

What do I need to cover to be successful in my Literature exams?

English Literature Paper 2 exam (2 hours 15 Minutes)

Section A: Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. You need to revise and remember:

- The **KEY characters** of the text - what and who do they represent? How do they link to social class?
- **Key quotations** for each **character**. **Mickey. Edward. Mrs Johnstone. Mrs Lyons. The Narrator. Sammy. Linda.**
- The **KEY themes** of the play. **Social Class. Nature V Nurture. Education. Friendship. Fate and Destiny. Childhood**
- **Context** – Written in 1983 and covers 1960s-1980s Liverpool. It was a time of great economic decline and record unemployment. Liverpool depended heavily on traditional industries, so it was badly hit by the industrial decline in the late twentieth century. The city's working-class areas were very poor and things went from bad to worse. There was a large gap between working and middle class in Britain, even before the industrial decline. The Johnstone and Lyons families are class stereotypes. A lot of working class people struggled financially, even if they were in work or 'on the dole'. The middle class were largely unaffected by the industrial decline, as they had jobs like teaching or accountancy. There was also a class divide in education, whether you went to a public and private schools often decided your job in the future. Families were expected to have a 'nuclear' structure - a mother, a father and their children. Single-parent families like Mrs Johnstone were less common and were frowned upon by many. Many working class people were left without any hope for the future.
- **How** Willy Russell uses the characters to show **different ideas / meanings and concepts**. **E.g. The character of Mickey is used to convey the theme of social class as his upbringing is heavily juxtaposed to that of Edward and his affluent upbringing.**

How to write your answer _____ Russell uses the word.....to convey..... Perhaps Russell does this to reflect the..... Russell's use of the adjective could present the.....

Key words for Blood Brothers

Foreboding – the prologue foreshadows the untimely deaths of Mickey and Edward and the audience are powerless to stop it. A **prologue** is an opening to a story that establishes the setting and gives background details. It gives clues to what is going to happen in the main story.

Laissez-faire – relaxed attitude to the poor, working class. Mrs Johnstone has a laissez faire attitude to raising her children. The police officer has a laissez faire attitude towards Mrs Johnstone.

Omniscient narrator – the narrator is an ominous presence and reminds the audience of the fate of the protagonists. He acts as a stream of conscience.

Nurture vs. Nature (upbringing vs. genetics). Russell argues that experiences and surroundings contribute to a young person's life chances.

Margaret Thatcher IS THE UNSEEN 'CURSE' OF THE PLAY. She is the 'Devil' in the narrator's dialogue as a consequence of her 'Managed decline' of the city of Liverpool.

Nuclear family – Edward is brought up by a two parent family which is juxtaposed to Mickey's single parent family.

Colloquialisms ('are you soft' etc...convey lack of education and therefore life chances.)

Machiavellian – Mrs Lyons manipulates Mrs Johnstone into giving her baby away. She uses her authority as her employer and Mrs Johnstone's belief in superstition against her.

Circle of deprivation / cycle of poverty – Because of Thatcherism and the class divide, Mickey who allegorically represents the working class cannot escape a life of poverty and drudgery.

Marilyn Monroe – motif in the play – conveys a life of tragedy and addiction – foreshadows the untimely deaths of Mickey and Edward.

Facsimile – a copy of something. Mickey is a facsimile of Sammy as he is his only role model where this is juxtaposed to Edward and Mr Lyons. Donna Marie is a facsimile of Mrs Johnstone as she already has three children at an early age. Reinforces the cycle of deprivation.

Repetitive Motif (the shoes upon the table, the toy gun, etc...)

Dramatic irony – the audience know more than the characters – this creates anticipation.

Tragedy – Blood Brothers is a typical tragedy. The first part builds up the turning point (Mrs Johnstone giving up Edward and keeping Mickey), and the second part deal with the consequences of this, which leads to the main character's downfall.

Recession proof – Mr and Mrs Lyons are recession proof because of their class.

The Narrator

- "Did you never hear of the Johnstone twins?"
- "I'm up to here with hard luck stories" – Milkman/narrator
- "In the name of Jesus, the thing was done. Now there's no going back for anyone."
- "the devil's got your number"
- "Do we blame superstition for what came to pass? Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as class?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXHQrw7A18A&t=11s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9mbfRIZ2Bk&t=1s>

Key Quotations

Mrs Johnstone

- "He told me I was sexier than Marilyn Monroe"
- "I need the milk for the baby"
- "By the time I was twenty-five, I looked like forty-two"
- "Never put new shoes on a table"
- "Livin' on the never never constant as the changing weather".
- "Mrs Lyons shows the Bible to Mrs Johnstone"
- "Don't you ever come round here again" "beat it before the bogeyman gets you!"
- "bright new day, we're goin' away"
- "I'm not mad son. I'm just thinkin'...you've not had much of a life with me have y'?"
- "Mickey don't shoot Eddie! He's your brother."

