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COURSE CODE: AFE 122

COURSE TITLE: THE USE OF ENGLISH

MATRIC NO: 22/LAW01/070

QUESTIONS:

1) Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning Sodom, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.

2) Attempt detailed character analysis of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning Sodom.

3) What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good Morning Sodom?

ANSWERS

Thematic thrusts of Edebor’s Good Morning Sodom.

The play, Good Morning Sodom is a literary work that portrays the life of a young teenage girl called Keziah. A girl from a Christian home who has been brought up in a Godly manner and is in the university. In school, a certain young man called Demola is interested in making her his girlfriend due to his ‘love’ for her. However, he is misled into raping her and joining a secret cult which then led to his untimely and painful death. The young girl is then left to suffer in pain alone till she gives birth to the child. This play contains a lot of themes and is quite relatable as things like these do occur in the world today. However, I’ll be talking on specific themes that are very much conspicuous in the play.

1. Religion: In this play, religion is a theme existing and the concerned religion in this play is Christianity. Keziah’s parents are Christians and believe in certain rules guiding their faith. This theme is equally evident in Keziah’s conversation with her roommate, Stella. Stella tries to preach to Keziah about Jesus and the positive effects of following Jesus and being a devoted Christian even though she had just experienced the wickedness of man (being raped). This theme is also evident in the character of Mrs. Richards when she states that abortion is against her Christian faith which supports her protest against it.
2. Peer pressure: This theme seems to be one of the most notable themes in this play. Peer pressure is associated with having influence on someone or a group of people. This act is portrayed through the character of Demola and Keziah. Demola is a young man in the play that is interested in a young lady named Keziah. According to the play, he initially has pure and honest intentions towards Keziah (maybe not totally pure) but due to peer pressure and bad advice from his friends, K.K and Bentol, he ends up committing crime by raping the young lady and later joining a cult. Peer pressure is a vice that is destroying youths of this generation and causing lots of havoc in the society at large. Keziah is equally peer pressurized by two of her course mates into accepting the proposal of Demola or better still, giving him a listening ear, which led to her presence in his room which contributed to the success of the rape. Demola was equally introduced to drugs by the same person that pulled the trigger on him. Peer pressure has a lot of impact on the youths of today and has led to so many things; both good and bad but sadly, the bad outweighs the good.
3. Rape: Rape involves forceful sexual intercourse with an individual; either of the same sex or opposite sex. In the play, we can see this theme being illustrated through Demola and Keziah. This play shows us how damaging this crime could be especially on the part of the victim. Damages like unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, etc. could occur with the former being the case in this play. Keziah was raped by Demola which made her go through a lot and she almost lost her father in the process as he treated her like a slave and didn’t regard her as his daughter as she didn’t abort the child. She was also close to losing her life as she had attempted suicide due to the hardships she had to go through because of Demola.

1. Deceit: In this play, the theme of deceit is vivid among the characters especially Demola and Keziah. Demola played on Keziah’s intelligence by inviting her to his room, pretending to want to do an assignment with her meanwhile he had drugged her drink so he can take advantage of her without her consent. Sadly, she fell for his schemes and became a victim of rape. Demola also falls victim of this theme of deceit. He was deceived into joining a cult and along the line, he got killed by his own members although it was said to have been a mistake. Demola equally deceived his parents and made them believe he was living a good life on campus and as his parents never bothered to check up on him in school or monitor some of his affairs, the followed him blindly and didn’t know what was actually going on till after his (Demola) death.
2. Cultism: This is one of the vices that is destroying the youths of this generation as it is very much rampant among the youths. Cultism in this context involves various people of similar negative interests coming together in secret to achieve one goal which is to oppress people. Demola, K.K and many others in this play were used to explain and portray the dangers of cultism.
3. Love: In this play, we can also perceive the theme of love among certain characters. Stella had a platonic love for Keziah as her friend. She consoled and encouraged Keziah after Demola raped her, using her own past experiences as a reference point. Stella also showed her love by taking care of her and making calls to Keziah’s mother frequently whenever anything happened; this includes the time Keziah fainted after seeing the dead body of Demola. This theme was also existing between Demola and Keziah. He had an affectionate feeling towards Keziah but unfortunately, he was misled and ended up hurting her. Love also existed between Keziah and her parents. Although her father was deeply hurt by what had happened to his daughter, he still forgave her, took good care of her and her baby and made plans for her to continue her studies. Love is also another dominant theme in this play and many circumstances in the play show what love can do.
4. Parental negligence: This theme is associated with Demola’s parents who failed in their duty as parents. They never bothered to check on Demola or get involved in the affairs of their son. Although it is stated that his mother was late, his father failed in his duties as a father. Many parents are often ignorant of the welfare of their kids especially when their children are in the university. They often overlook certain things even when they are suspicious. This is the case of Demola and his parents. Due to the lack of appropriate attention from his parents, K.K. and Benjol became his parents, i.e., they took the place of his father and was advising him on how to live life and unfortunately, they were leading him astray which led to Demola’s untimely death. The negligence of Demola by his father led to an everlasting regret for Engineer Diran.

