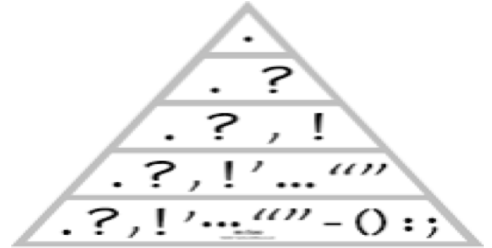


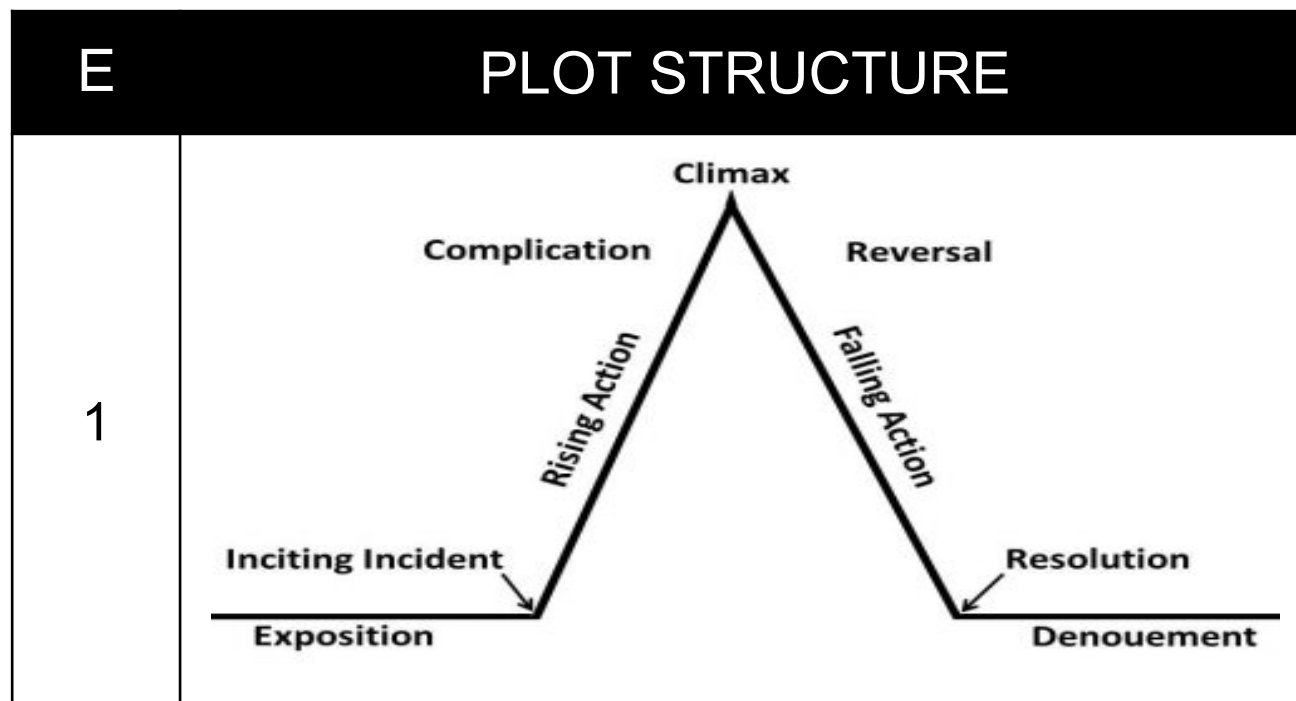
ENGLISH - YEAR 9 – BLOOD BROTHERS

A	KEY WORDS	
1	Exploitation	Treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work
2	Social Class	A division of a society based on social and economic status
3	Privilege	A special right or advantage, granted or available only to a particular person or group
4	Poverty	The state of being extremely poor
5	Tragedy	A play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending, especially one concerning the downfall of the main character
6	Predetermined	Established or decided in advance
7	Social Inequality	Existence of unequal opportunities and rewards for different social positions or statuses within a group or society
8	Unemployment	The state of being unemployed, without a job
9	Destiny	The hidden power believed to control future events; fate
10	Disadvantaged	Unfavourable circumstances, especially with regard to financial or social opportunities
11	Superstition	A widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck
12	Depression	A long and severe recession in an economy or market. For example, the financial and industrial slump of 1929 and subsequent years.

B	HALF TERM WRITING FOCUS	
1	Planning fiction in 1st person. Use of varied punctuation to best effect to help create a voice.	

C	THEMES & IDEAS	
1	Character choices by Russell	<p>Narrator – echoes the function of the Greek Chorus, asks the audience to detach and judge</p> <p>Antihero – a central character who lacks conventional heroic attributes</p> <p>Contrasting protagonists and antagonists - separated by wealth, social class and education – raising the idea for discussion around nature versus nurture</p>
2	Structure choices by Russell	<p>Parallel – two corresponding lives/events running side by side, e.g. the school scenes. Links to inevitability of fate</p> <p>Cyclical – the structure of the play is cyclical as it starts and ends in the same place – nothing changes or improves</p> <p>Reprise – a song or part of a song that is repeated. Often it is intermingled with a new song. E.g. Marilyn Monroe. Musical theatre provides a light entertaining way of examining serious issues out of their normal setting</p>
3	Education	Working class children had to pass the 11+ to gain entry to the grammar schools. The pass mark was kept deliberately high. Few children were allowed the privilege of a grammar school education, and even if they gained a place, the cost of uniform etc. may put poor parents off. This is one way Russell explores the unfairness of Social Class from his society into his play.
4	Family Relationships	Russell explores where trust and loyalty should provide safety and protection but in reality it is often those who are closest that end up getting hurt by secrets and lies.

D APPROACH TO ANALYSIS		
1	Answer the question	The writer
2	Supporting quote	“.....”
3	Get technical	employs
4	Layered meanings of whole quote & word level INSIDE TEXT	implies and suggests
5	INSIDE OR OUTSIDE TEXT	because but could symbolise
6	Link to perspectives, messages or contextual influences OUTSIDE TEXT	to convey



F CONTEXT		
1	Willy Russell	Born in 1947 in Liverpool, where the play is set. He came from a working class family and became a hairdresser after leaving school at fifteen. In later life he decided to go back to college. It was at college that he started writing plays. His plays are usually set in Liverpool and feature themes such as class, poverty and education. Russell uses his real life experiences as the backdrop for this play, referencing familiar decades to him, covering from the 1950s to the 1970s.
2	Liverpool	Many factories and businesses were starting to close down, including the docks that had been the provider of much wealth in the city. There were strikes over pay and working hours and unemployment rates reached a record high. In 1970s and 1980s Liverpool, like the rest of the country, suffered from recession. Liverpool became an unemployment black spot with no investment to aid growth. One consequence of Liverpool's social problems were the Toxteth riots of 1981.
3	Margaret Thatcher	Blood Brothers was completed in 1981, two years after Thatcher became prime minister. In the 1980s there were over 3 million people unemployed – these people became known as ‘Maggie’s Millions.’ Thatcher’s decision to leave Liverpool to ‘managed decline’ meant 30% of the workforce became unemployed, emphasising the differences between the upper and lower classes.
4	Marylin Monroe	An icon of glamour and luxury, she was also troubled and died of an overdose after becoming addicted to various drugs.