

A	Characters	
1	<b>Mickey Johnstone</b>	Twin brother to Edward. Brought up by his biological mother in a lower class household. Mickey disintegrates from an optimistic boy to a cynical man, hardened by time in prison and his addiction to antidepressants.
2	<b>Edward Lyons</b>	Twin brother to Mickey. Taken away from his biological mother and raised in the middle class Lyon's household. His life is full of opportunity and hope.
3	<b>Mrs Johnstone</b>	Biological Mum to the twins and several other children. She is left by her husband and gets a job as a cleaner working for Mrs Lyons. She is tortured throughout the play by guilt and regret.
4	<b>Mrs Lyons</b>	Employs Mrs Johnstone as a cleaner. She manipulates Mrs Johnstone into allowing her to adopt Edward. As the play progresses, Mrs Lyons becomes paranoid, controlling and her mental health deteriorates.
5	<b>Linda</b>	Friends with Mickey during childhood. She falls pregnant with Mickey's baby and they marry. Has an affair with Edward.
6	<b>Narrator</b>	Omniscient (all knowing narrator). He constantly reminds the audience of the terrible choice that led to the tragic chain of events.
7	<b>Sammy</b>	Mickey's older brother. Mickey looks up to him. Sammy enters into to a criminal life and ends up in prison with Mickey.
8	<b>Mr Lyons</b>	Married to Mrs Lyons. Works away for long periods of time as a successful businessman which contributes to his wife's loneliness.

C	Plot
<b>Act 1</b> <b>Part 1</b> <b>Part 2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mrs Johnstone is single Mum to 7 children and works as a cleaner for Mrs Lyons.</li> <li>2. Mrs J finds out she is expecting twins and Mrs L persuades her to give one to her.</li> <li>3. The narrator states that one day the devil will punish the two women.</li> <li>4. Biological twins Eddie and Mickey meet for the first time at a park.</li> <li>5. Mrs Lyons and Mrs Johnstone panic that the boys have met.</li> <li>6. Mrs L moves her family away from the area – Mrs J gives Edward a locket before leaving.</li> <li>7. Mrs J finds out her family are being forced to move too due to housing.</li> </ol>

<b>Act 2</b> <b>Part 1</b>  <b>Part 2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Both boys are now 14 and are finding school challenging.</li> <li>2. Sammy attempts to rob a bus at knifepoint.</li> <li>3. Mickey and Edward meet again by accident.</li> <li>4. Mrs Lyons paranoia leads to her attacking Mrs J with a knife.</li> <li>5. Now 18, Edward is at University whilst Mickey works in a factory.</li> <li>6. Linda falls pregnant with Mickey's baby and the two marry.</li> <li>7. Edward confesses his love to Linda who reveals she is now married to Mickey.</li> <li>8. Mickey participates in a burglary with Sammy and ends up in prison.</li> <li>9. Mickey becomes depressed and addicted to anti-depressants.</li> <li>10. Mickey's life continues to spiral out of hand.</li> <li>11. Edward and Linda begin an affair.</li> <li>12. Devastated, Mickey takes Sammy's gun and confronts Edward.</li> <li>13. Mrs J bursts in and reveals the truth about them being twins.</li> <li>14. Mickey accidentally pulls the trigger killing Edward.</li> <li>15. The police shoot Mickey.</li> </ol>
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B	Context	
1	<b>Willy Russell</b>	Working class upbringing near Liverpool. Was annoyed by the treatment of and stereotyping of the class.
2	<b>Liverpool 1950-1970</b>	Major port and trade centre. During industrial decline many in Liverpool became unemployed. Some turned to crime to support their families.
3	<b>Class division</b>	A divide between rich and poor and increasing divide between the lower and middle classes. More opportunity for the middle class (employment, education).
4	<b>Education system</b>	1944 Education Act led to Secondary Modern and Grammar Schools. The top 20% went to Grammar Schools where they received an academic education. 7% went to private, fee paying schools. The rest to Secondary Moderns.
5	<b>Margaret Thatcher</b>	Became first female Prime Minister in 1979. Reduced power of trade unions and shut factories leading to high unemployment.

D.	Theme	Quotation
1	<b>Nature v Nurture</b>	How come you got everything and I got nothin'? (Mickey)
2	<b>Superstition</b>	Y'know the devils got y'number. (Narrator)
3	<b>Class</b>	I'm not sure I'd let him mix with the likes of them. . . Make sure he keeps with his own kind. (Policeman)
4	<b>Violence</b>	Mickey don't shoot Eddie. He's your brother. (Mrs Johnstone)
5	<b>Guilt</b>	You're always gonna know what was done . . . That you sold a son. (Narrator)



# VOCABULARY

**Excellence.  
No Excuses.**

Blood Brothers		Year: 9 AC: 1			
Word	Definition	Synonyms	Antonyms	Etymology	
1	<b>Fate</b>	the development of events outside a person's control, regarded as predetermined by a supernatural power.	Chance, destiny, future, karma, fortune, predestination	Choice, free will, freedom	From Latin <i>fata</i> (prediction), plural of <i>fatum</i> from <i>fatus</i> (spoken).
2	<b>Nurture</b>	care for or protect someone or something while it is growing.	Raising, fostering, bringing up.	Neglect, deprive, abandon	From Middle English <i>norture</i> from French <i>norriture</i> from Latin <i>nutritura</i> (nourishment).
3	<b>Superstition</b>	Belief that is not based on human reason or scientific knowledge.	Irrationality, fear, unfounded belief, delusion	Truth, fact	Middle English <i>supersticion</i> , from Anglo-French, from Latin <i>superstition- superstitio</i> , from <i>superstit-</i> , <i>superstes</i> standing over (as witness or survivor)
4	<b>Masculinity</b>	the characteristics that are traditionally thought to be typical of or suitable for men.	Manly, macho, virility	Femininity, feminine, womanly	From Latin <i>masculus</i> "male, of masculine gender," from <i>masculus</i> "male, masculine; worthy of a man"
5	<b>Guilt</b>	a feeling of worry or unhappiness that you have because you have done something wrong such as causing harm to another person.	Responsibility, culpability, regret, remorse	Irresponsibility, apathy, pride	from Greek <i>hupokrisis</i> 'acting of a theatrical part', from <i>hupokrinesthai</i> 'play a part, pretend', from <i>hupo</i> 'under' + <i>krinein</i> 'decide, judge'.
6	<b>Inequality</b>	difference in size, degree, circumstances	Imbalance, disproportion, polarity, disparity, discrepancy, divergence	Equality, uniformity, justness, fairness, even-handedness, impartiality	From Old English <i>gylt</i> (crime, sin, moral defect, failure of duty)