## Noughts and Crosses Knowledge Organiser

## Context

The story of 'Noughts and Crosses' was written in a time where white people had control over black people. In the play's scenario, as in the original novel, black people (Crosses) have control over white people (Noughts).

In the play we follow the story of Callum and Sephy, who have been friend since birth, and they are forbidden to speak to each other from the beginning of the play.

They fall in love and do everything they can do be together, but the rising hostility between the Noughts and Crosses makes this nearly impossible.

## Important vocabulary

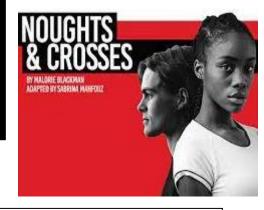
- Segregation setting people apart Oppression – cruel or unjust treatment Prejudice – unreasonable opinion (also bigotry) Discrimination – unjust treatment of difference Inequality – difference in how you're treated Injustice – unfair treatment Intolerance – unwillingness to accept something Manipulation – making you behave a certain way Dystopia – a broken world full of suffering Slavery – making you work in unjust conditions Terrorism – unlawful use of violence and intimidation Politics – activities linked to government Liberation – setting people free Freedom – the right to act, speak, think as you choose Isolation – being separated from others
- Identity who you are and what you believe
- Radicalisation being made to adopt extreme views

The play of 'Noughts and Crosses' is adapted from a novel of the same name by Malorie Blackman, which alternates the narrator between Sephy and Callum.

The structure in non-linear as it skips forward and back in time.

The play uses various scenes to tell the story from both sides and characters use direct address to help with their story telling.

In the play, Act 1 mainly focuses on Callum's 'world' and in Act 2 it mainly focuses on Sephy's world.



**Key Themes:** 

Racism Prejudice Discrimination Friendship Love War

## Main Characters: The Noughts:

Callum McGregor - in love with Sephy Jude McGregor - Callum's brother Lynette McGregor - Callum's sister Ryan McGregor - Callum's father Meggie McGregor - Callum's mother **The Crosses:** 

Sephy Hadley - in love with Callum Kamal Hadley - Sephy's father Jasmine Hadley - Sephy's mother Minerva Hadley - Sephy's sister Play – a text written for performance on a stage

**Act** – a division of a play made up of several individual scenes.

**Scene** – an individual unit of action in a play.

**Soliloquy/ Monologue / Aside** – a dramatic technique in which a character speaks their thoughts to the audience without other characters hearing.

**Prologue** – A scene which shows important events that take place before the play begins.

**Stage directions** – An instruction written in the script of a play that gives direction to the actors or information about the action or scenery.

**Audience** – the people who watch a play at the theatre or see it performed on television or at a cinema

**Split screen / Crosscut** – A dramatic technique used when two events are happening at the same time in the play in different locations.

**Multi-media** – The use of a projector or other means to show images/video clips that assist the narrative

**Multi-role / Split role** – When an actor plays more than one role or a character is played by more that one actor.

**Flashback** – When the actions flashes back or forward in time.