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### **Assignment 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 a detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom.

### **Assignment Answers**

#### **Thematic Thrusts**

Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom is an exhilarating book written to disclose to the causes of some prolonged barbarism that has been a problem in the country's campuses. Lack of adequate parental care and monitoring, negative peer influence and the inability of the constituted authorities to take decisive steps towards curbing the menace.

It also provides solutions to what authorities in higher institutions of learning could do to bridle criminal tendencies on the part of students, particularly cultism, prostitution, taking of hard drugs and other anti-social vices; what roles parents ought to play in the lives of their children or wards; and what cultural values students should inculcate so as to succeed in their academic pursuits.

Good Morning, Sodom is a book that contains a lot of thematic thrusts which include;

- Lack of adequate parenting and monitoring in the lives of youths
- Negative peer influence

- Inability of the constituted authorities to take decisive steps towards curbing the menace
- The traditional belief that a child with good character is the father's and the child with bad character is the mother's
- The negative effect of not forgiving a child mistakes as a parent

### **Lack of adequate parenting and monitoring in the lives of youths**

Every child needs emotional and physical support, it could be in form of asking them if they are okay, periodical hugs, assurance that you are there not just taking care of their financial needs

All these were lacking in the life of Demola who is the second main character of the drama. His parents work hard in order to provide all their only child Demola needs. They get him everything he asks without questioning him as they believe that is the only way to make him happy and they do not even have the time to ask. This is proven by his friend K.K who is supposedly the one that mistakenly kills him.

K.K informs Demola's parents of how he tricks him into leaving the hostel for town as he realized his parents would never notice. From there he introduces Demola into drugs and also encouraged him to rape a female course mate (Keziah) whom he was in love with and was proving stubborn.

Mr and Mrs Diran realize their fatal mistake as they also had a hand in his death. Indirectly they "handed him over for the inglorious death he suffered."

### **Negative peer influence**

Negative peer influence is one of the problems facing the lives of the youth as they always want to feel they belong among their peers. The effect of negative peer influence can be seen in the lives of both Keziah and Demola in the book.

When it comes to Keziah, the author describes her as a very responsible child of her parents who avoided anything that could tarnish her reputation. She is very adamant to the antics of Demola and was doing very well but her friends decide to pressure her time in the 'fifth movement' until she gives in. Keziah deciding to listen to her friends was the beginning of her problems.

The other aspect is in Demola's life. Demola makes unknowingly with cultists, K.K and Bentol influence him badly as seen in the 'seventh movement' by introducing

to drugs, advising him to rape the girl he is interested in (Keziah) and then initiating him in their cult group. It is all these that leads to his sad death.

### **Inability of constituted authorities to take decisive steps toward curbing the menace.**

It is no news that most of the campuses in the nation have become a harbor for dangerous and immoral activities such as taking of hard drugs, prostitution and particularly cultism.

The school authorities should ensure they flush the campuses in every corner of all these activities to ensure it is a conducive study environment for the youth. They ought to strengthen those groups that fight against them and also encourage them in their goals, it could be in terms of financial needs or voluntary help. They should educate the student on the dangers of these things, provide adequate security on the campus and punish those who refuse to listen severely.

### **The traditional belief that a child with good character is the father's and the child with bad character is the mother's**

In most places it is believed that children that bring favor to their family's name is the father's while those that only bring disappointment and shame is the mothers. This example can be seen in the attitude of Keziah's father Dr. Richards, Mrs Richards forgives her daughter's mistakes and tries to support her while he ignores Keziah's existence.

This can be seen in the 'sixteenth movement' where Keziah goes to welcome her father who just comes back from work but he only looks at her disdainfully and ignores her, this leaves Keziah disheartened. Mrs Richards is unhappy with her husband's attitude and tries to tell him that she is their daughter. Dr. Richards immediately refuses his position as Keziah's father as she "ceased to be my daughter that very day she brought shame on this family with that thing in her womb, which you willfully accepted!"

### **The negative effect of not forgiving a child's mistake as a parent**

Yes, it is true that children make mistakes that can destroy their lives, but it is the duty of parents to forgive them and help them back to their feet.

Dr. Richards did not understand this and treated his daughter like a 'rag', even after her and her mother's pleading he refuses to forgive her and even goes as far as disowning her. This act of his only increases Keziah's pain and depression which leads her to trying to commit suicide, she would have succeeded if not for God's grace and love for her and her parents. Keziah survives and Dr. Richards learns his mistake, forgives his daughter and also asks for her forgiveness which finally mends the broken family.

