MRS JOHNSTONE

Key features · development · paired evidence



THE BIG IDEA

Mrs Johnstone's decision emerges from poverty and unequal bargaining power. The musical gives emotional force to both her constrained choices and her enduring attachment.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Faces material pressure › **2** Gives up a twin › **3** Keeps caring across separation › **4** Reveals the truth too late

REASSURANCE BECOMES RESISTANCE

"He is yours"

Mrs Johnstone to Mrs Lyons, Act 2: confrontation about Edward and the locket

PAIRED WITH

"I'm stayin' here"

Mrs Johnstone, later in the same confrontation: refusing money to move away

METHOD → MEANING

She first tries to reassure Mrs Lyons about her relationship with Edward. Her later declaration refuses to let money determine another separation. The change within the scene gives Mrs Johnstone agency: financial insecurity does not mean she will accept every bargain. This is a shift within one scene, not an early-to-final quotation pair.

TRACE THE CHARACTER THROUGH THE DRAMA

The first bargain

Material insecurity makes the offer of support persuasive. Consider how Mrs Lyons's power shapes what appears to be a private agreement.

Continuing attachment

Her relationship with Edward makes the separation emotionally incomplete. The locket preserves a connection the household division is meant to conceal.

The revelation

Revealing the twins' identity aims to prevent violence, but comes after years of secrecy and divergent opportunity. The truth cannot simply restore their childhood bond.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

Song, repetition and performance communicate feelings ordinary dialogue cannot contain. Use your own edition's song passages when extending the argument.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

How does financial pressure shape the apparent choice she is offered?