Shontae Wilson

Professor’s Name

Course

Due Date

“Salvation” Study Questions

1. American poet, dramatist, writer, social activist, and columnist Langston Hughes was well-known. He played a major role in the 1920s Harlem Renaissance, which saw the emergence of African American literature and art.
2. A church revival is a sequence of religious ceremonies with a focus on testimonies, passionate preaching, and singing intended to encourage a fresh commitment to faith (Langston). Hughes portrays the revival in the story as an ardent assembly of individuals who were deeply touched by the preacher’s plea for salvation.
3. In religious terminology, salvation is the process of being freed from sin and its effects, leading to an eternal relationship with God. Being rescued was significant to young Hughes because it represented acceptance and belonging in his society and served as a rite of passage (Langston).
4. Hughes is pressured by his aunt and the congregation to experience salvation as others do, so he goes into the revival meeting expecting to be saved.
5. Hughes means that although he appeared to be saved, he did not go through the spiritual change that conversion entails.
6. In the story, the term “light” stands for understanding and spiritual enlightenment. It stands for the simplicity and veracity of salvation.
7. Hughes conveys his disappointment and anger at the strain and unrealistic expectations put on him throughout the revival as he recounts the event.
8. Hughes cries on the eve of his “salvation” because he feels deceived by his failure to undergo the anticipated change as well as by the pressure from the congregation and his aunt.
9. The narrator learns that his understanding of redemption was influenced more by demands and expectations from outside sources than by a true spiritual experience.
10. The minister's exaggerated expectations and the dictates of religious tradition fool both the narrator and the aunt.
11. When a group of people is referred to as a flock, sheep, or lambs, it suggests that they are guided, cared for, and united under the shepherd, who is a religious figurehead or deity. It implies a bond of confidence and submission between followers and their religious leaders.
12. In “Salvation,” the conflict between the narrator’s internal struggle and the external demands his community places on him serves as a metaphor for perception vs reality. The narrator experiences disillusionment and emotional difficulty despite the community’s perception of salvation as a transformative experience, underscoring the complexity of faith and personal belief.

**Work Cited**

Hughes, Langston. *Salvation*. Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2002.