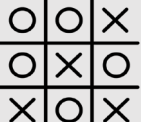






















Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman 	Vocabulary: Discrimination , Segregation, Militia, Terrorist	Narrator: The novel has alternating chapters. The story is told from either Spehy or Callum’s POV depending on the chapter.	Protagonist/Antagonist: Callum & Sephy are the protagonists & their society is the antagonist, This creates conflict.	Setting and Context: Dystopian futuristic alternate Earth, in which native African people colonized the world.	Literary Techniques: Imagery (throughout), Personification (clouds on p26), symbolism (orange juice), Allusions (Persephone’s name)
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The Big Ideas of the Novel	Characters
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Racism 	Love 	Hate 		
<p>One of the main themes of <i>Noughts & Crosses</i> is racism. Crosses, with dark skin, are seen as the superior race, and noughts are understood to be inferior. The world of the novel has many close parallels to the era of the civil rights movement and the Jim Crow era in America in the 20th century. The theme of racism is explored in large racist gestures—racial violence including Lynette being beaten and a Cross shopping centre being bombed—as well as the microaggressions faced by noughts, such as Band-Aids being made for black skin instead of white, increased suspicion in public spaces, and frequent identity checks and police harassment.</p>	<p>One of the primary themes of <i>Noughts & Crosses</i> is love, as Callum and Sephy continually choose each other against all odds. Their star-crossed love drives the plot of the novel, but there are other forms of love explored in the novel too, as well as failed love. Meggie & Ryan love their family, & they each take the action they think is right to protect them, with Meggie kicking Ryan out & Ryan becoming an active member of the L.M. The Hadley family shows a similarly complex take on love, with Sephy's parents separated & often fighting; Jasmine's love for Sephy & Minerva is crushing & selfish, & it pushes Sephy to go away to boarding school so she can become her own person.</p>	<p><i>Noughts & Crosses</i> explores the theme of hate. Who hates who, & why, are central to the novel. The most obvious version of this is racial hatred, which Sephy & Callum sometimes feel themselves, & sometimes are highly critical of. The novel also depicts interpersonal hatred, particularly in families: Kamal hates Jasmine, bearing resentments from before Sephy was even born; Meggie comes to hate Ryan for joining the L.M. & putting her sons in danger, though that hate is tied very closely to her love for him. All of these themes combine into how hatred develops into terrorism. Callum doesn't join the L.M. & kill Crosses simply because he hates them; the world around him converts a sensitive, intelligent young person into someone who commits race-based violence.</p>	Persephone Hadley 	Protagonist, idealistic, wealthy, privileged, becomes more serious
			Callum McGregor 	Protagonist, intelligent, sensitive suffers due to discrimination
			Jasmine Hadley 	Mother, alcoholic, selfish
			Kamal Hadley 	Father, racist, controlling
			Meggie McGregor 	Mother, protective of her family
			Ryan McGregor 	Father, Passive, becomes angry.
			Jude McGregor 	Brother of Callum – angry, racist
			Lynette McGregor 	Callum’s sister, lives in a "fantasy world," thinks she's a Cross.
			Minerva Hadley 	Sister to Sephy – appears selfish

Key Moments

First Day of School – Sephy calls Callum a blanker 	Sephy is beaten up for sitting with Noughts 	The bomb at Dundale Mall 	Ryan is arrested, reprieved, then dies in prison 	Callum joins the LM 	Spehy is kidnapped by LM 	Spehy has to choose who to save 	Callum is hanged 
<p>On the first day of school, S sees a riot against noughts & stops it by yelling that the Crosses are acting “worse than animals—like blankers!” C is horrified by her use of the slur, though S apologizes later. C makes her promise to never say “blanker” again, & tells her that they can’t be friends at school, which S doesn’t understand.</p>	<p>S wants to show she’s different & at lunch she sits with the Os. She is ordered to move to another table but she refuses. Most X pupils don't like the way S openly supports the Os. Three older girls beat S up so badly that she has to stay off school for a week. C tries to visit S but Mrs H won't let him in. S comes back to school thinking C doesn't care about what happened to her.</p>	<p>C wants to tell S the truth about L’s death. C plans to meet S at the Dundale Shopping Centre. When J warns him not to go, C suspects there must be a LM plot to bomb the Dundale. C manages to get S out just before the bomb goes off. 7 people are killed. Meggie realises R & J were involved in the bombing and says she wants them out of the house</p>	<p>R tells the police he was the bomber. He wants to protect J, who is on the run. Someone pays top Cross lawyer KA to defend R at his trial. R pleads not guilty. KA makes a good defence but the jury finds R guilty. He's sentenced to be hanged. At the last minute the sentence is changed to life imprisonment. R is killed trying to escape from prison. It seems he was deliberately trying to kill himself by climbing an electric fence.</p>	<p>Callum's wasting time in a burger bar when Jude appears and invites him to join the Liberation Militia. Callum agrees and goes home to pack. Sephy sends Callum a letter asking him to run away with her. By the time Callum receives the letter, it's too late and Sephy has left for boarding school in another part of the country.</p>	<p>With Jude's help, Callum's Militia group kidnaps Sephy. Callum tries to tell himself that Sephy's just another Cross prisoner but he can't. They end up making love and Callum helps Sephy escape.</p>	<p>Kamal goes to see Callum in prison. He says he'll get Callum out of prison within ten years if Sephy has an abortion. Back at home, Kamal offers Sephy the same deal. Both Sephy and Callum decide that the right choice is to let the baby live even though it means Callum will die.</p>	<p>C is playing cards with his guard, Jack. They're waiting for his execution. Jack tells him S tried to visit but wasn't allowed in. C gives Jack a letter for S, which he promises to deliver. C is led out to the gallows. The executioner puts a hood over his head. C hears S calling out, "I love you" & barely has time to answer before the platform drops.</p>