

## 'Blood Brothers' key scene analysis

### **Student 1**

One of the scenes where the acting was clear and effective took place in the scene where Mrs Lyons informs Mrs Johnstone that she has lost her job. After hearing this news, Mrs Johnstone tilts her head, squints her eyes and shrugs her shoulders, to appear confused as to why her work has supposedly deteriorated. She bows her head as if to appear frustrated and a victim of the 1970s British class system, as she is diminished by her upper class employer. Mrs Johnstone vocalises the line "Alright, if I'm going then I'm taking my son with me". Within this quote, Mrs Johnstone's voice is stern and harsh, as an attempt to try and stand up to Mrs Lyons. She emphasizes the personal pronoun "I'm" to push the fact that she has rightful possession of her biological son. As she delivers this line, she saunters quickly over to the cot, and reaches down to pick up her son, before being abruptly stopped by Mrs Lyons, with a firm hand. This physical barrier is used to make the audience feel uncomfortable by Mrs Lyons domineering power and creates a sense of sympathy towards the maternal, struggling, helpless figure of Mrs Johnstone. In response to this, Mrs Lyons juts out her jaw to appear stern as well as widening her eyes, with a strong arm reached out in front of Mrs Johnstone. She stands with exceptional posture and towers over the inferior Mrs Johnstone. After unwaveringly jabbing out her arm, Mrs Lyons vocalises the line "Edward is my son. Mine". Mrs Lyons sternly emphasises the possessive pronoun "my", to show her belief that she is Edwards rightful mother. Over the course of the line, Mrs Lyons gradually and aggressively steps closer towards Mrs Johnstone to appear threatening, and to exert her power. In addition to this, the tempo of her speech increases as she shrills the word "mine".

### **Student 2**

#### **Binding agreement**

The mood is highlighted by music indicating the scene change. The narrator stares at Mrs Lyons making strong direct eye contact as she takes a slow glance down and grabs the Bible that was held in front of her showing that she needs to make it a 'binding agreement'. As she takes the Bible she says, 'Mrs J' followed by a long pause along with the music getting more intense but still maintaining eye contact with the Bible, 'we must make this a binding agreement,' this causes Mrs J to step back in shock as her eyes are glued to the Bible before her. They freeze and 'a bass note, repeated as a heartbeat' heightens the tension as the Narrator comments on what has been done 'now there's no going back for anyone,' he looks out towards the audience conveying that the deal is sealed. Mrs Johnstone is clearly uncomfortable about having to swear on the Bible, but Mrs Lyons insists that it was essential. Mrs Lyons swiftly exits acting as if nothing important just happened with a grin across her face and the heartbeat sound effect grows to add to the tension, all while Mrs J is stood staring into the distance with a look of discomfort and regret.