



3055 BA SANGAM COLLEGE

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LESSON NOTES

School: Ba Sangam College
Subject: English

Year/Level: 10
Worksheet 19

Name: _____
Year: _____

Strand	Reading and Viewing
Sub Strand	Text Types: media, everyday communication, literary texts.
Content Learning Outcome	Explore carefully and view prudently printed media text for understanding and critical evaluation.

THEMES

1. Teenage Pregnancy

This is a major problem in Fiji whereby young people who are involved in unprotected sexual intercourse end up shouldering an important responsibility of parenting. In the story, Iva and Atama have no other option but to leave their parents and live on their own when Iva becomes pregnant with Atama's child. This also affects Iva emotionally as she did not really love Atama but loved Epeli. Since she becomes pregnant with Atama's child, her chance of being with Epeli ends and she has to live with Atama for a better future of her child because a child with no father can receive rude comments from the society.

A possible cause of Iva's early pregnancy is that she lacked adequate information on the contraceptives that could prevent unwanted pregnancy. This happens to students who drop out of school early just like Iva- who left school when her father was ill for a while.

2. Obedience to Parents

In the play, we see that both Iva and Atama suffer because they did not take heed of their parents' advice. For Iva, her parents had high expectations from her to keep up the family name especially when she was the only child. Her parents did not allow her to go out late at night. Her parents preached abstinence from sexual intercourse before marriage. This is also what she learned from church. Even if Iva had discussed her pregnancy openly with her parents, she could have come up with a better arrangement than eloping with Atama to Suva. Likewise, Atama is disowned by his family after he tells them of his relationship with Iva- he tells Iva that he had never seen his mother cry so much in his life. Towards the end of the play, Atama remarks "If only we had listened to those who knew better, our parents. If only we hadn't forsaken them..." This shows that we need to follow our parents advice since they have been through life and had more experience regarding ways to deal with relationship issues.

3. Racial Tolerance

A lot of racial discrimination is present in the play and the playwright shows that this leads to

intolerance and conflict. The main reason for these remarks is that Atama being a Rotuman plans to marry an I-Taukei, Iva. When Atama's mother found out that he is planning to marry Iva, she remarks "My son married to a black devil." However, Atama's older brother, Tonu, seems to be more understanding when he comes to help Iva. He touches on the importance of cultural integration when he tells Atama "I don't care what race you marry. Everyone is the same; black, white or yellow."

STYLE USED

1. Use of Acts

The playwright has used 3 Acts to stage the play. Each Act represents a different phase in the development of the play;

Act 1- Iva mentions that she is pregnant and elopes with Atama.

Act 2- Atama and Iva live in Suva and Iva gets lonely and then sick

Act 3- delivery of the child and smothering of the deformed child.

2. Use of Local Names

Although the play is in English, all characters have either I-Taukei or Rotuman names. This helps to make the story more realistic as it takes place in local settings around Fiji.

3. Use of Humour

Although the play deals with serious issues, the playwright brings in few humorous characters and scenes to make audience laugh. One such character who helps create humour is Mere who does not take her life seriously. While sympathizing with Iva's situation, she firstly decides to sing her a romantic song and later remarks; "I'm glad I'm not beautiful. I'm glad nobody wants me." A scene that creates humour is Act 2 Scene 3 when Iva chases Fea and Koko. She initially lifts her sulu and then lifts Fea's sulu. This causes Fea to be disgusted and leave.

4. Use of Informal Expressions

Informal words and slang are mostly used by Tonu and Mere, for example, "bro" and "play around" Conversations involving older characters are mostly formal. Sarcastic comments are also used by Mere, for example, her expression noted above to create humour. This also helps to give an informal tone to the language.

Questions

1. Identify one of the main themes of the play and give some examples from your society.

2. Explain in your own words the style of writing used in the drama.
