

Year 9: “Noughts & Crosses” knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	Contextual information	Characters	
<p>Abrupt – sudden or unexpected. Brief to the point of rudeness.</p> <p>Segregation – The act of keeping one group of people apart from another and treating them differently.</p> <p>Ignorance – lack of knowledge, understanding or information about something.</p> <p>Prejudice – An unfair and unreasonable opinion of feeling formed without enough thought or knowledge.</p> <p>Discrimination – Treating a person or particular group of people differently</p> <p>Justice – fairness in the way people are dealt with.</p> <p>Retaliation – The act of hurting someone or doing something harmful to someone because they do something harmful to you.</p>	<p>Blackman was the Children's Laureate from 2013 to 2015. Blackman's motivation for writing Noughts and Crosses: 'I wanted to turn society as we know it on its head in my story, with new names for the major divisions in society. I wanted to see this world through the eyes of the main two characters, Callum (a nought) and Sephy (a Cross). Race and racism are emotive issues that most people are loathe to discuss, but I think they should be discussed, no matter how painful.'</p>	<p>The Hadley Family X</p> <p>Kamal – Kamal strongly dislikes noughts. Kamal is a government official, and he regard Crosses as superior to noughts. His belief in the importance of segregation drives his behaviour in the novel.</p> <p>Jasmine – despite her family's power and status, Jasmine suffers throughout the book. Her husband's neglect causes Jasmine to feel lonely, insignificant and powerless.</p> <p>Persephone (Sephy) – the daughter of Kamal and Jasmine. The privilege with which she was born is contrasted with her childhood friend, Callum. Sephy is naïve to the brutal world around her, however learns to sympathise with Callum's suffering.</p>	<p>The McGregor Family O</p> <p>Ryan – does all that he can to protect his family. He, alongside son Jude, joins the Liberation Militia.</p> <p>Meggie – a protective mother and wife. For fourteen years, she has worked for the Hadley family as a member of household staff. However, after being sacked, Meggie and her family suffer financial hardship.</p> <p>Callum – intelligent and hardworking son of Ryan and Meggie. His close friendship with Sephy soon turns romantic.</p> <p>Jude – Callum's older brother, who displays aggressive tendencies and acts of rebellion.</p> <p>Lynette – Jude and Callum's older sister. Previously, she dated a Cross and as a result was attacked by some noughts. Lynette is left mentally affected by the trauma.</p>
	Plot		
	<p>Sephy is a Cross – a member of the ruling class. Callum is a nought – a member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses.</p> <p>The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go...until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of noughts are allowed in Cross schools.</p> <p>Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum – a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Subject-specific language</p> <p>Dual narrative – a story that is told from two different perspectives.</p> <p>Contrast – A type of opposition between two ideas or objects used to highlight differences.</p> <p>Dystopian – An imagined society where there is great suffering and injustice.</p> <p>First-person narrative – when the text that you are reading is told from the point of view of a character in novel.</p> <p>Structure – the shape of a text as a whole, including the order of plot events.</p> <p>Shift in focus – changes in what a writer focuses on as a text develops.</p> <p>Theme – the main ideas that are explored throughout a piece of literature.</p>	