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MATRIC NUMBER: 22/MHS02/165

COLLEGE: MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT: NURSING SCIENCE

COURSE: AFE 122

FIVE THEMATIC THRUSTS IN THE DRAMA; GOOD MORNING SODOM.

1. THE THEME OF CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES

In Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning Sodom, the characters Keziah and Demola both made choices that adversely affected their future; Choices that were irreversible.

On the part of Keziah, she made the choice to finally accept Demola's plea of friendship although she had previously stated to Demola and I quote "I know what boys like you are after, and sorry to disappoint you, I'm not ready for such games". This statement made by Keziah is an indication of her choice as at that time but unfortunately that choice changed and accepting Demola as a friend took her further than she could have imagined. The young lady got drugged and raped resulting to an unplanned pregnancy.

Demola on the other hand also had a choice to make. It was his choice as to whether to mar Keziah's future or not. It was his choice to give in to K.K's suggestion or turn away but even far beyond that, it was his choice to keep K.K as a friend.

K.K was also a man of bad choices himself and those choices led to him being imprisoned for life. Definitely, it was never part of K.K's plan for his life to end in such a manner but lo and behold where his decisions landed him.

The choices we make in life especially as youths still trying to get our lives together are highly important as these choices can benefit or destroy you. Some of these choices we make, whether good or bad have consequences that will remain with us for a long time. These choices will not just affect your now but they will affect your tomorrow and years to come. The choices you make now be it the friend to keep, the course to study, the way to live will affect other choices to come. For example, if Demola had not made the choice of K.K as a buddy, who would have planted that evil seed in his heart?

2. THEME OF LACKADAISICAL PARENTING

Taking into perspective the parents of Demola, this theme can be seen. Demola's mother, Mrs Diran in the drama exclaimed "Ah! We killed him! Dear We killed Demola! We handed him over to the inglorious death he suffered"! How could one's parents play such a terrible role in the life of their own child? It most definitely wasn't intentional and there could lie the problem with Demola's parents; LACK OF INTENTIONALITY.

We can see from Engineer Diran's words that he realized (unfortunately, not early enough) their failure to actually check on Demola, his welfare and ask about his challenges in school. They seemed to have taken Demola's word for it and bought

whatever lie he told them and that was a mistake on their part. Perhaps, if they had been more sensitive, meticulous and alert, their son could have ended better.

Did they not notice that their son was changing? And if they did, could they not have done something about it? Or perhaps they felt it was nothing serious and over looked it. These are some hypothesis that should be considered.

It could also be that, they gave Demola whatsoever he asked of them without suspicion or question. Yes, they may have invested well financially in Demola but what about morally. As parents, how did they morally prepare their son for the higher institution, what values did they instill in him, what measure of discipline was he passed through.

All parents have important and significant roles to play in bringing up a child and should be intentional about guiding their child through every aspect of their lives.

3. THE THEME OF WRONG ASSOCIATION

There is a saying that goes, “Show me your friend and I will tell you who you are”. The word of God, the Bible also assures us that “Evil communication corrupts good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). The character Demola is heavily affected by his choice of friend, K.K. It was K.K’s idea to charm Keziah in order for Demola to have his way with her. Even when things turned sour and Demola was unhappy about the aftermath, K.K suggested the use of drugs to eliminate his sorrow. This same friend was also the one that made Demola move to the town instead of staying in the hostel. K.K said it himself “I succeeded in making Demola do so many terrible things”. Let it not be forgotten that K.K though unintentionally, was responsible for Demola’s death. What other proof do we need to show that the impact K.K had on Demola was not good in any way.

As for Keziah, her course mates, Ovie and Bunmi though their words may seem harmless and not necessarily seem to be pushing Keziah into any imminent danger, those were not words that Keziah needed to hear. “All we are saying is that you should give him a chance; get to know him. Then, you can decide what to do”, said Bunmi. Getting to know Demola led to her getting drugged and raped and that was definitely not what they bargained for.

Words are powerful and may impact us more than we know and that is why it is necessary that one be careful about his/her association. The people you have around you can be of benefit or destruction to you. They can either spur you on to do good or push you into evil even when it is not their intention. “He that walks with the wise shall be wise but a companion of fools shall be destroyed”-Proverbs 13:20.

