**How does Russell use the character of Mickey to show the importance of education in Blood Brothers?**

Russell uses the character of Mickey to show the important of education right from the start of the play when Mickey first meets Edward. In this scene we see Mickey asking Edward for a sweet, “Gis a sweet” shows us that Mickey isn’t educated and lacks manners, because of were he had grown up. This shows us that education is important as it reflects on how you comunicate with people and how they will see you as a person.

Russell shows the importance of education throughout the whole play using the character of Mickey and others. This is shown in the scene, were Mickey and Linda get into an argument with their teacher and are both sent out. In this scene we see the importance of education as Russell foreshadows Mickey’s future, implying that Mickey will not have or get a good paying job due to his lack of education. This scene is showing the reader that education is important as it will help you out in the future, but if you lack education it will bring you struggle in life which will build up.

The character of Mickey and Edward, towards the end of the story, show us how education can make up your future. This is shown when Russell writes “while no-one was looking I grew up and you didn’t because you didn’t have to”. Russell uses this quote for Mickey to show that Mickey had to grow up quickly because he didn’t have a choice to stay in education whereas Edward who went to private school and university didn’t have to think about his future or struggling as he was raised up in a wealthy household.

Russell uses this scene to show the importance of education as Mickey can't get anywhere in life, due to the fact that he lacks education. This also shows us that Mickey has no opportunities to even try, as he doesn’t have good education, however Edward has all the opportunities in the world as he had good education from his wealth.

Russell uses the scene where Mickey and Sammy commit a robbery to show how education can have an impact on everyday life and as Mickey doesn’t have good education he is forced to commit crimes to provide for his family.

**[COMMENT]**

**In this response, the candidate has a clear awareness of the task and refers to the importance of education throughout. They select a range of relevant moments from the text to use as support for their answer and remain focused on answering the question throughout. Although the approach tends towards the narrative / descriptive, the candidate is using these descriptions to focus on the task, and also to focus on what each scene is helping to demonstrate. Because the response remains focused on the question the candidate is therefore enabled to achieve level 3 AO3 for ideas as well as for task and for writer’s methods. In order to move into the next level, it would be useful to focus even more on developing an informed response to the task through the lens of the particular question being asked.**

**[MARKS]**

15 +3 for SPAG. Grade 5