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Existentialism : Homework assignment

1. How and why was Phil trapped?

Phil was trapped in the same day, the Groundhog Day. Whatever he did, he would wake in the 6 o'clock of Groundhog Day.

2. Is Groundhog Day a religious movie? Explain your answer.

It is not really a religious movie but it added some ideas which are adapted from religious doctrine, the idea was mainly about the meaning of life. In the movie, Phil was trapped in Groundhog Day which everything was exactly the same in everyday. At first, Phil was happy because he could do everything he wanted but when the situation remained happen many days, Phil began to feel bored and frustrated. He decided to kill himself but after that he still woke up in the same morning. Phil changed himself. He tried to do good things to everyone. He began to learn about the value of life. No matter the same day or other days come, we should do our best and live wisely because life is worth.

3. How would you characterize the phases that Phil goes through? What does he learn as a result of his experience?

At first Phil was confused and did not believe what he was now facing. When he was actually sure that tomorrow and every day he would still woke up in the morning of Groundhog Day, he began to do everything he wanted. Phil was happy to live in the everlasting world which he can live out of the rules with no necessity to worry about tomorrow. However, when it happened again and again every day, he was bored and tried to escape from this world. He killed himself many times but it was not matter. Then Phil began to change to way he behave, he was friendly, helpful and polite. I thought the great changing point for him was when he saw the poor old man suddenly died of disease and he cannot do anything to save that old man's life. Phil got to know the value of life; every life has its own meaning and is very valuable. Every day after that he tried to live wisely and realize all the time that life is worth.

4. How is Phil's journey related to Existentialism?

Existentialism is the philosophical theory mentioning that everyone has his own freedom and has responsibility to his own life. People always confuse about life and the reason we live, existentialism does not present the clear answer for them but it teaches us the one's own life depends on one's own deeds, not others'. We cannot choose where or what we born but we can choose what we are going to do and what we are going to be. We each have our own ways to find the meaning of life. In the movie, when getting stuck in the same day, Phil gradually realized the value of life and then satisfied with it. He was soon happy with everyday he lived and spent every minute in his life worthily.

5. What would you do if you were trapped in a "Groundhog Day"?

I would be confuse like Phil at the beginning and try to escape from it, I might try to still awake until 6 o'clock of another day. I would buy every novel I want to read and spent all day reading them. I might learn cooking with mother and learn driving from father. I thought I would get to know the meaning and value of life as Phil did at the end.

6. What does your answer to the previous question say about your beliefs about the meaning of life?

I believe that one people have many lives, our bodies are just the mortal matter but our souls are immortal. The thing we do in our present lives will result in our next lives and the things we face nowadays are the effect of our previous lives. I believe in the return of deed and believe that our lives have their own meanings.