

**Name: OCHAYI, Ochanya Precious**

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

## **THEMES IN GOOD MORNING, SODOM**

### **A) THEME OF PEER INFLUENCE/PRESSURE:**

Peer influence has always had its impact on the society. Sometimes, this influence can either be in a positive way or negative way it just depends on the "hands" you fall in. Peer influence stimulates peoples interests into doing something in order for them to belong or for them to get accepted by their peers. Some people get influenced in a negative as a result of lack of love or affection from people around them.

In the case of the students in **Mayflower University**, Most of these influence aren't in a much of a positive way. Social vices such as the use of hard drugs, cultism, alcoholic drinking e.t.c.. These are very common in the society and it has found its way in various higher institutions and this has been endangering the lives of the victims and families as a whole. This "negative" influence led Keziah to fall into Demola trap.

**Demola**, a 200 level student of this institution as a result of lack of listening ears from his parents fell into the hands of negative influence which later resulted into his death. As we already know, Demola lacked "parental care" and followed in the path of self destruction. Solomon.A.Edebor's Good Morning,Sodom emphasizes more on this theme and how it can be curbed. The book serves as an eye opener to the other part of peer pressure the society has neglected and how it has downgraded the lives of its victims. Demola's parents believed that if a child is financially stable or protected by his parents wealth such child won't lack but they forgot about their sense of duty both psychologically and physically this led Demola to becoming a **cultist**.

Cultism, in higher institutions leads to the loss of lives, damages to school properties. It instills fear in students, cuts the lives of students short, disruption in academic activities and violence of social in-stability. Students in higher institutions sees cultism as a "**deadly disease**" or more than a deadly disease that causes terror and physical and psychological health problems.

Keziah, on the other hand also a very wealthy child loved by both her parents and well focused in her studies. At first, she did not want to fall a **prey** in the hands of demola despite the fact that her roommates tried to persuade her to give Demola a chance.She still stood her ground until she finally gave in to the wicked **plot** of demola and his friend K.K. Demola became a cultist and ended up getting shot by his friend in the feud between **Red shadows and The sparrows**. Keziah became an "object of ridicule" as she got pregnant.

The drama depicts a type of awareness for students to ensure that they are informed about their surroundings and what's going on in the society. Demola loved Keziah dearly but his friend **K.K( Nkanga Nwoko)** led him astray ".....we had perfected our strategy before the lady arrived, and everything went as planned....." (Pg 71) Demola was on drugs and He drugged her and she got raped which got her pregnant. Even though, the students tried to manipulate their ways with the government and law enforcement agency. They were still giving a fair judgement. The inability for government or constituted authorities to take a decisive step or judgement to ensure fairness of the crimes committed. Demola dined with the darkness and that cost him his life, Keziah education was held due to her pregnancy, K.K and other cultist students were sent to prison with sentence or the other. Engineer and Mrs Diran lost their only child due to their negligence but got another offspring instead. Keziah's parents had no choice but to bear in the pains of their only child. These are all the effects of peer pressure or influence in this play.

## **(2) THEME OF RAPE/ SEXUAL VIOLENCE:**

**Rape** is a common phenomenon and occurs worldwide with pernicious consequences particularly when it occurs to the young. Rape that occurs in a higher institution is often called **CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT**. Rape causes breakdown in one's mental and psychological health and often downgrades the "greener pasture" that leads to one's success.

Rape, is one of the important themes in the play. Stella, a well devoted Christian who goes for devotion with her father and believed in God lost her faith in God as a result of RAPE. Her experience in the cold hands of rape was brutal and rash. She was raped at the age of fourteen, A fourteen year old child who knew nothing about the world of "men" but was forcefully deflowered and rushed into the world of sexual gratification.. Stella was raped by four men, ".....The four of them overpowered me and raped me in turns....."(pg 32). She was raped by the so called "**CHILDREN OF GOD**". Her parents felt that relocating will help her have some respite but the deed had already been done. Her life was no longer the same.

Stella almost took the wrong path if not because of her constant "dreams" with God trying to save her and turn her a new leaf. Stella tells her story to Keziah who got raped by Demola due to his evil plot. Keziah, a child so focused on her education got raped by Demola who claimed that he was in love Keziah and he was high on drugs and his friend planned with him to drug Keziah so he could have his ways with her. According to K.K, Keziah is a student proving to be stubborn so they planned ".....we had perfected our strategy before the lady arrived....."( pg 71). Demola felt remorse about his actions later but what has happened has happened.

Trials and fair justice should be given to the victims of rape no matter the setting or how it happened. Stella's parents were supposed to press charges against the children that raped Stella but they got persuaded by the church while Keziah's education was stopped she almost lost her life and she had a baby due to Rape.

## **3) THEME OF INJUSTICE:**

Injustice is said to be very common as fair judgements are not given by law enforcement agencies or for constituted authorities to take decisive steps. The writer is very keen to his environment and he has noticed injustice as one of the important theme in the play. Good Morning, Sodom. The play serves as a life transforming experiences for both the students of Mayflower university and their parents

but it also teaches the outside world and help us to know more about what is happening in higher institutions.

