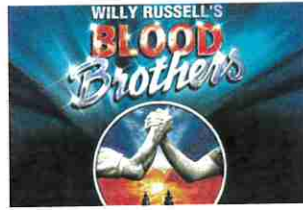


## How can I prepare for English Literature Component 2 - Section A?

The Modern drama 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell is a source based question.



1 How does Russell present Linda & Mickey's relationship in the play?

You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole play to answer this question

Mickey and Linda are in the new house. In the lounge Linda is preparing Mickey's working things.  
Linda (shouting) Mickey Mickey come on you'll be late.  
Mickey enters his house.  
Mickey Where's me.  
Linda Here there's y' bag y' sandwiches are in there.  
He ignores the bag and begins looking through a cupboard drawer.  
Mickey what y' lookin' for?  
Mickey I know what I'm lookin' for.  
Linda Mickey Mickey listen to me.  
Mickey Where's me tablets gone? Linda?  
Linda Mickey you don't need your tablets!  
Linda Linda!  
Linda Mickey You're workin' now, we're livin' on our own - you've got to start makin' an effort.  
Mickey Give them to me, Linda.  
Linda You promised.  
Mickey I know I promised but I can't do without them. I tried. Last week I tried to do without them. By dinner time I was shakin' an' sweatin' so much I couldn't even work. I need them. That's all there is to it. Now give.  
Pause.  
Linda Is that it then? Are y' gonna stay on them forever?  
Mickey Linda.  
Linda Look. We've ... we've managed to sort ourselves out this far but what's the use if...  
Mickey We have sorted ourselves out? Do you think I'm really stupid?  
Linda What?  
Mickey I didn't sort anything out Linda. Not a job, not a house, nothin'. It used to be just sweets an' giggles he gave me, because I had none of me own. Now it's a job and a house. I'm not stupid. Linda. You sorted it out. You an' Councilor Eddie Lyons.  
Linda doesn't deny it.  
Now give me the tablets. I need them.  
Linda An' what about what I need? I need you. I love you. But Mickey, not when you've got them inside you. When you take those things, Mickey, I can't even see you.  
Mickey That's why I take them. So I can be invisible. (Pause) Now give me them.  
Music. We see Linda murely hand Mickey her bag.  
Mickey quickly grabs the tablets.  
Mickey exits.  
The Narrator enters.  
The Narrator watches Linda. She moves to telephone, but hesitates.  
Narrator There's a girl inside the woman.  
Who's waiting to get free.  
She's washed a million dishes.  
She's always making tea.  
Linda (speaking on the phone) Could I talk to Councilor Lyons, please?

### Top Tips

- Stay focused on the question
- Use the source for language analysis - zoom in on the vocabulary used tracking chronologically through the extract
- You must refer to both the extract and the whole text to achieve higher marks
- If you can not remember a quotation to support your idea briefly refer to a moment in the text but do not lapse into simply re-telling the narrative
- You have 45 minutes on this task

**Important** - for 'Blood Brothers' you should refer to stagecraft

### Step 1

Read the question carefully and highlight key points

What is the question asking you to think about?

### Step 2

Read the extract with a highlighter in your hand

Why is this extract important and where does it feature in the text?

Highlight brief relevant quotations

### Step 3 - Planning

List other ideas in response to this question from the whole text

... and number the order in which you are going to present your ideas

**Step 4** - Start with an **introduction** to provide an overview in response to the task

**Step 5** - Use your plan and the extract to write your analytical response

**Step 6** - Proofread your work

Willy Russell    Play    Playwright    Act    scene

Mrs Johnstone    Mrs Lyons    Mickey    Edward    Linda    Narrator

Explore the importance of the Narrator in 'Blood Brothers'.

Write about the relationship between Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons.

How does Russell create sympathy for Mickey in 'Blood Brothers'?

Write about the presentation of childhood in the play.

Write about the presentation of social class in the play.

Compare the presentation of Mrs Johnstone and Linda.

How does Willy Russell present parents and children in 'Blood Brothers'?

How does Willy Russell present ideas about friendship in the play?

How does Russell present the experience of growing up in the play?

How does Russell use language to show class divides in the play?

How does Russell present superstition as a driving force in the play?

Write about the relationship between Mickey and Edward.



## Blood Brothers Key Quotations

"As like each other as two new pins"

Narrator about Eddie and Mickey

"a mother, so cruel, / There's a stone in place of her heart."

Narrator about Mrs Johnstone

"He told me I was sexier than Marilyn Monroe."

Mrs Johnstone about her husband

"we went dancing"

Mrs Johnstone

"By the time I was twenty-five, / I looked like forty-two."

Mrs Johnstone

"I believe that an adopted child can become one's own."

Mrs Lyons

"I'm not superstitious."

Mrs Johnstone

"I love the bones of every one of em."

Mrs Johnstone about her children.

"Kids can't live on love alone."

Mrs Johnstone

"In the name of Jesus, the thing was done."

Narrator about the pact between Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons

"a debt is a debt, and must be paid."

Narrator

"nothing's yours, / On easy terms."

Mrs Johnstone

"the price I'll have to pay."

Mrs Johnstone

"Edward is my son. Mine."

Mrs Lyons

"if either twin learns that he was once a pair, they shall both immediately die."

Mrs Lyons

"you know the devil's got your number"

Narrator to Mrs Johnstone

"I wish I was our Sammy."

Mickey

"we were born on the same day... That means we can be blood brothers."

Eddie to Mickey as children

"we always have to stand by each other."

Mickey to Eddie as children

"I'm gonna get a real gun soon."

Sammy

"you're not the same as him. You're not, do you understand?"

Mrs Lyons to Edward

"The whole thing's just a game."

Kids

"I really do think you should see a doctor."

Mr Lyons to Mrs Lyons

"Make sure he keeps with his own kind, Mr Lyons."

Policeman to Mr and Mrs Lyons

## Blood Brothers Key Quotations

**"I think you're smashing."**

Edward to Mrs Johnstone

**"oh, bright new day."**

Mrs Johnstone about moving house.

**"You've got to have an ending, if a start's been made. / No-one gets off without the price being paid."**

Narrator/Bus Conductor to Mrs Johnstone

**"You better hadn't do anything soft, like him."**

Linda to Mickey, about Sammy

**"Take no notice, Mickey. I love you."**

Linda

**"Everybody has secrets. Don't you have secrets?"**

Eddie to Mrs Lyons

**"that guy"**

Eddie and Mickey, about each other

**"You have ruined me."**

Mrs Lyons to Mrs Johnstone

**"I curse you. Witch!"**

Mrs Lyons to Mrs Johnstone

**"mad woman"**

Kids about Mrs Lyons

**"Who'd dare tell the lambs in Spring / What fate the later seasons bring."**

Narrator about Eddie, Mickey and Linda.

**"you've not had much of a life with me, have y'?"**

Mrs Johnstone to Mickey

**"it's just another sign / Of the times."**

Mr Lyons about unemployment

**"why is a job so important?"**

Eddie to Mickey

**"you're still a kid."**

Mickey to Eddie

**"while no one was looking, I grew up."**

Mickey

**"there's a girl inside the woman / Who's waiting to get free."**

Narrator about Linda

**"so I can be invisible."**

Mickey explaining why he takes the anti-depressants.

**"a light romance"**

Narrator about Eddie and Linda's affair.

**"how come you got everything... An' I got nothin'?"**

Mickey to Eddie

**"I could have been him!"**

Mickey about Eddie.

**"And do we blame superstition for what came to pass / Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as class?"**

Narrator

**"Tell me it's not true"**

Mrs Johnstone