QUESTION 2

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Demola

This character represents a male youth trying to fit in and blend with others. He is also portrayed as a character that is sensitive and soft hearted when it’s mentioned that he falls in love. Even his reaction after what he had done is proof that he is actually an innocent boy and had good intentions towards her and was brought up with good values. He falls in love with a young girl named Keziah and wishes she could be his girlfriend. He goes after her wooing her as a normal youth would try to get a girl. However, he is misled and messes things up for himself thereby ruining his chances with the girl in the process. He represents the young male figure that gets into the university and tries finding his place and people. Peer pressure comes into the picture and then things start to turn upside down for him; it’s also quite sad that immediately he succumbed to peer pressure, the consequences came at him really fast and he didn’t get a chance to make things right. It’s really sad the way things ended for Demola though, but it serves as a warning to other youths out there. Just once he went on a mission for his cult, he got killed meanwhile there are some others that have been into cultism for years and are still alive and some even repented.

Stella

She is a young teenage girl who is a strong believer and a Christian. She is equally a very good friend of Keziah and was always there for Keziah. She was always present in Keziah’s life right from the start of the play. She can be said to be a positive influence on Keziah’s life. She is a good example of what a good friend should look like. Stella always looked out for Keziah and was always there to assist when her help was needed. In the play, it is shown that during Keziah’s stay at the hospital, she was there throughout and was even the one that informed Mrs. Richards of the incident. She equally tried bringing Keziah to God using herself as a case study despite what she (Keziah) had gone through. Having a Stella in one’s life is indeed a blessing just as it was in the play.

Mrs. Richards

This character portrays most African mothers who uphold good moral values and show so much love and care to their children. Mrs. Richards showed how powerful a mother’s love is. Her dedication to the life of her daughter was surreal. She kept showing up at Keziah’s school randomly to check up on her and know how she’s doing. She also tried to be very much present in the life of her daughter. She never gave up on Keziah even when she got disappointed by her daughter. She stood by Keziah and comforted her throughout the whole issue. She also played a significant role in the life of Keziah’s unborn child as she is the reason the child was given a chance to live. She didn’t allow Dr. Richards abort the baby. She stood her ground on her faith and protected her daughter and her unborn child. Although Keziah was a victim of circumstances, Mrs. Richards is a perfect example of how a mother should be. Her character had so much impact in the life of Keziah and in the play at large.

QUESTION 3

DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING SODOM.

Most times, when films are made out of already written and published books, certain changes are often made in the films either to manage time or resources. In Solomon Edebor’s Good Morning Sodom, there were certain changes that were made in the film for reasons best known to the crew members. In this write up, I’ll be throwing light on soke of these changes in the play.

In the book, the location of the scene where Emmanuela came to preach to Stella was Stella’s room but in the film version, it took place in a courtyard where Stella was spreading her clothes.

* The scene of the Cult gathering.

Published version: Demola was just joining the cult gang and was part of the newly initiated guys that knelt down to take an oath to the cult.

Film version: Demola was already a member of the cult and wasn’t part of the newly initiated guys. He was an old member of the cult.

The ninth movement was cut out in the film version.

* The court scene

Published version: There was a very long speech from the prosecution council and the defense council.

Film version: Only the judge spoke fully and that was when he was giving his final judgement.

In the published version, Eng. Diran’s visit to prison to meet K.K. was the 19th movement while the scene of Dr. Richard’s visit to Eng. Diran was the 20th movement BUT in the Film version, Eng. Diran’s visit to K.K. was a flashback of the former when he was discussing with Dr Richard and his family. In addition to this, in the published version, Eng. Diran’s wife was present in the scene where K.K. was visited BUT in the film version, she wasn’t present.

* In the 21st movement

Published version: There was a flashback to Demola’s conversation with K.K. and Bentol.

Film version: There was a flashback in a flashback. The first flashback occurred in the 21st movement where Engineer Diran was telling Dr. Richards about his discussion with K.K. Then another flashback took place in the flashback scene but this time, K.K. was the one remembering what had happened as he confessed to Engineer Diran. His flashback was on his discussion with Bentol and Demola on how to rape Keziah.

The last movement was equally cut out in the film version.

In conclusion, it was a wonderful film and there were lots of changes that were made. About 2-3 scenes/movements were cut out and certain lines were equally cut out. Some scenes also took different turns at some point but overall, the film version wasn’t too different from the published version.