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Eng. 1101 - D403

New York Was Our City on the Hill

Discussion Questions Pg.73-77

**1) Why was life so hard in America for Danticat's parents at first?** Life was so hard in America for Danticat's parents at first because they are poor and like other immigrants, they mostly like have been working more hours than anyone other workers. The salary is also lesser than most workers and have little or few benefits from the job.

**2) Explain the “Faustian bargain" offered to the children. Do you think it was a fair offer?** The Faustian bargain that was offered to the children was to stay behind in Haiti or Danticat's parents could have stay with the children and would not have immigrant to America. I think the offer was fair because Danticat's parents need to settle down in America for few years in order to provide a good environment for children to live in.

**3) How did Uncle Joseph and the children differ in their views of America? What contributes to their respective points of view?** Uncle Joseph and the children are differ in their views of America in Uncle Joseph point of view that the future of the poor was not given, but was grabbed from their struggle life. While the children didn't realized the truth that life was hard and it may not be a struggle-free life for them. Uncle Joseph's own experience of being poor and the children fantasized that life would be better in New York City contributes to their respective points of view.

**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 learns about life in New York that if immigrants were poor, they would be working more hours than the other workers for lesser payment. I think this lesson commonly shared by immigrants and isn't fair because they would be pay and received less money and benefits than the regular workers.

**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?** It is the burden of each generation to embrace the dreams set out by those who came before because many pressures of carrying the dreams for those who have high hope for them in the future. Children owe their parents time and money that many sacrifices have been made.

**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?** The difference between an immigrant and a transnational are those who are immigrants doesn't have voting privileges and living quarters in two countries while a transnational have both of the privileges that immigrants doesn't have. Immigrants could only stay in the new country while transnational could move back and forward between the two countries. Immigrants doesn't have voting rights instead a transnational does. Danticat's parents ultimately choose to be a transnational because they wanted to stay in Brooklyn due to ties they made such as decade-long friendships and community that they are use to for living there for long time.

**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 because of worrying about terrorism and becoming a victim while getting blame for it. I think this treatment of him occurred because terrorism was caused by foreigners and Danticat was a immigrant.

**8) What is the connection of Uncle Joseph's death to the beginning of the essay?** The connection of Uncle Joseph's death to the beginning of the essay was caused by the brutal regimes of François and Jean- Claude Duvalier due to Uncle Joseph was trying to flee Haiti at age 81 from gang violence and death threats.

**9) Why do you think the past tense is used in the title of the essay?** I think the past tense is used in the title of the essay because it was Danticat and his younger brother's imaginary haven of their lives. They have already move into New York and experiences a lot while they no longer need to fantasized about New York because they live in it.