

Blood Brothers

Blood Brothers 7



Contrasting Characters

Contrasting Characters

Objectives:

To learn how the playwright contrasts the character of Mrs Lyons and Mrs Johnstone

Starter: Brain Dump



Tell me everything you already know about Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Lyons



Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons

Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons are contrasting characters.
How many examples of contrasts can you find?

Mrs Johnstone	Mrs Lyons
Working Class	Middle Class

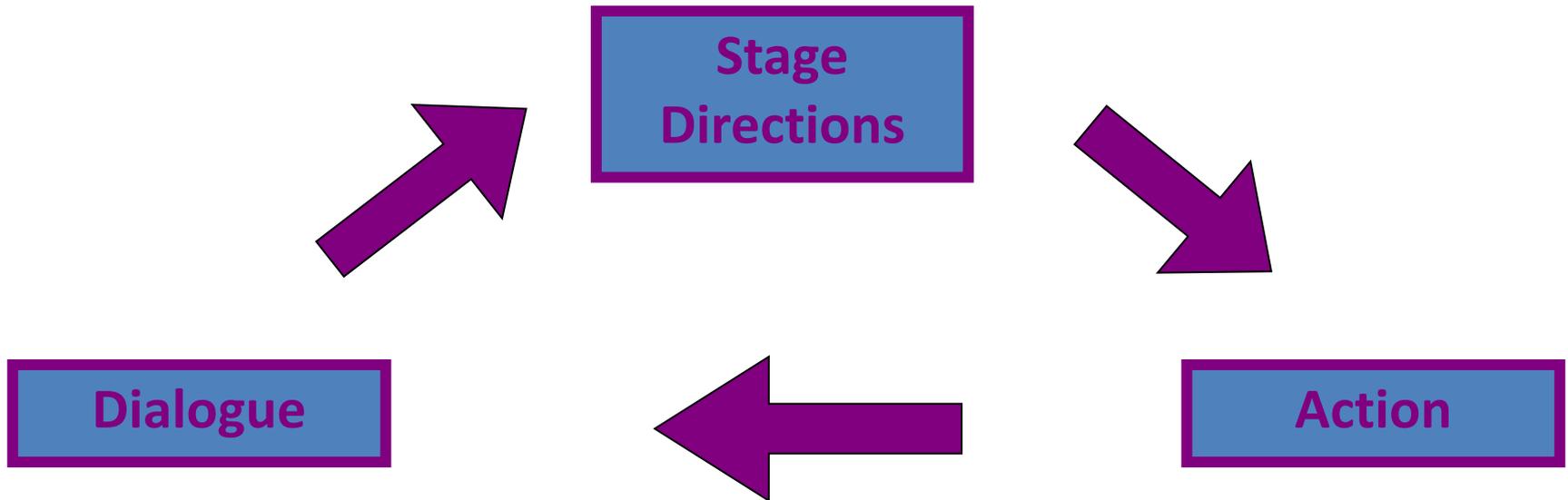
Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons

Below are some ideas that show how the characters contrast.

Mrs Johnstone	Mrs Lyons
Working Class	Middle Class
Gullible	Manipulative
Seven children	Childless
Poor	Rich
Kind, caring and thoughtful	Mean, selfish
Hard but busy, dramatic life	Empty, lonely life
Struggling single parent	Has security and marriage

Consolidation

Willy Russell uses 3 main techniques to create characters.



Look out for these techniques as we are introduced to new characters in the play.

Mrs Johnstone & Mrs Lyons

Using your knowledge of **the characters of Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons** write a paragraph explaining how Russell presents the characters of Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons to the audience.

You could use some of the sentence starters on the next slide to get you up and running.

November 2020

Mrs Johnstone & Mrs Lyons

Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons are very different...



Contrasting Characters

What have you learned already about Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons?
Below are a few sentence starters to help with your paragraph:

November 2020

Mrs Johnstone & Mrs Lyons

The first difference we notice about Mrs Johnstone is...

Mrs Johnstone is...whilst Mrs Lyons...

The way they speak conveys to the audience that...

The way they act towards one another gives us an insight into their relationship...

Plenary: Character as Archetype

The fact that Mrs Johnstone doesn't have a first name suggests that she is less an individual and more defined by her status in society. Mrs Johnstone has a very low social status. She is a working class, single mother with a large number of children which she struggles to control. As such she represents a social group that is often much maligned by society, the single parent, living on benefits with a large number of children. At the beginning of the play the Narrator describes Mrs Johnstone as having 'a stone in place of her heart' representing the attitude towards single parents by some sections of society. Yet the Narrator suggests that the audience should 'judge for yourselves' and Mrs Johnstone is presented to the audience, according to the stage directions, 'aged thirty but looks more like fifty'. The reason for her premature aging is revealed in her opening song 'we went dancing' in which she describes the story of her life so far. In contrast to her current appearance we learn that once she was young, happy and 'sexier than Marilyn Monroe'. She met her future husband at a dance, became pregnant, got married and three months later had her first child, Darren Wayne. Three months later she was pregnant again and by the age of twenty five when she had seven children and another on the way her husband left her for a younger woman. We see at the start that Mrs Johnstone is struggling. She cannot pay the milkman and her children complain of being underfed yet she appears optimistic, believing that the cleaning job she is due to start will give them enough money to 'live like kings'.