

**Home learning activities**

Subject
Drama
Year Group
Year 9
Unit of work / Knowledge organiser
<b>Theatre design – Set design</b>
Activities
<p><b>Set design</b> – revise the set design unit on the following link <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z7trf4j/revision/1">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z7trf4j/revision/1</a></p> <p>Below are two candidate-style responses about staging the opening of the play Blood Brothers. Decide how well you believe the writers explained and justified their ideas. Highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear ideas about what they want to achieve</li><li>• Specific examples from the play</li><li>• Correct use of theatrical terminology</li><li>• The effect on the audience</li></ul> <p><i>I wanted the opening of the play to be sad, so I will have all the actors all looking very sad. That way the audience knows the play will end badly. The Narrator will be dressed all in black, like he is at a funeral. When Mrs Johnstone begins to sing, she will move around the stage, flirting with the audience, just like she is Marilyn Monroe. The narrator will hold a large book, as if he is reading from it. He will call up members of the cast, and direct them into still images to match his narration.</i></p> <p><i>In order to grab the audience's attention from the beginning, I will open with a sound effect of babies crying. This reinforces the idea of the narrative following the twins throughout their lives. The Narrator will climb to the top of a scaffold and look down on the audience and characters to show he is in charge of the play's actions. He will control a series of projections that show key moments for the characters' lives. On the line about their deaths, the actors playing the twins will step in front of the projection and, in slow motion, re-enact their deaths. I want this to be done in a stylised way to emphasis the tragedy of ending. When Mrs Johnstone is introduced, I will use a recorded sound effect of crowds booing, encouraging the audience to judge her as being responsible for the tragedy.</i></p>
<b>Set Design</b>

The set designer of *Blood Brothers* could help to convey the play's meaning through some of the following:

- Focusing on the theme of social class by showing the differences between the Lyons and Johnsons homes and schools
- Emphasising naturalistic aspects of the play by providing realistic props and set furnishings
- Emphasising non-naturalistic aspects of the play by symbolically suggesting themes such as violence, love, injustice or fate
- Establishing a particular relationship between the audience and the performers, by use of proxemics or levels
- Establishing the period of the play and the passage of time through the use of particular props or set furnishings.

#### Task

At 14 Mickey and Edward attended very different schools. At Edwards school, he is 'confronted by a teacher...looking down his nose at Edward' (page 65). At Mickey's school, the atmosphere is described as 'all boredom and futility' (page 66). Draw and annotate a set design in which the differences between the two schools could be quickly established and understood by the audience.

Remember to consider:

- Colours and textures
- The scale of the set
- Positioning of the set dressings on stage
- Levels
- Materials
- Props and stage furnishings.

Where do you complete the work?

Complete work either electronically or on paper. If you complete work on paper please take a photograph of it and email it to your teacher. Electronic work will also need to be emailed to your teacher on Friday

What to do if you finish the work?  
(Extension activity)

Work through the Blood Brother videos on GCSE Pod

These websites might help:

If you are struggling with your work or if you have finished..

**Please email your classroom teacher directly using the email list found in the Home Learning section of the website.**