward meet.
Sammy and his attitude towards Edward.
Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons try to separate Mickey and Edward.
Edwards swears at his mother.
Kids games.
The police man.
Edward moves away and Mrs Johnstone gives him a locket.
The Johnstones are rehoused.

Act 2

A fresh new start.
Sammy and the bus.
Mickey and Edward get suspended.
Mrs Lyons and the locket.
Mickey and Edward meet again.
Nymphomaniac rights and Swedish au pairs.
Mrs Lyons confronts Mrs Johnstone.
Summer montage.
Edward leaves for university/Mickey and Linda get together.
Linda pregnant.
Linda and Mickey get married.
Mickey made redundant.
Mickey and Edward fight.
The robbery.
Mickey goes to prison.
Mickey becomes addicted to pills.
Linda and Edward begin an affair.
Mrs Lyons shows Mickey the affair.
Mickey shoots Edward and the police shoot Mickey.

Tragedy.
Parallels and contrasts.
Narrator.
Stage directions.
Song.
Dialogue.
Montage.
Foreshadowing.
Symbols.
Motifs.
Accent.
Dialect.