4. THE THEME OF YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE

As I have learnt from Gbile Akanni's *Battle For The Young*; In this time of one's youth where one is curious, agile, full of life and energy, where this energy is channeled is important. In this play, we see different youths and how they chose to deploy this exuberance of theirs.

For starters, the characters of the Pastor's sons who raped stella, then K.K, Bentol and Jumo who channeled their energy towards cultism and other vices. Demola who channeled his energy to woman-chasing should not be left out and even Stella who went into immoral living after being abused should be considered.

These are various youths in this play who have different potentials of becoming great and beneficial to those around them but some lacked order of priority and could not see the bigger picture and so energy and vigor that should have been deposited to fruitful ventures was harnessed and used for evil.

5. THE THEME OF NEW BEGINNINGS

This theme can be seen in the lives of the characters, Keziah and Stella. No matter how bad things are, no matter how damaged things may get, where there is life, there is hope.

Stella, despite having gone through such a traumatizing experience in the hands of those boys was still able to reach out to Keziah and speak to her when she had her own share of trauma because she must have found hope. She must have found consolation somewhere, somehow or in someone and that person was her God.

Stella did not rot and decay in the hand of the nasty experience that came her way because God reached out to her through that dream. She was already in the grip of immorality and promiscuity but things do not always stay the same, her heart was hardened but God stepped in and salvaged the crisis in Stella's life.

As for Keziah, getting raped and pregnant did not also deter her future. Her parents were supportive of her and assisted her in getting back into school, thus, her dreams were not consumed by the mess she had gotten into. She still had a chance to make something of her life.

As people, in any way we can, we should help to keep the hope of others alive. In their misery, we should point them to the source of joy who is God rather than fan to flame and intensify their sorrow.

Even when poor choices lead us to where we ought not to be, we should never hesitate to look to God and find hope in Him because through Him new beginnings are possible.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. DR. AWORAWO RICHARDS

In Solomon A. Edebor's *Good Morning Sodom*, Dr. Richards plays the character of a medical doctor, husband to Mrs. Joke Richards and most relevant, Keziah's father. Dr. Richards expresses his unhidden feelings of disappointment after discovering his daughter's pregnancy. His attitude and rapport with Keziah hit a decline after hearing this news but was he really to blame? Dr. Richards is a typical father who has beautiful expectation from his child's life and this was nowhere close to his expectations for Keziah, at least not now.

He is seen practically disowning Keziah when he says to his wife, "She ceased to be my daughter that very day she brought shame on this family with that evil thing in her womb, which you willfully accepted".

There is no doubt that he did not take this news well at all but he also failed to handle it well as her father. His embitterment and discouraging attitudes to Keziah only added to her misery. He was her father but he failed to be her daddy at this point in her life.

He was probably more concerned about the repercussion and results of Keziah's pregnancy than Keziah herself; her emotions, her feelings, her disposition and what she must have been passing through as the bearer of the problem.

He did not give Keziah the love she needed and this must have been an element behind her decision to take her own life. This was what it took for Dr. Richards to embrace and love his daughter again. I guess he would rather have her alive and in the family way than dead and gone.

Parents can learn from the character of Dr. Richards the appropriate manner to handle unexpected circumstances in the lives of their children, especially the shameful ones and what can happen when you fail to love your child in the midst of their troubles.

2. KEZIAH

Keziah is one of the protagonists in this play. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richards, a girl in her late teens already in the higher institution. Keziah's character is one of a focused girl who wants to study and make something meaningful of her life but being pursued by a young man named Demola. Demola makes a couple attempts to convince Keziah to be his friend and Keziah refuses his requests for a while but she later gives in and even pays him a visit.

Keziah's life took a sour turn at this point as she was charmed and raped by Demola and to add to it, she gets put in the family way.

She suffers rejection from her father and finds a solution in ending her life but fortunately her father discovers her lifeless body on the floor of her room and rushes her to the hospital.

Both Keziah and her unborn baby's life are saved and later she gives birth to a baby girl. With the help of her parents, she secures an admission in the University of Ibadan to continue her studies.

