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MATRICULATION NUMBER: 22/LAW01/218

COLLEGE: LAW

COURSE CODE: AFE 122

COURSE TITLE: USE OF ENGLISH

ASSIGNMENT

ANSWER TO QUESTION ONE

INCISIVE INTERROGATION OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR'S 'GOOD MORNING, SODOM'

The play 'Good Morning, Sodom' is a realistic portrayal of the moral decadence that pervades tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The play revolves around the lives of some students of Mayflower University, chiefly two second-year undergraduate students, Keziah Richards and Demola Diran, both of whom are students of the department of English. Both their lives are negatively affected by social issues that have an impact on the lives of university students like negative peer influence, lack of adequate attention from parents, substance abuse and drug use, cultism, and carnal sexual urge. Keziah's life is altered when she gets pregnant after Demola rapes her when she goes to his apartment to get his help with an assignment. While, Demola loses his life after he joins a cult group called 'Red Shadows' and he is killed during a clash with a rival cult group.

There are various thematic thrusts engaged in the drama. Some of them are: *the theme of moral decadence in universities, the theme of negative peer influence, the theme of lack of adequate parental care and attention, the theme of brutish sexual urge and desires, and the theme of the consequences of cultism.*

A major theme illustrated in the play is **the theme of moral decadence in universities**. The entire play is full of instances that portray the high level of immortality in higher institutions. For instance, in the first movement, when Keziah's mum comes to visit her and she asks her about her roommates, Keziah tells her about how the rest of her roommates apart from Stella live deplorable lifestyles. Another event that greatly buttresses this theme is when Demola rapes Keziah in the sixth movement. The theme is also portrayed by the use of drugs by Demola and his friends and the activities of cult groups in the university. The high rate of immortality in the university also results in the rustication and expulsion of multiple students for various misconducts including examination malpractice, gross misconduct, violation of matriculation oath, and engagement in anti-social vices.

Another theme illustrated in the play is **the theme of negative peer influence**. At the outset of the play, Keziah is a principled and disciplined student who resists the constant advances Demola makes on her, but later, due to pressure from Ovie and Bunmi, two of her coursemates she becomes less hard on him. This inadvertently results in her going to his apartment alone to

get his help with an assignment, after which he charms and rapes her. Demola is also a victim of negative peer influence from his friends K.K. and Bentol. K.K. convinces Demola to move out of the hostel to an apartment in town and he also introduces him to drug use. Both of Demola's friends also encourage him to rape Keziah and they give him a handkerchief to use to charm her. They also introduce him into their cult group, 'Red Shadows', after which K.K. accidentally shoots and kills Demola during a clash with a rival group.

Another theme in the drama is **the theme of lack of adequate parental care and attention**. This is exhibited by Keziah's father, Dr Richards, and Demola's parents, Engineer and Mrs Diran. Keziah's father seems to be less involved in her life than her mother, as in the first movement, when her mother comes to see her in school, she asks where her dad is and her mother says he was unable to make it. Keziah is saddened and her mum tries to pacify her and tells her that her dad has promised to get her a gift. Also, Dr Richards displays a lack of adequate parental care through his brutal and unloving attitude towards Keziah after he discovers that she is pregnant, rather providing succour to her for being raped. Demola's parents also exhibit a lack of adequate parental care and attention by only ensuing his financial and material well-being without monitoring his activities, ensuring his psychological well-being or providing guidance to him, and this results in him being misguided by his friends.

Another theme in the play is **the theme of brutish sexual urge and desires**. The drama highlights the evil that is rape and the effects it has on its victims. Demola betrays Keziah's trust by using a charm on her to make her unconscious and then raping her. This results in severe emotional distress for her and she misses school for a week. She also later discovers that she is pregnant and her education is cut short. The pregnancy also ruins her relationship with her father and the pain leads to her attempting suicide. Her attempt is however unsuccessful as she is discovered by her father who rushes her to the hospital. Another character in the play who is a victim of rape is Keziah's roommate, Stella, who was raped at fourteen by her pastor's sons, Daniel and Tosin, and two of their friends. The event was emotionally traumatising for her and although her family later relocated, the damage had already been done, leading to her becoming promiscuous and developing a hatred for God.