After K.K(Nkanga Nwoko) got arrested for the murder of his friend Demola, The court and Constitution states that “anyone or person who commits the offense of murder shall be sentenced to death” but in K. K case he pleaded guilty but his plea of guilt is a show of remorse and that the judge should temper justice with remorse “.....what greater punishment could there be.....” (pg 60) They claimed that he is the only and long awaited bread winner expected to be the light at the end of his mother’s tunnel which is not to be so. Engineer Diran and his wife also lost their only son to the wrong hands of death as a result of peer group influence. “Let justice be done through the heavens fall” was what was said because the guilty showed remorse.

Another instance in the play was after stella got raped and her parents tried to press charges but instead were persuaded by the church to forgive the boys that raped her. This being said is that no matter the gathering be it religious or in the court of law. A fair judgement should be given because one way or the other the victims already lost something. Demola lost his life while stella fell into the hands of sexual gratification but was later saved.

#### **4) LACK OF PARENTAL CARE:**

The number one thing a child wants and needs in this world is love and care from their parents but if that is not received such child result to other things that can provide them the love and care their parents did not give them such was the case of Demola.

Demola, a wealthy child whose parents are ready to go the skies to ensure they bring enough riches just so their child doesn’t lack in any way financially was introduced to drugs and cultism and it resulted to his death. His so called friend K.K influenced him in ways that we can not comprehend.

He made him drug keziah so he could have his ways with her even after he felt remorse K.K gave him drugs and told him to forget about it as long as he enjoyed himself, he made him dine with the “devils” by drinking blood to join a cult group which he later died even after demola died K.K did not feel guilty but instead wanted a reduced judgement. Demola’s parents did not realize until it was too late and there was no turning back. “..... we handed him over for the inglorious death he suffered.....”(pg 71)They regretted never questioning their child could actually bring the truth and probably there wont have lost him. Till his death, he always loved his parents and he asked for their forgiveness.

Keziah whose parents loved her moon and back still tried to commit suicide because she felt she was a disappointment to her parents because of what she brought home but she later got accepted by them.

The writer of this play tries to emphasize more on the love a parents can give their child and that serves as a motivation for them to be the best. There is nothing better than a parent’s love to their world just as the child serves as a joy to their world

#### **5) THEME OF SODOM:**

Right from the start sodom has always been described as a place of **vice and corruption**. Sodom in its allusion was a city that God destroyed alongside Gomorrah for being a city that was punished because of their sexual behavior. Sodom mostly leads to a doom of a person and there is no turning back

point once one reaches its doom

The author uses SODOM, to refer to **Mayflower university** as it was a school that was already corrupted by the anti social vices of the world. At first, it started calmly until it got worse that it resulted to the end of the lives of its students and many other more atrocities. Anti-social in higher institutions have gotten worse by time and now it spoils a school's reputation and parents own as well.

**GOOD MORNING, SODOM** Means the rise to doom but this doom starts slowly but ends faster. Keziah, a focused 200level student who wanted to make her parents proud no matter the situation at hand got deceived by Demola and got pregnant. She tries to give him a chance but instead she met her end. She tried to prevent this from happening in many ways, not listening to her friends despite their advices, turning him down despite his advances and constant pressurization.

A lot of students of Mayflower University met their doom. Demola, was introduced to drugs due to the negligence of his parents then he moved out of campus then he joined cultism, he rolled with the devils just because he feel into the wrong influence and that cost him his life. K.K(Nkanga Nwoko) a 400Level student who introduced demola into the wrong path also met his doom and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Many other students all had one way or other with doom some got saved while some fell in its trap.

Just the way God washed away the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Bible was also the same way the offenders were arrested and given their judgments one way or the other. They were made to live with consequences of their actions.

## **2) Attempt a detailed character analysis of any three characters in Solomon.A.Edebor Good Morning Sodom.**

### **1) Keziah;**

Keziah is the main protagonist in the play. She is the only child of Dr. Aworowo Richards and Mrs Richards. She encountered a lot of events in the drama. Her life is totally the definition of everything you need from a child especially a daughter in an African society. She is 200level English Language in Mayflower university. Her life had a rollercoaster of events but no matter how it rolls it just had to stop that was how Keziah life is. She is a victim of the increased anti social vices in higher institutions because of this she became a victim of rape.

Just like in every African society, a girl must not do anything that will bring shame to her parents or any form of embarrassment to herself.

Keziah Richards a child born with a silver spoon, not knowing anything about poverty or misery. She is described as a medium height, slightly round, pretty and fair young lady. She is always in a cheerful and she is loved by her parents. She focuses on her education and does everything in her way to make her parents proud but the only thing that spoilt this her already built plan was Demola.

Keziah is a determined, intelligent, she minds her business and she maintains her lane. She is not proud like what they believe most rich children are. She stands her ground. She knows how to confront people and speak her truth at all times.

Demola, a student just like keziah showed his interest in her. She tried many ways to turn his advances down. Despite the fact, that her friends( ovie and Bunmi) told her to give Demola a chance she did not do such thing but continued to focus on her studies. At first, the friendship started off as friendly and he was caring always asking her friends about her if she doesn't come for class e.t.c. She is lured by demola, who drugged her and raped her. A student who came to study in a friend's house became a victim of RAPE. It was after the event of her tragedy that her life changed.

