

Class – education, housing, language, crime, money, jobs, Superstition, Childhood, Youth Culture, Recession

| Act | Plot | Feature/other | Quotes |
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| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Narrator informs us the play is about the Johnstone twins. He sums up the plot; one twin is kept and one is given away. We learn from the start that the twins die not knowing they are brothers until the moment they both die. Mrs Johnstone’s song tells us she had a husband: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registry office wedding = poor & because she is pregnant before marriage She has 7 children. Falls pregnant again and her husband leaves her. Mrs J is poor; she can’t afford the milk. Mrs J has a job for Mrs Lyons. She is rich (big house, new shoes, has a cleaner) Opposite of Mrs J. However, Mr L is away on business = both families have an absent male role model – against ‘stereotypical’ nuclear family Mrs Lyons can’t have children. We learn Mrs J is having twins. She could afford to live with one more baby only. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simile = Pin = sharp and dangerous = there is danger assigned to these twins Metaphor ‘stone in place of heart’ implies Mrs Johnstone doesn’t care. Metaphor – Narrator - devil Metaphors & similes to win Mrs J over Symbol of Marilyn Monroe = aspiration & links to context Dancing = symbol of happiness and reflects mood (less dancing = sadness) Superstition – shoes on table, Broken mirror One lone magpie = Mrs J is superstitious | <p>‘It’s such a lovely house it’s a pleasure to clean it’</p> <p>It’s a pretty house isn’t it? It’s a pity it’s so big. I’m finding it rather large at present.’</p> <p>‘Maybe someday we’ll move away and start all over again.’</p> <p>‘I want to move.’</p> <p>‘I’m not playing now because I’m pissed off’ and ‘so you fuck off’</p> <p>‘I know what you are, you’re a fuck off’</p> <p>‘...about to commit a serious crime’ and ‘you don’t want to end up in court again do you?’ ‘...I warned you last time.’</p> <p>‘it was more of a prank really’</p> <p>‘I’ve told you never to go where that boy – boys like that live.’ And ‘you see why I don’t want you mixing with boys like that!’</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs J is being threatened by the welfare – risk of losing all her kids • Mrs L makes Mrs J give her one of the twins. She fakes a pregnancy & she keeps a secret from her husband. • Mrs L is desperate to be a mother. She dreams of it every day. • Mrs J looks up to Mrs L – ‘palace’ (Houses are opposite – Mrs L ‘too big’ Mrs J = too small) • Mrs L has made Mrs J swear on the bible – puts a serious / legal element on to this promise • Mrs L speaks posh ‘one’ • Mrs J has the twins. Mrs L takes one but then goes back on her side of the deal... she tells Mrs J to have a week off on full pay (not see the baby every day) • Mrs J lies to her other children and says one twin died. • Mrs L sacks Mrs J because she is worried people will find out the truth. She pays Mrs J a lot of money (shows she is rich) • Mrs J says she will tell but Mrs L makes it seem she has sold a son. • Mrs L puts a superstition on the twins’ life so Mrs J won’t tell. • The play moves on 7 years. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song – shows character feelings (like soliloquy) = Mrs J’s admiration for Mrs L - ‘palace’ (Houses are opposite – Mrs L ‘too big’ Mrs J = too small) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clothing difference - Silver tray for meals - ‘own’ – won’t have to share & implies rich and can afford things • Religion – swore on bible = society • Imperatives – Mrs L pressurises Mrs J to give her a baby • Interruption - Mrs L pressurises Mrs J to give her a baby • Language – Mrs L speaks posh ‘one’ where as the J family swear ‘one’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mickey swears (expletives) - Eddie uses a dictionary - Diminutive – ‘Eddie’ - Dialect ‘gis a’ • Money – Mrs L pays Mrs J not to come to work = money = power | <p>‘Don’t you ever go up there. Do you hear me?’</p> <p>‘Make sure he keeps with his own kind’</p> <p>“I don’t want her to hold the baby, Richard. She’s... I don’t want the baby to catch anything.”</p> <p>“You never put new shoes on the table”</p> <p>“But y’know the devil’s got your number.”</p> <p>“They say that if either twin learns that he was once a pair, they will both immediately die.”</p> <p>“We could be blood brothers”</p> <p>“We made an agreement, a bargain. You swore on the bible.”</p> <p>never look at one magpie. It’s one for sorrow" ...