Mickey

- *Mickey is bored and petulant*
- "Gis a sweet"
- "I know loads of words like that...y'know, like the F Word"
- "This means we're blood brothers an' that we always have to stand by each other"
- "Ah take no notice. We've been caught loads of times by policemen."
- "They've started layin' people off"
- "No I don't want your money, stuff it!"
- "Edward: I'm exactly the same age as you, Mickey. Mickey: Yeh. But you're still a kid." (Edward and Mickey)
- "While no one was lookin', I grew up, an you didn't because you didn't need to"
- "The jury found him guilty, sent him down for seven years"
- "I can't cope"/ "That's why I take them, so I can be invisible"
- "How come you got everything' an I got nothin'?"
- "Why didn't you give me away?"

Edward

- *He is bright and forthcoming*
- "My mummy doesn't allow me to play down here actually"
- "Take as many as you want"
- "When I get home, I'll look it up in the dictionary"
- "Talk of Oxbridge"
- "Why is a job so important?"
- "If I couldn't get a job I'd say sod it, and draw the dole and live like a bohemian"
- "Look, look money, lots of it...have some!"
- "I've always loved you" (To Linda)

Sammy

- "I'm gonna get a real gun soon. I'm gonna get an air gun."
- "He's a friggin' poshy"
- "I know our Sammy burnt the school down" (Mrs Johnstone)
- *He produces a knife. "Give me the bag."*
- "Look at y' Mickey. What have y' got. Nothin' like me mam."
- "We don't use the shooters. They're just frighteners."

<http://www.penworthamgirls.jancs.sch.uk/filedownload/6F16DF96-E745-3DB2-4C5C9013F55451FA.pdf/blood-brothers-revision-notes.pdf>

<https://sites.google.com/huishepiscopi.net/huishenglish/blood-brothers>

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English Literature Paper 2 exam – (2 hours 15 Minutes)

Section B: Poetry Anthology - You need to revise and remember the stories behind all 15 poems. Use your anthology to revise **key words, phrases, techniques and themes.**

The **theme** of all the poems in your anthology is **'Power and conflict'**. The poems you have studied are:

Percy Bysshe Shelley: **Ozymandias**

William Blake: **London**

William Wordsworth: **The Prelude: stealing the boat**

Robert Browning: **My Last Duchess**

Alfred Lord Tennyson: **The Charge of the Light Brigade**

Wilfred Owen: **Exposure**

Seamus Heaney: **Storm on the Island**

Ted Hughes: **Bayonet Charge**

Simon Armitage: **Remains**

Jane Weir: **Poppies**

Carol Ann Duffy: **War Photographer**

Imtiaz Dharker: **Tissue**

Carol Rumens: **The émigrée**

Beatrice Garland: **Kamikaze**

John Agard: **Checking Out Me History**

Exam style question

Compare the ways poets present ideas about conflict in 'Remains' and in one other poem from 'Power and conflict'.

How to write your answer

The writer presents the theme of..... The use of the in medias res conveys the..... This is a heavy contrast to the poem.....as... Both poems use juxtaposition but for different purposes. In.....

You must **compare** the poems. How they are **similar** and how they are **different**.

Remember to look at the title of the poem. Give as many explanations as possible.

Model opening

In the poem 'Remains', the writer explores the theme of conflict. The title of the poem is significant as 'Remains' is ambiguous. Firstly, the word could convey the physical damage caused to innocent soldiers during conflict and the devastating and lasting damage war and conflict can have. Secondly, the noun 'Remains' could refer to the detrimental impact on the mental health of many soldiers who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder because of the harrowing memories of war. The poem is told anecdotally and begins with 'On another occasion', implying that this account is not the only unpleasant account the soldier has in his memory. The word 'another' conveys how violence and death during war and conflict is common.

Mr Bruff has produced revision videos for each poem. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>

You can revise and test yourself on **Macbeth, Blood Brothers** and the **conflict poetry** on the website below:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/

A Christmas Carol is below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zcs8qty>

Section C: Unseen Poetry – you will be given **two unseen poems** to write about.

You should compare **methods**. If you don't, you will not gain any marks.

How to write your answer

Both writers use similes but for different purposes. The simile.....whereas.....

Both writers use adjectives for similar reasons. The adjective..... This is similar to.....

Both poets use repetition to show.....

<https://sites.google.com/huishepiscopi.net/huishenglish/unseen-poetry>

<https://www.aylshamhigh.com/site/data/files/users/9/files/2D3F1966E5B839289215244EC4BF3.pdf>

(Start reading from p3)