### **Character Analyses**

#### **Keziah**

Keziah is a medium height, slightly round, fair young lady evidently in her late teens. Keziah is portrayed as a responsible daughter of her parents (Mr and Mrs Richards) and takes her studies seriously, she is very hardworking and does not indulge herself in unnecessary activities on campus.

The writer implies that she refuses every advances of Demola and continues to focus on herself and her studies. She is later swayed by her friends and Demola's persistence and ends up raped, she regrets her actions and never forgives Demola. Keziah's school life is delayed as she faces shame because of her pregnancy, her father also does not give her emotional support as she is carrying a dead cultist's child.

Keziah tries to kill herself but she is saved by her father, her parents revive her emotionally and she finally gets back on her feet. Keziah is later able to go back to school. This creates another door to a new life.

#### **Demola**

Demola is a tall, dark, handsome, young man, an only son of a rich family (Mr and Mrs Diran). The writer shows that he is in love with his fellow course mate Keziah, he does not hide this fact as he tries very hard to gain her attention.

Demola is a neglected child that has all his monetary needs taken care of, because of this fact he becomes a victim of negative peer influence. He is indulged in taking illegal drugs and is swayed into drugging and raping the girl he loves (Keziah). He is also initiated into a cult group by his friends K.K and Bentol which later leads to his demise as K.K mistakenly kills him.

## **Stella**

Stella is a friend to Keziah, she is the that tries to console her and tells her she would be fine. She narrates her own ordeal of how she is raped by four boys which included the pastor's son in the pastor's house.

She goes on to explain how her life took a horrible turn as she wallowed in sin, indulging herself in all sought of immoral things. Stella's story took an interesting turn of how Jesus visits her in her dream portraying himself as one who would save her from drowning but Stella soon ignores even after Emmanuella told her of God's message to her. She continues with her wayward lifestyle and she gets another dream, it is identical to the first but it was not only a savior but also a hunter who tries to drown her. She concludes her story by stating the fact that she accepted Jesus and everything settles then, she encourages Keziah that everything will be fine.

We also see Stella in the tenth movement as she is the one that informs Keziah about the scene where Keziah finds Demola's dead body.

## **Point of Divergence Between the Book and the Movie Good Morning, Sodom.**

In this question, we are asked to examine the points of divergence between the published and the filmed version of GOOD MORNING, SODOM. We will study the divergence movement by movement.

### **First movement**

In the first movement we can see in both the published and the filmed version of the book that Mrs Richards comes to visit Keziah. They joyfully exchange pleasantries, apologizes for her father's absence, Mrs Richards advises Keziah to be good, gives her provisions and some money then leaves

The only major difference between the book and the movie is the fact that the book describes Keziah as fair but she is a dark complexioned lady in the movie.

## **Second movement**

In the second movement, we are made to understand in the book that Demola and Keziah meet outside, argue about Demola's want for a relationship, then Keziah refuses the conversation ends outside where they meet. WHILE

In the movie they also meet outside but Demola follows her to the library after their pleasantries. They continue their discussion in the library where Demola tries to persuade her to be his friend but she refuses and she leaves.

## **Third movement**

In the third movement we see a lecturer, Dr. Yusuf who is engrossed in his oral literature

In the book, we see he is enjoying his teaching about Eurocentric scholars. He gives hints about how students can pass well before he ends his class, but in the movie, he is distracted by some late students, who he sends out and continues his class.

Another difference is the fact that in the book, Demola approaches Keziah's friends Ovie and Bunmi but he speaks with just Ovie privately, asking about Keziah, but in the movie, he speaks with both ladies about Keziah's sudden absence.

## **Sixth movement**

This is the next movement where we see another divergence. Three weeks later, Keziah is now in Demola's apartment, he offers her refreshments and engages in small talks.

In this movement, we see that in the book, Demola's apartment is well furnished with a medium-sized fridge, 21-inch plasma TV next to a home theater, there are also posters of renowned American musicians and a wardrobe rack wide open. While in the movie, we do not see most of these things mentioned.

Next, Demola drugs Keziah through his handkerchief then she wakes up to find herself in the bed with Demola. The book says her clothes are on the chair where she once sat but in the movie the clothes were on the bed. She also slaps Demola in the movie but it is not mentioned in the book.

Keziah is in the company of Stella who tries to console her, she then in the book moves closer to the window to tell her own story but in the movie she is still seated on the bed with Keziah.

The difference is where she had a dream in the book, after her first dream, the book states that a lady, Emmanuella comes to try to bring her to salvation but in the movie it goes straight to her drying clothe then Emmanuella comes to see her.

Also in the book Keziah and Stella stay in the room while she tells her story, while in the movie they are seen taking a walk. After the second dream, where she wakes up, in the book Mmaobi taps Stella awake, while in the movie, she calls her name.