</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs J does not let Mickey play near the 'big houses' (posh end) because she doesn't want him to meet Edward. • Mrs J does not see herself as poor 'rough end & hooligans' which is good as it gives her children hope. • We learn that Mickey has a toy gun • Mickey wishes he was someone else from the age of 7 (brother Sammy) • At 7 years old, the twins meet. They become best friends. They become 'blood brothers' because they realise they were born on the same day. • Mickey is influencing Eddie because he is going to look up swear words in the dictionary. • Mickey changes Edward's name to Eddie 'stereotypically' it lowers the class of his name. • Eddie has loads of sweets and the poor have to hide any they get. (Mickey from Sammy) • We learn that Sammy has a desire for a gun. • Mrs J learns that Mickey and Eddie have met. She splits them up and sends Eddie home with a fear of a superstition. • Mrs Jennifer Lyons learns that Mickey and Eddie have met. She clearly has been thinking and worrying about this for 7 years. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superstition – Mrs L using Mrs J's weakness to win her over • Superstition – narrator uses a lot of examples to show that Mrs J is trapped • Symbolism – gun = violence & foreshadows later events. Mickey has a toy gun Sammy wants a real gun Children play with gun • Irony = the twins are actually 'blood' brothers but they don't know. • Superstition used by Mrs J to scare Eddie • Irony – Mrs L says Eddie isn't the same as Mickey (he is as they are twins) • Money – Mrs L wants to move house • Superstition – Mr L puts shows on the table = now the classes have mixed, Mrs L is superstitious | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs L has always told Eddie not to mix with the poor because he is higher class than them (rich). She does nearly make it an individual command about Mickey only but corrects herself.• Eddie swears at his mum (Mrs L) he learnt the F word from mixing with Mickey. Mrs L hits Eddie hard and tells him off and why he can't mix with 'them' (poor)• Poor children play a game with toy guns. They believe if you cross your fingers when shot, the person can get up again.• Mickey, Eddie and Linda play with an air pistol (gun) they robbed it from Sammy. They commit a crime by shooting a statue in a park.• Mrs L is going insane with guilt and keeping the secret. She brings her husband home to look for Eddie because he is out playing. Mr Lyons says Mrs Lyons should see a doctor about her nerves.• Mrs L wants to move away as she feels something bad is going to happen.• Mr L puts shoes on the table and Mrs L freaks out• The children decide to throw stones at windows. They are caught by the police and it is Eddie who is cheeky to the policeman. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policeman – treat twins differently for the same crime• Superstition – one lone magpie in Mrs L's new garden• Rhyme – Narrator = eerie and memorable of the end | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policeman’s language about the crime shows a massive difference in class. He threatens Mrs J with court and makes it very serious. This is because they expect the poor to commit crimes all the time.• When talking to the rich, he is bribed with alcohol. He calls the crime ‘a prank’ (even though it was Eddie who was cheeky) and he takes his hat off = takes away his power status. He warns Mr L not to let Eddie mix with the poor.• Mr L suggests to Eddie they move as Mrs L is not well (with guilt)• Eddie goes to see Mrs J and she gives him a locket with a picture in it. Mrs J tells Eddie to keep it a secret.• We see a class issue because Eddie tells Mrs J to buy a new house = he thinks it is that easy to do so. Also, Mrs J has been trying for years to move away.• Mrs L sees a magpie in her new garden. Eddie says don’t look as one magpie is for sorrow.• Mickey is lonely without Eddie.• Mrs J is re-housed to the country... where Mrs L has moved to!!! (Like Skelmersdale – new town in 1960s) | | |
