Pemba Sherpa

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ENG 1101

Assignment- New York was our City on the Hill

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

Life was so hard for Danticat’s parents in America at first, because they ha to adjust in a country, they just saw in pictures. Danticat’s father also had to work in 2 jobs, to maintain both families.

1. Explain the “Faustian bargain” offered to the children. Do you think it was a fair offer?

The “Faustian bargain” that was provided to the children’s, was that their parents would go to America in order to make their children’s life easier, but in exchange they would have to their children behind for some time. Yes, it was a fair offer, because in the end, the children did get to come to America, and their parents coming to America also provided their children’s with a future.

1. How did Uncle Joseph and their children’s differ in their views of America? What contributes to their respective points of view?

Uncle Joseph and their children believed that America is the best place to be, but you also got to work hard to maintain in such place. Looking at the pictures of America, contributed to their respective points of view.

1. 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?

Danticat learns that living in New York can be very difficult, mostly when you have a family to cover. Yes, this lesson is commonly shared by immigrants. It is fair, because to survive anywhere, you have to do something.

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

The quote: “it is the burden of each generation to embrace or reject the dreams set out by those came before” means that, it is the load of each people from the same time to either agree or disagree with the vision set by those who came earlier than them. Children owe them a promise, that they will make their sacrifices a worthwhile.

1. 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 is a person from completely different country. A “transnational” is a person from multiple countries. The advantage of being an immigrant is that you have citizenship of some other country and are living in a country, which is not your “home”. The disadvantage as an immigrant is that you will not be given the same benefits as a citizen. A “transnational” has the same advantage as the immigrant, but they have many “homes”. Disadvantage is that they also aren’t provided with the same benefits as a citizen. Danticat’s parents ultimately label themselves as an immigrant. In their middle age they realized that living in Brooklyn for decade long, they didn’t want to live anywhere else.

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

After 9/11 Danticat’s father’s condition was worst than ever, because people would label immigrants as terrorists. This treatment occurred because there was mistrust between the citizens, and the immigrants.

1. What is the connection of Uncle Joseph’s death to the beginning of the essay?

Before arriving to America, he thought that the country is full of hope, and a vision of everything. Later, after fleeing from Haiti to America, to escape gang violence and death threats. He saw that America had mistrusted him, and treated him as a terrorist.

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

To indicate that it was something that they fantasized about in the past, but after learning what America can truly be, they gradually lost their gratitude towards the country.