2.14 Literature: Blood Brothers (Willy Russell): 10-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Identify two separate moments early in the play where a superstition or omen is introduced, and briefly explain what each one warns.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain how Russell presents Mrs Johnstone's character in the earlier part of the play.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Question 1

identifies Mrs Lyons' invented superstition about the separated twins	**B1**
explains its warning (if the twins ever learn they were once a pair, both shall immediately die, oe)	**B1**
identifies a second superstition/omen, e.g. new shoes placed on a table	**B1**
explains its warning (that it is a sign of bad luck to come, oe)	**B1**

Answer: Moment one: Mrs Lyons tells Mrs Johnstone that if the twins ever discover they were separated at birth, both will die. Moment two: Mrs Johnstone reacts with alarm to new shoes being placed on a table, treating it as a sign of bad luck.

Question 2

Level 3 Clear, relevant explanation: identifies specific details of Mrs Johnstone's early presentation (her warmth towards her children, her superstitious nature, her pride despite poverty) and explains a clear effect, supported by reference to the text.	**5-6**
Level 2 Some explanation: identifies a relevant detail about Mrs Johnstone's early character with a generally appropriate comment, with some reference to the text.	**3-4**
Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment about Mrs Johnstone with little development or textual reference.	**1-2**

Indicative content:

- Mrs Johnstone is presented as a warm, devoted mother who clearly loves her children despite having very little money to care for them
- her strong superstitious streak, shown through her reaction to everyday omens, presents her as someone who feels she has little control over her own fate
- her pride, shown in small details such as keeping herself and her home as presentable as she can manage, suggests a woman trying to maintain dignity in difficult circumstances
- her willingness to agree to Mrs Lyons' plan, despite clear unease, shows the audience how financial desperation can override a mother's instincts, inviting sympathy rather than judgement

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