Keziah never had this as a plan for her life. She never knew that mistake of a visit to Demola's abode would start a chapter in her life she never bargained for. She didn't know that she would be robbed of her pride not to talk more of becoming a mother but gratefully, Keziah's dark cloud had a silver lining.

3. STELLA

Stella may not be the star of the play but her story is worth telling. Stella is Keziah's roommate who consoled her after she had been raped by Demola.

Stella was a lover of God till she had experience that possibly made her question God's love for her.

At fourteen, she was raped by four boys, two being the sons of the pastor her and her father had gone to visit that day. She blamed God and turned her face away but that can never fix one's problems. She got caught in the web of immorality and worsened in the university but she was brought back to her God through a dream she had and through Emmanuella too who came to witness to her about God's love for her.

Stella had a choice to make, was she going to allow the devil use her misery to make a mess of her or was she going to turn back to God and allow Him heal her.

Stella's story is an encouragement or everyone especially the abused who believe they will be in those chains forever that God can and does heal even emotional wounds.

God's son, Jesus Christ came to heal the broken hearted and set the captives free (Luke4:18).

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

1. In the first movement, Keziah was described to have newly plaited hair but in the film, she had a weave on her head as her hair do.
2. Mrs. Richards was to alight from the car to give Keziah a hug but she was already out of the car in the film version.
3. In the third movement, Ovie and Bunmi were meant to be sitting together but in the film version they were not. One of the girls was actually sitting next to Demola unlike in the play
4. In the film version, two students came in to the class late for Dr. Yusuf's lecture and were sent out by him. This was not included in the published version.
5. Also, in the third movement, Demola asked to speak with Ovie as they left the class but in the film version, both Ovie and Bunmi are involved in the conversation and the discussion takes place in the classroom.
6. In the fourth movement, Demola orders for food and finds where to sit before sighting Keziah and approaching her but in the film version, Demola is not seen doing all that before approaching Keziah.
7. In the sixth movement, Demola's room is described to have a wardrobe rack, half open, revealing hung trousers and shirts. The floor is described to be covered with black and red embroidery and the room is also decorated with a small black TV stand that houses a 21 inches plasma TV standing next to a home theatre. These descriptions are not seen in the film version of Demola's room.
8. Also in the sixth movement, Stella moves over to the window side and looks to the vacant distance before telling Keziah the story of how she was raped. This was not acted out in the film.
9. The man by the river in Stella's dream according to the book is dressed in Khaki shirt and shorts with a cap. The man in the film did not dress as such.
10. Emmanuella came to speak with Stella in her room according to the book but in the film, Stella and Emmanuella had the conversation outside where clothes were being spread.
11. In the film version, Keziah and Stella later left the room and were seen continuing their conversation outside but this was not detected in the book.
12. In the eighth movement, three blindfolded men were kneeling in the midst of the cultists but it was only two blindfolded men .
13. The ninth movement where gun shots were being heard was not included in the film version.
14. A difference is seen in the twelfth movement between the published and the film version because in the later, Stella got into the car with them unlike the former where the car drives away with Stella waving at them.
15. In the fourteenth movement, the DPO is a male and there are three apprehended cultists but in the film version the DPO is a female and there are four apprehended cultists.

16. In the fourteenth movement, the letter was in a book but in the film the letter was not inside a book. The description of the fourteenth movement has Dr. Richards and his wife sitting on the sofa but in the film, she joins him in the sitting room after a while.
17. In the sixteenth movement Mrs. Richards and Keziah were not in the kitchen preparing food before Keziah went to open the door for her father in the film like it was stated in the book.
18. Also, Mrs. Richards is not seen in the film consoling Keziah over her father's bad attitude toward her before welcoming her husband like it was in the book.
19. There is a scene in the movie where Keziah is seen laying on her bed crying and another were her mother is consoling her on her bed. This is not in the book.
20. Keziah was not found lifeless on the floor of her room as stated in the book but her father discovered her body still around the sitting room area.
21. In the book, Demola's mother, Mrs Diran is alive and was with her husband when K.K was making his confessions but in the film version, She is dead.
22. Keziah's daughter is named Mouritha in the book but she is named Heritage in the film version.