

# Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Key vocab/spelling:	Context	Tracking the plot
<p>novel dystopia oppression prejudice apartheid segregation race racism ethnicity discrimination slur derogatory terrorist/terrorism freedom fighter liberation militia justice identity equality/inequality</p> <p><b>#1 Find out the definition of these words.</b> <b>#2 Learn how to spell these words.</b> <b>#3 Write sentences about O and X which include these words.</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malorie Blackman is a black British author who often writes about social and ethical issues, particularly around race and identity.</li> <li><i>Noughts &amp; Crosses</i> is a modern text (2001) which explores the issues of racism in the modern day.</li> <li>Many people might think that large-scale racism is confined to history, but Blackman uses her novel to point out that this might not be the case.</li> <li>Historically in the West, white populations have had economic, social and cultural dominance over black populations.</li> <li>Slavery was outlawed in the USA in 1865, but it wasn't until at least 1941 that specific laws against segregation and racial inequality were introduced.</li> <li>Apartheid (see keywords) in South Africa was not abolished until 1991.</li> </ul> <p><b>Intertextuality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Apartheid signs - Can you recall any description of such signs in the novel? If not, consider a point in the story where one may have been present: What would it have said?</a></li> <li><a href="#">MLK - I have a dream VIDEO</a></li> <li><a href="#">MLK - I have a dream TEXT</a></li> <li><a href="#">The Little Rock Nine - Which similarities can you find between this link and the novel?</a></li> <li><a href="#">Strange Fruit - racism in 1930s America - Which lyrics can you identify that could link to the novel?</a></li> <li><a href="#">Guardian article - South African students speak out against 'aggressive' ban on afro hair. - To what extent do you agree that what was said to the student was 'aggressive'? What are your opinions about hairstyles and school?</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Other reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rest of the <i>Noughts and Crosses</i> quadrilogy</li> <li><i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i> - Mildred D. Taylor</li> <li><i>The Hunger Games</i> trilogy - Suzanne Collins</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tracking the plot</b></p> <p>Use these questions as prompts to check understanding of plot:</p> <p>Prologue: What do you learn about the two families, the McGregors and the Hadleys?</p> <p>Chapter 1: What sort of relationship do Callum and Sephy have? How do you know?</p> <p>Chapter 2: How does Callum feel about his home? How do the different characters talk about Callum going to school?</p> <p>Chapter 3: What is odd about Kamal's guest? Why does he act so angrily in this chapter?</p> <p>Chapter 4: What big discovery do you make about skin colour in this chapter?</p> <p>Chapter 5-7: Why is Callum so upset with Sephy?</p> <p>Chapter 11: Why is the reference to 'plasters' controversial?</p> <p>Chapter 13: Why are people mocking and/or angry with Sephy?</p> <p>Chapter 15: Why are Noughts referred to as 'blankers'? Why does Sephy have a fight?</p> <p>Chapter 21-24: Why is Callum so upset?</p> <p>Chapter 31: Why does Sephy's mum start to drink so much?</p> <p>Chapter 36: Why is Lynette so distraught?</p> <p>Chapter 40: Why is Sephy unwanted at the McGregor house?</p> <p>Chapter 49: Why is Callum so desperate to get Sephy away from the Dundale shopping centre?</p> <p>Chapter 52: Why doesn't Meggie want her son's fingerprints saved on file?</p> <p>Chapter 53-56: Why is Callum so angry with Sephy?</p> <p>Chapter 60-65: Why are the McGregor family so stressed?</p> <p>Chapter 66-69: Why does Callum make the life decision that he makes?</p> <p>Chapter 93: How does Sephy feel about Callum? Does this change and why?</p> <p>Chapter 96-100: What is the dynamic between Callum and the other members of his cell?</p> <p>Chapter 114: What offer does Kamal Hadley make Callum and why?</p>

Key Quotations - practice committing quotations to memory	Characters
<p>They were good friends playing together. <i>Real</i> good friends. No barriers. No boundaries. Not yet anyway. P7</p> <p>It was a typical early summer's day, light and bright and, in the Hadley household anyway, not a cloud in their sky. P7</p> <p>What if a virus wiped out every single Cross and not a single nought? P8</p> <p>Being around Crosses was like walking on eggshells p10</p> <p>All she could feel was ... nothing. A nothing that went way beyond the numbness enveloping every part of her body. P13</p> <p>This place is like the whole world and the whole world is like this place. So where would I go? P 21</p> <p>Until a few years ago we were only allowed to be educated up to the age of fourteen – and in noughts-only schools at that – p 23</p> <p>There's more to life than just us noughts and you Crosses p25</p> <p>It makes it sound like ... you're in one place and I'm in another, with a huge, great wall between us. P25</p> <p>I didn't want things to change between us – ever. But at that moment I felt as if I might as well stand on the beach and command the sea to never move again. P26</p> <p>Four people in such a vast house – four lonely peas rolling about in a can. we were still some distance from it but it rose like an all-seeing giant above us. P28</p> <p>If only Callum wasn't a nought. P31</p> <p>I live in a palace with golden walls and silver turrets and marble floors... I opened my eyes and looked at my house. My heart sunk. P31</p> <p>He was with his dagger friend p32</p> <p>As long as the schools are run by Crosses, we'll always be treated as second-class, second-best nothings. P35</p> <p>YOU'RE ALL BEHAVING LIKE ANIMALS! WORSE THAN ANIMALS – LIKE BLANKERS! P56</p>	<p><b><u>The MacGregors:</u></b>  Callum - a O; intelligent; oppressed, in love with Sephy; disillusioned  Jude - a O; Callum's brother; resentful; bitter; violent; oppressed  Lynette - a O; Callum's sister; disturbed; traumatised; a victim of societal ills  Ryan - a O; Callum's father; weak willed; jaded by life; loyal  Meggie - a O; Callum's mother; doubtful; pacifist; lonely</p> <p><b><u>The Hadleys:</u></b>  Sephy - a X; means well; immature; naïve; fortunate; a Hadley  Kamal - a X; Sephy's father; a politician; bigoted; self-interested; a Hadley  Jasmine - a X; Sephy's mother; lonely; alcoholic; haughty; detached  Minerva - a X; Sephy's sister; feels trapped</p> <p><b>Learn who the characters are and the key ideas about each one as per the adjectives attached to them above.</b></p>

