LITHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

LIVO CATCH-UP 10

Year 9 – Noughts & Crosses



You have missed some lessons. Don't worry – this will give you the essential knowledge you need to join back in.

1 WHAT IS IT?

Noughts & Crosses is a novel written by **Malorie Blackman.**

It is set in a fictional, dystopian world and explores a society where people are divided by the colour of their skin.

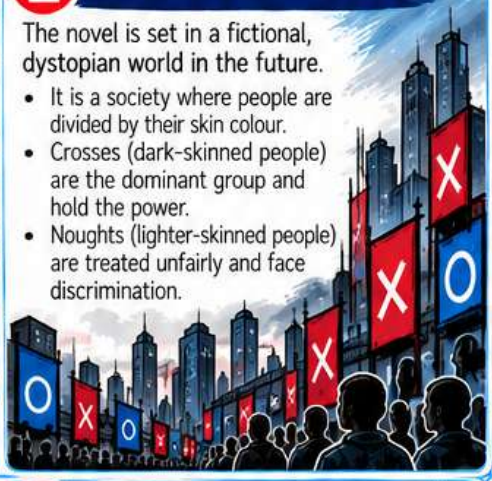
The novel looks at issues such as power, prejudice, identity, friendship and love.



2 WHERE AND WHEN?

The novel is set in a fictional, dystopian world in the future.

- It is a society where people are divided by their skin colour.
- Crosses (dark-skinned people) are the dominant group and hold the power.
- Noughts (lighter-skinned people) are treated unfairly and face discrimination.



3 MAIN CHARACTERS



Callum McGregor

- a Cross
- intelligent
- principled
- cares about justice
- questions the world around him



Sephy Hadley

- a Nought
- clever and determined
- wants to make a difference
- questions the rules
- compassionate
- strong and independent

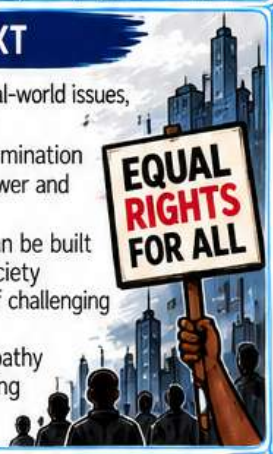
4 KEY THEMES

- RACE AND DISCRIMINATION
- POWER AND INEQUALITY
- IDENTITY AND BELONGING
- FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE
- JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS
- CONFLICT AND CHANGE

5 CONTEXT

The novel reflects real-world issues, including:

- racism and discrimination
- the impact of power and inequality
- how prejudice can be built into laws and society
- the importance of challenging unfair systems
- the need for empathy and understanding



6 AUTHOR'S MESSAGE

Malorie Blackman wants readers to think about:

- how unfair treatment affects individuals and society
- the damage prejudice can do
- the need to challenge inequality
- the importance of kindness, understanding and standing up for what is right

7 LANGUAGE AND STRUCTURE

- The novel uses vivid descriptions to create a believable dystopian world.
- It is written in the third person with multiple viewpoints.
- The writer uses powerful and emotional language to highlight injustice.
- Contrast and symbolism (noughts and crosses) are used throughout.
- The structure – e.g. tension and slower different perspectives – helps readers understand the whole society.

8 IMPORTANNT IDEAS

	People have different experiences depending on their identity.
	Systems and laws can make inequality seem 'normal'.
	Friendship and love can challenge prejudice.
	One person can make a difference.
	Hope and change are possible, even in a difficult society.

9 KEY VOCABULARY

Dystopian	a society with many problems
Discrimination	unfair treatment
Prejudice	forming a negative opinion without knowing the facts
Identity	a person's sense of who they are
Inequality	not giving people the same rights or opportunities
Dominant	in control or having the most power
Oppressed	treated unfairly and without power
Symbolism	using an object or idea to represent a bigger meaning
Perspective	a particular point of view
Empathy	understanding and sharing someone else's feelings

10 YOUR CATCH-UP 10

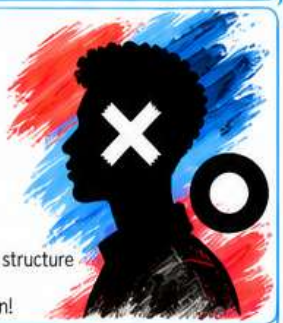
Answer these without looking back.

1. Who wrote Noughts & Crosses?
2. Where and when is the novel set?
3. What are a Cross and a Nought?
4. Name the two main characters.
5. Give two key themes from the novel.
6. What does the author want readers to think about?
7. How does the novel show inequality?
8. What is the purpose of using multiple viewpoints?
9. Give one example of a symbol in the novel and explain what it represents.
10. What do you think makes Noughts & Crosses a powerful and important novel?

FINAL CHECK

I now know:

- ☐ what Noughts & Crosses is about
- ☐ and who [illegible]
- ☐ where and when it is set
- ☐ who the main characters are
- ☐ key themes in the novel
- ☐ important context
- ☐ key vocabulary
- ☐ how the writer uses language and structure
- ☐ the author's message
- ☐ and I feel ready to rejoin the lesson!



NOW I'M READY TO REJOIN THE LESSON!