

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 friends 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 to 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 is 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 than one actor.

Flashback – When the actions flash back or forward in time.

In a world of injustice... is violence the answer being heard?