Lastly, another theme engaged in the drama is **the theme of the consequences of cultism**. Demola is lured into the 'Red Shadows' confraternity by two of his friends, Nkanga Nwoko, alias K.K., and Usman Yibo, alias Bentol. However, during Demola's first operation with the group, which is a clash with a rival cult group called 'The Sparrows' who killed two members of Red Shadows, he is accidentally shot by K.K. and he dies. Keziah's roommate, Stella, sees Demola's corpse in front of the school gate and she calls Keziah to see it. Keziah however, passes out after she sees the corpse and she begins to bleed. In addition to being expelled from the university, some of the other cultists are apprehended by the police and they are prosecuted in court. While the rest of the accused persons are sentenced to two years in prison and fined, K.K. is sentenced to life imprisonment, and his mother, Mrs Nkanga, a struggling widow, collapses after hearing the verdict.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION TWO

**DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSES OF CHARACTERS IN SOLOMON A.
EDEBOR'S 'GOOD MORNING, SODOM'**

One of the characters in the play is **Keziah Richards**, a second-year undergraduate student of the department of English in Mayflower University. She is a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady in her late teens. Her parents are Dr Aworawo Richards and Mrs Joke Richards. She is disciplined, studious and focused. She is also principled and is critical of the immoral lifestyle that some of her roommates lead and she is resistant to the incessant romantic advances that one of her coursemates, Demola makes on her. She is however influenced by the opinions of two of her coursemates that she is being too hard on him which results in him taking advantage of her by raping her. After the incident, she is grief-stricken and regrets going against her principles, and she later tells Demola that she hates him and says that their paths should never cross again. She is however panic-stricken when she sees Demola's corpse and she passes out and begins to bleed. Keziah discovers she is pregnant, to her surprise and she is devastated by the fact that she has disappointed her parents. She quits school due to the pregnancy and she is highly affected by the negative effect that the sequence of events have had on her relationship with her father. She is tortured by the thought that she has hurt and embarrassed her parents and the pain and regret push her to attempt suicide. She is however discovered by her father who rushes her to the hospital and both she and her fetus survive, and the incident helps to restore her relationship with her father. She and her parents eventually meet with Demola's parents, and she is shocked to find out from them that he charmed her. Keziah later safely gives birth to a girl, Mouritha and she also gets the opportunity to continue her education from 200 level in the University of Ibadan.

Another character in the play is **Demola Diran**, a second-year undergraduate student of the department of English in Mayflower University. He is a tall, dark and handsome young man from a wealthy home and his parents are Engineer and Mrs Diran. Demola is naive, gullible and easily influenced by his friends because he seeks guidance and validation elsewhere since his parents only ensure his financial and material welfare but do not ensure his psychological and moral well-being. Although sometimes he is reluctant to do the things his friends suggest, he eventually accepts their proposals. Demola is influenced by his friend K.K. to move out of the school's accommodation to an apartment off campus. He is also influenced to go into drug use. He has a romantic interest in one of his coursemates, Keziah, and he constantly makes advances towards

her to get her to accept his feelings but she always turns him down. He eventually uses an assignment as bait to get her to come to his house and his friends K.K. and Bentol give him a magic handkerchief that he can use to charm and then rape her. He is skeptical of the idea at first since he is in love with her but he eventually agrees. After he carries out his plan, he feels remorseful and tries to apologise to Keziah but he is bemused when she doesn't accept his apology. He is influenced by his friends to join the 'Red Shadows' confraternity and during his first operation with the group, which is a clash with a rival cult group called 'The Sparrows' who killed two members of Red Shadows, he is accidentally shot by K.K. Before he dies, he gives a picture of his parents to K.K. and tells him to tell them how sorry he is.

Another character in the drama is **Stella**. She is an undergraduate student of Mayflower University and she is one of Keziah's roommates. She is a twenty-one year old, decent young lady. Stella comforts Keziah after she is raped by Demola and she shares her experience of how she was raped at fourteen. Stella was raped in turns by her pastor's sons, Daniel and Tosin, and two of their friends. The boys were arrested but her parents were persuaded against pressing charges, so her family later relocated because her parents felt it would provide relief for her. She had however, already been damaged by the incident and this led to her becoming promiscuous and developing a hatred for God. After she got into the university, she had a dream where a man told her to come to him and get fine apparels and due to the nature of the dream, she woke up shell-shocked and as she was contemplating the dream, one of her floor mates came to her room to tell her that God had sent her to her but she told her to leave her room. She had a modified version of the same dream less than a month later and after she woke up, she gave her life to Jesus. Stella is now a dedicated Christian and a disciplined young lady. She is also a good friend and a source of support to Keziah. When she sees Demola's corpse in front of the school gate, she calls Keziah because she feels that Keziah might want to see it. She is in tears when Keziah passes out and is in distress while she is in the hospital with her. She also contacts Keziah's mother to inform her of what happened, and she embraces Keziah and waves as she leaves with her parents, showing that she is fond of her.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION THREE

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

There are various points of divergence between the published version and the film version of 'Good Morning, Sodom', and these help to provide a measure of contrast between the two versions. Some significant differences between both versions of the work are highlighted below.

One difference between the two versions is the explicit mentioning of the school's location. In the published version, the location of the university in the play, Mayflower University, is not stated. While in the film version, stated after the beginning credits is 'Mayflower University, Ugbabor, Nigeria', and later in the movie, on the notice stating the names of expelled and rusticated students, it is seen that the University is located in Delta State.