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| <p>2</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Twins are 14 (moved 7 years on) • Mrs J is in a new council house & it's better. Her children are still causing trouble. Those children who have moved away are becoming the new Mrs J. • Eddie goes to private boys school he doesn't come home or see a girl for a whole half term. • Sammy tries to defraud the bus conductor because he can't afford an adult fare. He pulls a knife. This crime has moved on from a toy gun, to an air gun, to a real knife. • Linda loves Mickey and she always tells him (and the whole school) from the age of 14. • Eddie gets suspended because he won't give his locket to a teacher. Also, the teacher says Eddie is getting too big for his boots (he is too clever) • Mickey gets suspended on the same day as Eddie. Mickey doesn't care about his education so is cheeky to the teacher. Linda also gets suspended for siding with Mickey. • Mrs Lyons isn't happy Eddie gets suspended. She demands the locket and finds a picture inside. Mrs L thinks it is Eddie on the picture with Mrs J and freaks out. Eddie tells her it is Mickey and asks why Mrs L thought it was him. They talks about keeping secrets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Trap – poor children have grown up and become Mrs J • Language – Mickey doesn't swear but gets suspended whereas Eddie does Swear - The insults the teachers give to the kids are different depending on the class • Irony – Eddie and Mickey's song suggests they wish they were the other twin • Housing – Eddie lives at the top of the hill whereas Mickey lives at the bottom = social status / class • Songs – move us through time – 'summer sequence' & 'The jury found him guilty' • Dancing – reflects the mood (no dance = sadness) • Education – Mickey has to do overtime in a factory whereas Eddie goes to university • Poverty trap – Linda getting pregnant = she is new Mrs J | <p>'The house we got was lovely.'</p> <p>'It's borin'' and 'you're both suspended.'</p> <p>'You can take a flying fuck at a rolling donut.'</p> <p>'I have money. Lots of it.'</p> <p>'I had to do overtime'</p> <p>'I go away to university tomorrow.'</p> <p>'I would crawl back to that job for half the pay and double the hours.'</p> <p>"Why...why is a job so important?"</p> <p>"Wherever I go you'll be just behind me."</p> <p>'don't he's your brother'</p> <p>"I could have been...I could have been him! ..."</p> <p>'Witch. I curse you. Witch!'</p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda tries to seduce Mickey (they are 14) and he doesn't dare respond (is this because of the legal age of consent?) Linda teases Mickey by saying another lad is good looking. Mickey gets jealous but doesn't do anything with Linda so she leaves. • The song 'That Guy' is ironic because Eddie wishes he was like Mickey and Mickey wishes he was like Eddie and they are actually more alike than they realise because they are twins. This is the second time Mickey wishes he was someone else (he wanted to be Sammy earlier) • Mickey and Eddie meet and become best friends again. Eddie teaches Mickey how to seduce a girl (he's read it in a book) • We learn that Eddie thinks Mrs L (his mum) is off her beam (nutter) • We learn that Eddie lives on the top of the hill and Mickey lives at the bottom. • Eddie thinks Mrs J is a fabulous mum and he wishes his mum was like her (he doesn't know it is his real mum) • Mickey and Eddie go to see a rude film • Mrs L finds out that the twins have met and visits Mrs J and grabs a knife to kill her. Mrs L really has a break down. • The 'summer sequence' moves us through until the kids are 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money – class = fallout in recession • Money – Eddie sorts Mickey a job and a house • Gun – Sammy shoots a guy and Mickey goes to prison for it • Ellipsis – urgency of situation • Repetition 'today' = conclusion of events is about to happen • Superstition – twins learn they were a pair and then die • Gun – Mickey shoots Eddie, the police shoot Mickey | <p>"There's a girl inside the woman, She's waiting to break free, She's washed a million dishes, She's always making tea."</p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eddie tells Linda he is going to university. Eddie says if he was Mickey, he would have asked Linda out ages ago (meaning he fancies her)• Mickey had to do overtime and says he hates his factory job.• Mickey and Linda get together before Eddie goes to university.• Linda falls pregnant. Mickey and Linda marry and don't tell/invite Eddie. They have to live with Mrs J• Mickey is made redundant due to the recession.• Eddie comes home at Christmas and him and Mickey fall out due to money.• Sammy asks Mickey if he wants to 'do a job'. It's a robbery. Sammy shoots a guy and Mickey gets arrested and put in prison.• Mickey gets drug dependant.• Mickey gets out of prison early but is drug dependant. Linda arranges a house for them and a job for Mickey (from Eddie) but it's all a secret.• Mickey works out how he got his job and house and accuses Linda of having an affair with Eddie.• Mickey goes to confront Eddie; he takes Sammy's gun. Mrs J tells him not to kill Eddie and that they are brothers. They both die. | | |
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