

Plot Summary.  
What happens in the Two Acts?

Act One	Act Two
We meet Mrs Johnstone, a struggling mother who finds out she is pregnant with twins. Unable to provide for both, she agrees to give one away to Mrs Lyons, her wealthy employer. The boys, Mickey and Eddie, unknowingly become friends as they grow up. Their bond is tested as they face the challenges of their different backgrounds. Mickey's involvement with a gang and Eddie's privileged lifestyle strain their friendship. The act concludes with a tragic turn of events, leaving the audience for what lies ahead for the blood brothers.	We witness the adulthood of Mickey and Eddie. Mickey struggles with unemployment, financial difficulties, and falling into a life of crime. Meanwhile, Eddie embraces his successful career and wealthy lifestyle. The introduction of Linda, a childhood friend of both brothers, creates a complicated love triangle. As the act progresses, secrets are revealed, tensions rise, and tragic events unfold. The strained relationships between the characters reach a breaking point, leading to a devastating climax. Act Two ends with a heartbreaking and shocking death of Mickey and Eddie.

Authorial Intent.  
Why did Russell write the play?

- Russell may have intended to critique the education system and its role in perpetuating social inequality. By portraying Eddie's superior access to education and opportunities, compared to Mickey's struggles with academic achievement by the education system to individuals from different social classes.
- Russell wanted to convey to his audience the profound effects of social class and inequality on individuals' lives. The play highlights how one's background and opportunities can significantly influence their outcomes, emphasizing the need for a more equitable society.

Characters in Blood Brothers: Who are the main characters in Blood Brothers

- Mrs. Johnstone:** A struggling mother who agrees to give one of her twins away to her employer
- Mrs. Lyons:** desperate for a child and convinces Mrs. Johnstone to give her Eddie. She represents wealth and privilege.
- Mickey Johnstone:** grows up in poverty. Mickey is impulsive, prone to falling into trouble, and later experiences unemployment.

- Edward Lyons:** he grows up in a privileged household with access to education and opportunities.
- Linda:** has a complex relationship with both brothers and wrestles with her own aspirations and the pressures placed upon her.

Big Ideas.  
What big ideas has Russell explored throughout the play?

- The Impact of Social Class and Inequality:
- The Influence of Environment on Personal Development
- The Unpredictable Nature of Fate and Circumstances

- Techniques.**

**Dramatic Irony:** the audience's or reader's understanding of events or individuals in a work surpasses that of its characters.

**Foreshadowing:** be a warning or indication of (a future event).
- Monologue:** a speech by a single character. It typically involves the character speaking aloud their thoughts.
- Motif:** a recurring element, image, symbol, or theme that holds significant meaning.

- Context.**
- Class Divisions and Inequalities:** The play highlights the prevalent class divisions and inequalities within British society during the 1970s and 1980s..
  - Unemployment and Economic Challenges:** During the time the play is set, Liverpool experienced high levels of unemployment and economic instability, largely due to the decline of the city's industrial sectors.
  - Superstition and Belief Systems:** The cultural context of Liverpool, with its strong ties to folklore and superstition, plays a role in the narrative.
  - Political Context:** The connection between Margaret Thatcher, the former British Prime Minister, and Blood Brothers can be explored through the play's depiction of social inequality and the impact of political decisions.

Key Vocabulary			
<b>Affluent:</b> To have a great deal of money and wealth	<b>Exploitation:</b> treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.		
<b>Animosity:</b> To show strong and clear hostility	<b>Manipulation:</b> manipulating something in a skilful manner		
<b>Conservative:</b> Adverse to change and have strong, traditional values.	<b>Prejudice:</b> A preconceived opinion not based on reason or actual experience.		
<b>Destitution:</b> Extreme poverty in which you cannot provide for yourself or your family	<b>Vernacular:</b> language or dialect spoken in a particular region or area		
<b>Disparity:</b> is an unfair treatment in level or general treatment	<b>Volatile:</b> something which can change rapidly or unpredictably, usually for the worst.		