A second difference between both versions can be seen during Dr Yusuf's lecture. In the published version, in the third movement, while Dr Yusuf lectures the class, there is no interruption to the lecture by any students. While in the film version, Dr Yusuf's lecture is interrupted by two students who come into the class while the lecture is going on and he sends them out before continuing his lecture.

A third difference between both versions is the specification of the amount of time that passes between when Keziah's coursemates criticise her attitude towards Demola and her going to his room. While in the published version, the amount of time that passes between the events of the fifth and sixth movements is not mentioned, in the film version, the scene of Keziah in Demola's room begins with the notice, 'three weeks later'.

A fourth difference between the two versions can be seen in some comments made by Demola to Keziah while she is in his room. In the published version, in the sixth movement, Demola compliments Keziah's phone after he sees it and asks her whether it is an Android or Apple device, to which she responds, 'It's Apple.' However, in the film version, although Demola compliments Keziah's phone, he does not ask about the make of the phone.

A fifth difference is evident in the conversation between Demola and Keziah after he uses his handkerchief to clean her face while she is in his room. In the published version, he asks her to say

‘thank you’, and she smiles and sips her drink while she grants his request. While in the film version, after his request, she says ‘thank you’ with an attitude of annoyance.

A sixth difference is evident in Stella, Keziah’s roommate’s narration of her past experiences. In the published version, after Stella wakes up from a shocking dream, she is sitting on her bed contemplating the dream when her floor mate, Emmanuella knocks on the door and comes in to pass a message to her from God. While, in the film version, Emmanuella approaches Stella while she is taking down her laundry that she hung out to dry, to pass the message.

A seventh difference between the two versions can be seen in the location where Stella narrates her experiences to Keziah. In the published version, both of them are in their room as Stella tells her story, while in the film version, they can be seen walking around the school as Stella speaks.

An eighth difference can be seen during the initiation ceremony of the ‘Red Shadows’ cult group. In the published version, in the eighth movement, Demola is one of the new members being initiated. However, in the film version, during the initiation ceremony, Demola is seen to already be a member of the confraternity, rather than a new initiate.

A ninth difference can be seen in the scene where Keziah is discharged from the hospital. In the published version, in the twelfth movement, Keziah is taken home from the hospital by both her parents, while in the film version, she is taken home from the hospital by just her mother and her driver.

A tenth difference between the two versions can be seen where two police officers take some of the apprehended cultists to the DPO. In the published version, in the thirteenth movement, there are three apprehended cultists in the custody of the police, while in the film version, there are four apprehended cultists in the custody of the police.

An eleventh difference between the published version and the film version can be seen in the scene where Keziah is summoned by her father. In the fourteenth movement of the published version, both Dr Richards, Keziah’s father, and Mrs Richards, Keziah’s mother are seated on a sofa in the lounge and when Keziah comes in, she sits down. However, in the film version, it is only Dr Richards who is seated on the sofa, while his wife comes in later, during his conversation with Keziah. Also, unlike in the published version, Keziah stands throughout the scene.

A twelfth difference between both versions of the work is the scene where Keziah weeps in her bed, due to her father’s antagonistic attitude towards her, and is comforted by her mother. While it is not in the published version, the film version features a scene of Keziah’s mother consoling her and telling her that her father loves her.

A thirteenth difference is evident in the courtroom trial. The published version features arguments by both the prosecution counsel and the defence counsel, while the film version does not.

A fourteenth difference between both versions can be seen while the judge’s verdict is being given. While in the published version, Nkanga Nwoko is the only accused person whose name is mentioned, in the film version, the names of the other accused persons are mentioned.

A fifteenth difference can be seen in the scene where Keziah's father discovers her suicide note and her unconscious self. In the published version, in the eighteenth movement, Dr Richards sees Keziah's suicide note when he picks up the remote to switch off the television after he comes out of his room with a file, and after reading the note, he finds Keziah unconscious on the floor of her room. While in the film version, Dr Richards sees Keziah's note when he picks up the remote to switch off the television after he comes into the house, and after reading the note, he finds Keziah unconscious on the floor of the living room.

A sixteenth difference between both versions is the visit to Agobi Prison by Demola's parents, Engineer and Mrs Diran, to see K.K. (Nkanga Nwoko). While it takes place in the nineteenth movement in the published version, it does not appear as such an individual scene in the film version. Rather, in the film version, it appears as a flashback scene when Demola's father narrates the events of the visit to Keziah and her parents when they come to see him.

A seventeenth difference between the published version and the film version is that while in the published version, both of Demola's parents survived, in the film version, Demola's mother dies.

An eighteenth difference between both versions is that while the published version features Keziah in the labour room, the film version features her going into labour at home and being taken to the hospital by her mother.

Lastly, a nineteenth difference between the two versions is that while in the published version, Keziah's daughter is named Mouritha, in the film version, her daughter is named Heritage Demola-Diran.