

Double
Space

V4

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English Lecture
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1. Why was life so hard in America for Danticat's parents at first?

Life was hard in America for Danticat's parents at first because they had to leave their children in Haiti, at a young age, which led to a family separation for eight years and the United States immigration red tape.

2. Explain the "Faustian bargain" offered to the children. Do you think it was a fair offer?

The "Faustian bargain" offered to the children were to receive many necessary things such as clothes, food, and school fees. Also, it offered a bright future. Personally, I don't think it was fair, just beneficial for the children. If their parents hadn't went to New York and work hard everyday and night, they would've been doing a lot worse, in Haiti. They would've been suffering from extreme poverty and the brutal regimes from Francois and Jean Claude Duvalier.

3. How did Uncle Joseph and the children differ in their views of America? What contributes to their respective points of views?

Uncle Joseph and the children had different views of America. Uncle Joseph believed a future wasn't given to his kind of people (which were considered poor). He believed in nothing but hard work to make it. In his words, "it was something to be clawed from the edge of despair with sweat and blood". The children thought New York City was one of the most richest cities in the world. They fantasized walking down the penny gilded streets, buying candy, and stuffing themselves. In their point of view, "New York was our city on the hill, the imaginary haven of our lives". What contributes to their respective points of view is that they all grew up poor at one point and understood the struggles they had to go through to have a better life.

4. What is the first lesson that Danticat learns about life in New York? Do you think this lesson is commonly shared by immigrants? Is it fair?

The first lesson that Danticat learned about life in New York was living in one of the richest cities didn't mean a struggle free life. Also, if New York immigrants were poor, they definitely would've been working more hours for less pay and would be receiving less of any benefits. Yes, I believe this lesson is commonly shared by immigrants. No, I don't believe it's fair.

5. Discuss the quote "it is the burden of each generation to embrace or reject the dreams set out by those who came before". What do children owe their parents when many sacrifices have been made?

The quote "it is a burden of each generation to embrace or reject the dreams set out by those who came before" means it would be difficult for each generation to live happy knowing the hardship's their families went through to give them and brighter future, at the end they'll still appreciate what they've done. Also, if each generation reject the dreams set out by those who came before will upset their parents. Plus, the parents will feel as if they worked hard for nothing. In parents word's, "washing one's hands only to dry in dirt".

What the children owe their parents after sacrifices have been made are to continue being financially stable with a bright future.

6. What is the difference between an immigrant and a "transnational"? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Which label do Danticat's parents ultimately choose? Why?

An immigrant and a transnational are different. An immigrant is someone that works more hours for less pay and receiving few benefits. A transnational is someone that have voting privileges and living quarters in two countries. The advantages for the immigrant is they would only have to pay to stay in an apartment but not own two living quarters, in two countries. The disadvantage for immigrants is they wouldn't be able to vote and have to work more hours. The advantage for a transnational is the ability to work less hours and receive more benefits. Danticat's parents ultimately choose to be an transnational. Her parent's wanted the American dream in owning an house and having a future for their children, which included health benefits, insurance, and loans from the bank.

7. How does Danticat's father's American experience worsen after 9/11? Why do you think this treatment of him occurred?

Danticat's father's American experience worsen after 9/11 by realizing the changes from when he arrived. He started worrying about terrorism, both being a victim and being blamed for it. Also, he worried about the cost of food, housing, and opportunities being closed behind him. The reason why I think this treatment of him occurred is because he is considered a transnational and he wasn't born in the United States.

8. What is the connection of Uncle Joseph's death to the beginning of the essay?

The connection of Uncle Joseph's death in the beginning of the essay is he remained in Haiti, while brutal regimes continued.

9. Why do you think the past tense is used in the title of the essay?

The reason why I think the past tense was used in the title of the essay is because the essay was based off of the struggles that they went through to live in a better and rich city with opportunities. Also, imagining that New York City would be a struggle free life.