She experienced the joys of motherhood. She carried a child and birthed a child. She also faced humiliation. Her parents especially her dad did not believe her that she got raped. He felt that she was those wayward children of the “world”. She attempted to commit suicide to kill both her and the child. She forgave Demola even after his death. What we can’t say is whether she was in love with Demola or not but she had his child. Due to her pregnancy and shame she could not continue in Mayflower University. After she gave birth she started in a new life in a different university with her child. Keziah life may have started bad but it definitely had a happy ending.

## **2) DEMOLA:**

Diran Demola is another major character in the play Good Morning, Sodom . He is a 200 level undergraduate studying English Language. He is the only child of Engineer Diran and Mrs. Diran and he is described in the play as a tall, dark, handsome, young man. He was introduced into a cult, He is said to have dined with the devils by drinking his fellow “human” blood all in the name of being in a cult group. He belonged to the **RED SHADOWS CONFRATERNITY**..He serves as a big influence in what happened throughout the play. He first starts off as a “chaser” by following Keziah, his fellow course mate around telling her he liked her however she was not interested at his advances. At first, it started off as a genuine feeling and something pure but as a result of his friend influence who introduced him to drugs and advised him to drug Keziah so he could have his way with her. He later regrets his actions and acts for forgiveness but it was too late as the deed had already been done. Demola got influenced due to lack of parental care and his parents did not fulfill their sense of duty. He lacked listening ears from his parents and believed that once they say the “YES” word to their child he will not need anything else. Him joining the cult group led to the end of his life as he got shot by his friend by mistake till his last breath Demola loved his parents and he asked for their forgiveness.

## **3) STELLA:**

Stella, a very true and good friend to Keziah. She explains Keziah her life experience regarding rape. She helps Keziah a lot and she is a good friend. We could consider her as the roommate Keziah never had cause she was there for her. Stella is also a student of Mayflower university. She was raped at the age of 14 by her pastor’s son and three of his friends. She was introduced to the world of men in the harshest way.

Stella is the closest of Keziah close to the point she talks to Keziah’s mother. She called Keziah mother when she fainted as a result of Demola’s death. She is a very devoted Christian. She drifted away from God after her rape incident but this drew her closer to God. She felt God had failed at the moment she needed him the most. She comforted Keziah after she was raped by Demola. She told her to put her trust in God. She was a great friend and good help to the protagonist of the story, Keziah.

## **3) WHAT ARE THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING, SODOM.**

The point where **two things split from each other** is called divergence. In the third movement, Dr. Yusuf was teaching then after he was done he left the class but the divergence in the film shows that two students enter the class and they were chased out by Dr. Yusuf (Dr. Edebor). In movement three, Ovie and Bunmi were leaving the class when they were stopped by Demola but in

the film Ovie and Bunmi were talking and reading in the class and demola was sitting at their back.

In movement six, stella and her father were waiting for a few other members when the pastor came in and called her father aside then her father came to whisper to her that she will be staying with the pastor's son at home. However, in the film the pastor met her and her father outside the house from there they went to where they were going. Also, in the film she did not wake up in the hospital. She just stood up from the bed after the incident(Rape). In movement six, in the book it said that it was a man wearing a khaki shirt and shorts with a cap however in the film, the man was wearing an ankara( sokoto and buba). Though it wasn't known in the book if the man was an old or young man but in the film it was a middle aged man. In movement six, in the published book, after stella had the dream she heard a knock on her door and it was Emmanuella who came to preach but in the film, Stella was getting her laundry from the place she hung them when Emmanuella came to preach to her.

In movement seven, Demola was sitting in a lonely corner before K.K came to meet him in the book but in the film, Demoka was sitting outside his room or house.

In the Eighth movement in the book, They were three new members and Demola was one of them and the final rite they explained that it was blood that was in the calabash that the new members were supposed to drink from. In the film, Demola was already a member in the cult and they were two new members not three and it wasn't said if there was blood in the calabash or something else to represent them entering the cult.

In the ninth movement, Gun shots were heard from different directions with dim lights revealing some students but in the film, there was no form of gun shots or any students running in any direction.

In movement ten, after Keziah saw Demola's body she fainted and stella was in tears and she follows keziah to the hospital but in the movie, stella called keziah's mother( which happened in the eleventh movement in the play) and she did not follow into the keziah to the hospital but she came after. In the thirteenth movement, the D.P.O. was a woman sitting and flipping files in her office but in the film the D.P.O. was a man.

Seventh movement, Mrs Nkanga was sitted in the court room looking distraught and emaciated and she was part of the reason they reduced Nkanga Nwoko sentence because he was her son. In the film, she was not there when they were given the sentence.

In the play, it was said that Demola had both parents even when they went to see k.k in prison but in the film, Demola's mother was dead. Keziah's daughter name in the play is Mouritha but in the film, her name is Heritage Demola-Diran. After kezuah gave birth in the film that was where it ended but in the play , she went back to school after the birth of her daughter.