This scene in the book ends with Stella consoling her while she turns to the wall and sobs uncontrollably. In the movie, the scene end with Stella just telling her everything will be okay, her tears had long dried.

### **Seventh movement**

In the seventh movement, Demola tries to seek Keziah's forgiveness but to no avail. The next scene shows him and K.K, the only difference in this movement is that K.K is said to be on his feet before he is forced to sit by Demola's behavior but in the movie, K.K had been seated.

### **Eight movement**

Here we see a group of boys cladded in red t-shirt and black beret. It is about an initiation ritual of new members. The book states that K.K is the one to bring the concoction for the initiation but in the movie, it is just one of the cult members who is unknown.

In the book Jumo is the one to remove the blindfolds on the faces of the new members but the movie shows that K.K is the one to remove the folds. Another difference is that the book states that Demola is part of the new members but in the movie, Demola is already a part of them.

### **Tenth movement**

the scene shows people gathered around a dead body which we find out is Demola's. The difference here is there's a wailing lady, tugging Demola's body in the movie while in book there is none.

Another one is that in the book, when Keziah sees Demola's dead body, she collapses a few distance away from the body causing more disturbance but in the movie, Keziah faints near the dead body. She did not even touch the ground before she is carried and rushed to the hospital.

### **Eleventh movement**

In the eleventh movement, Keziah is in the hospital, Stella calls Mrs Richards.

The only difference here is that in the movie, we do not see any hospital attendant engaging in different activities moving up and down as stated in the book and there are no tears in Mrs Richards eyes.

### **Twelfth movement**

Keziah is discharged. In the book Stella briefly embraces Keziah and waves at the leaving car, while in the movie, Stella helps Keziah to the car alongside Mrs Richards and still joins them in the car.

### **Thirteenth movement**

This scene shows the police station where the other cult members are brought in to the DPO. The only divergence here is that the DPO in the movie is a man while the DPO in the book is a woman.

### **Fourteenth movement**

The fourteenth shows the Keziah I home with her parents. She finds out she is pregnant from her disappointed dad.

In the book Keziah's parents are seated, while in the movie we see only Dr. Richards, Mrs Richards comes in later in the movie.

### **Fifteenth movement**

In the fifteenth movement, the expulsion notice is on the notice board. The difference here is in the book Nonso and Zuwaira speak a bit before checking the notice board and contemplated on the topic for a while before deciding to forget it and go for lecture.

In the movie, the notice board is shown immediately and the scene about Nonso and Zuwaira talking ends before they speak about their next lecture.



### **Sixteenth movement**

Here, we are back in the Richard's house. In the book, Keziah is seen preparing food with her mom in the kitchen before she goes to welcome her dad who ignores her. In the movie there is no kitchen scene.

Another difference is that in the book Keziah is eaves dropping, but in the movie, Keziah the scene is not shown but the scene of her mom consoling her later.

### **Eighteenth movement**

The court is brought into shown in this scene. The judge is to give his verdict concerning the rest of the cult members.

In the book there is a lot of argument (lengthy argument) from the prosecution and the defense council, but in the movie, they go straight to the point, with only one or two sentences from the lawyers. And the criminals are punished accordingly

### **Twentieth movement**

Keziah is back home, her father apologizes to her and her mother Mrs Richards, and the family is once again united.

The only difference here is in the book, Keziah is said to be in bed, while in the movie she is on the sofa.

### **Twenty-first movement**

In the twenty first movement, Mr and Mrs Diran come to visit the Richards family. They are deeply embarrassed and sorry for all that had happened.

In the book Mr Diran relates their visit to jail concerning their son's friend K.K. in the book there is a flashback to where K.K is trying to convince Demola to rape Keziah.

The difference is that movement twenty-one in the movie, while in the book, they are separated.

### **Twenty-second movement**

It is in the twenty-second movement Keziah gives birth. The divergence here is, Keziah is already in the labor room while in the movie they show her mom trying to take her to the hospital before they show the hospital scene.

Another difference is that in the book we see Keziah in the labor room and they even speak about surgery, her parents are even trying to calm themselves down as they are very anxious. In the movie they go straight to the point, the family welcomes a granddaughter.

### **Twenty-third movement**

There is a huge difference here as in the book, the story continues with a happy family and Keziah gets a better life, through her parents support she is able to go back to school and still take care of Mouritha her daughter. In the movie, they end the movie in the hospital and only narrate the rest of the movie, the name of Keziah's daughter is also very different, in the movie, her name is Heritage DEMOL-Diran, while in the book, she is Mouritha.

### **Note**

The movements not mentioned in the write-up is as a result of the fact that I see no basic difference between the published and filmed version of GOOD MORNING, SODOM.