Foxford Learning Plan

YEAR 9

Blood Brothers

Unit 5

Key Vocabulary

Foreshadowing	When the writer gives hints or warnings about future events.
Superstition	A belief in signs or omens that influence behaviour
Class	The social and economic divide
Tragedy	A genre where events lead to an unavoidable ending
Cyclical structure	When a text begins and end in a similar way
Greek Chorus	A figure who comments on the events of the play
Symbolism	When objects or images represent bigger ideas
Exploitation	Taking advantage of someone's vulnerability
Unemployment	When someone is trying to get a hob but they are unable to find one.
Feminism	A perspective that examines how women are limited by gender expectations.

Key Skills

Over the course of the topic, I will be able to: -
How to identify and explain the structural and language features used in a modern play
How to interpret the social, historical and cultural context of Blood Brothers
How to track themes across a whole play and how to infer characterisation using precise evidence
How to evaluate Russell's intention
How to write analytical paragraphs using well-selected quotations

What will I learn?

I will learn how Willy Russell uses characterisation, structure, and context to explore class inequality, superstition, fate, and the pressures placed on working-class families.

I will learn how the tragic form of the play is constructed through foreshadowing, cyclical structure, and the Narrator's chorus-like commentary.

I will learn how themes such as unemployment, gender expectations, and childhood innocence develop across both acts, and how social context shapes the characters' opportunities and eventual downfall.

Key knowledge I will understand:

1. How the class system shapes lives- disadvantage vs privilege, opportunities vs obstacles
2. How Russell constructs the tragedy
3. How superstition and fear drive actions and behaviour
4. How unemployment and economic decline create conflict
5. How gender expectations in society can limit characters