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English 1101-D403

Assignment:Questions For Essay” New York was our City on the Hill” Edwidge Danticat

**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 came as immigrants to America, and in the 1970’s not much was offered to immigrants other than working non-stop(labor jobs) and if times were tougher than normal, they would have to work two jobs.

**2)Explain the “ Faustian Bargain” offered to the children. Do you think it was a fair offer?**

-Faustian Bargain was a bargain thats immigrants faced. The parents of children would go to America and work, and the children would have to stay behind and get all of the necessities they need. On the other hand, the parents would stay behind and suffer the hardships that would come because that was part of the bargain. I don’t think this was a fair offer because the children should not be separated from their parents, and just because of the separation some parents are double minded and stay back, which leads them suffering the hardships that would come.

**3) How did Uncle Joseph and the children differ in their views of America? What contributes to their respective point of view?**

- Uncle Joseph’s view on America was that the children should be grateful that their parents are living in America, however he thinks that people like him, poor, are not given a future. The children's view was that America was like a haven for them because their parents were there, and they had a perfect vision on how America would be. Uncle Joseph’s experiences throughout life contributes to their respective point of view, because he might not have had the best experience and thats what impacts his thinking. The children's parents and visions contributes to their respective point of view. Since their parents are living there it already is a good place, and their visions on a perfect place is what impacts their thinking.

**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 is fair?**

- When Danticat first came in the age of 12, she started noticing alot. His first lesson was if you're poor, you were more likely to be working more hours than anyone else, for less money, and with few if any benefits. This lesson is commonly shared by immigrants because it is something they struggle with everyday to make a living. It is not fair because these people left everything they had with the thought they will get a better future, and there is always hardships in something new, however it shouldn't taken to extreme measures.

**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 to their parents when many sacrifices have been made?**

- Well, according to the quote and to my perspective, children would have to owe what their parents did for them. If at old age they are in need of support , thats what they should owe, a support system. When we are babies, we are in need of a support system to help is, so in their time of need we should be there source of support. By that is gaining enough education to get a good job, and earn enough to support yourself, and your parents in time of need.

**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” is that an immigrant doesn't have all benefits. Only is allowed to be in one country, work there, and support themselves there. Transnational is that they have voting rights, can live up to two countries and support themselves in both. Danticat’s parents ultimately choose transnational because they settled themselves in America, and made a life there.

**7) How does Danticat’s father’s American experiences worsen after 9/11? Why do you think this treatment of him occured?**

- Danticat’s father’s American experience worsen after 9/11 because he was scared to be a victim of terrorism, or being accused of one, due to events that were occurring after the time of 9/11. Well it can be classified into many reasons why this treatment of him occured, many people lost jobs, homes, due to high security and the intensity of the situation at that time. Seeing all this, he must of been one the victims and thats why his mind set was turned into this.

**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 that since Uncle Joseph raised her and her little brother, so it a little about how they lived, and what Uncle Joseph experienced and how these experiences shaped his mind set. This also showed what happened to him when he came to New York.

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

- The past tense is used in the title of the essay because,” New York was Our City on the Hill” using the word “was” meant thats what they thought. It was their city on the hill before experiencing the real New York. There experiences and interaction with New York and its environment changed the way they thought and viewed New York.