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- 1) Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor Good morning Sodom underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.
- 2) Attempt detailed character analyses of any three character in Solomon A Edebor Good morning Sodom.
- 3) What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of **GOOD MORNING, SODOM?**

### **THEMES FOUND FROM THE PLAY GOODMORNING SODOM**

The play “Good Morning, Sodom” was written by Solomon Adedokun Edebor. He is the current head of department of languages and literary studies at the prestigious Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti in Ekiti State. He is an award winning filmmaker, playwright, author and actor.

The play ‘Good Morning, Sodom’ is a realist rendition that poignantly draws attention to destructive acts often engaged in by students, resulting in cheap deaths of dreams and dear ones on the nation campuses. Below are some themes that can be found from the play ‘Good Morning, Sodom’

#### **A. Theme of wrong association**

The play Good morning Sodom is analyzed to be in a form of satire, particularly to the youths in the higher institution who tend to exhibit so many dubious behavior, of wrong association can be said be one of the dominant themes in the play.

This theme was first derived from the main character of the play Keziah. Keziah was known to be a very focused and goal achieving young girl who did not want anything to come her way in achieving her dreams, she was known by her peers as a very serious individual who always takes her studies very serious, including her parents, not until she came in contact with Demola who is known to be the cause of Keziah’s downfall in achieving her dreams, it all started from when Demola made his first approach to Keziah on her way to class to study, she tried resisting him, Demola on the other side who was so eager to get Keziah was still pushing, Ovie and Bunmi whom happen to be close friends to Keziah and have noticed how Demola has been

coming around , they tried convincing Keziah to give Demola a chance, simply because they felt Keziah was being too hard on him and also felt Demola was going to be a nice guy to Keziah, this is where the theme is been pointed out, it was because of the wrong association with friends like Ovie and Bunmi whom where not as focused as Keziah in achieving her dreams that lead to part of Keziah's downfall, her friends tried persuading her to give Demola a chance, this is what is predominant among so many youths in the higher institution today, most of them get involved in some dubious act simply because of the wrong advice they got from their friends, for the girls most of them get into toxic relationships and end up being messed up, some get pregnant and become drop out, Keziah can be used as a case study. It was seen in the play that she later fell into the trap of Demola and she eventually got pregnant and it led to her dropping out of school, which brought a huge shame to her and her family.

Another part where we can say wrong association was seen in the play was also from Demola, Demola one of the major character in the play was to be calm and gentle, but most the things he found himself doing where from the bad company he kept, Demola had a friend named K.K, K.K was known to be a very bad influence to Demola in the play and also he led to Demola's downfall. His influence to Demola which was what led to Demola's main fall was him giving Demola a spell which was what he used to get Keziah and then it led to him raping her which led to her getting pregnant, this was where the conflict started in the play. Also part of k.k bad influence to Demola was introducing him to a secret cult called red sparrows, they went for an operation and Demola was found killed at university gate.

Having analyzed the play we can see that getting into a wrong association can destroy the dreams of individual, particularly seen among the young individuals in our society today, we should always learn to choose our friends wisely.

### **B. Theme of lack of parental care:**

Lack of parental care is one of the problems that was spotted in the play and also has affected the youths today in the society, parents have failed to monitor their children properly and also guard them to the right part. Lack of parental care can be one the themes that was spotted in the play Good morning Sodom.

This is seen from the parents of Demola, they failed to monitor their son properly while he was at the campus, K.K [Demola's friend] while he was confessing to the parents of Demola Mrs. Diran and Eng. Diran, he said he was responsible for most of the dubious behavior's Demola exhibited, firstly Demola told his parents he wanted to stay of campus with the excuse of no space in the school hostel, all this was master minded by K.K, we can as well say that the parents of Demola failed to carry out proper monitoring on their child, it was their responsibility to find out the main reason why their child insisted on leaving the campus to stay off the school even if he gave them a reason of doing such.

### **C. Theme of anti-social vices:**

Anti-social vices can be said to be one of the problems that was raised from the play Good morning Sodom, this is also a problem that is seen in so many higher institutions today.

The issue of rape is one of the anti-social vices that was seen in the play, rape as we all know has been one of the anti-social vices that has been dominant in the society at large. So many girls have dreams been shattered because of the dubious act found among our young males.

It was seen that in the play Keziah who was very focused and determined to achieve her dreams was raped and it shattered her dreams and brought a huge shame to her family not only that it led to her getting pregnant and she eventually dropped out of school.

Another anti-social vices that was showcased in the play was the practice of cultism which resulted to conflict of the play, cultism is a very destructive activity that has been a very huge problem in our society, most practiced among the youths, and this activity was practiced among some students in Mayflower University. Demola and K.K which happened to be friends where as well members of the cult group, their activities disrupted the learning environment, looking at the death of Demola, he was found shot dead at the university gate during their operation, unfortunately that was his first operation, his death affected Keziah knowing he got Keziah pregnant and also caused his family emotional trauma.

#### **D. Theme of death**

Death which we all know is an irresistible factor, it comes unexpected, the theme of death was found in the play Good morning Sodom, which is said to be the conflict of the play, it was seen in the character Demola which was to be one of the major character in the play Good morning Sodom.

The death of Demola was indeed a sorrowful one which affected his family, friends, and majorly Keziah which he got pregnant coincidentally and left alone with the pregnancy. Demola died as a result of the operation been carried out by his cult group against another group, at the end of the day was shot dead unfortunately by his friend K.K mistakenly, Demola belonged to the secret cult named red sparrows. His body was found by the university gate, students gathering to see the dead body, when Keziah set her eyes on the dead body she collapsed and was rushed to the hospital, it was then they found out she was pregnant. Demola's death affected Keziah so badly.

#### **E. Theme of Socio-Political Commentary**

Good Morning, Sodom is a commentary on socio-political events that are happening in Nigeria. The play uses satire and irony to question the reliability of political promises and the political system. It highlights the confusion and lack of direction that exists in the political sphere, where politicians are more interested in furthering their political careers than serving the country. The play also highlights the degree of corruption in Nigerian society, the prevalent bribes, and politicians' embezzlement of public funds. The characters in the play, particularly Mr. B (the politician), reveal the extent to which public officials plunder public funds for their selfish gains.

### **2) Attempt detailed character analyses of any three character in Solomon A Edebor Good morning Sodom**

## **KEZIAH**

Keziah is known to be the major character in the play Good morning which the story centers on. She was known to be a girl who was in her late teens, and wanted to achieve her dreams without letting anything distract her, also trying her best to make her parents proud. But then the table turned, it all went the wrong way, Keziah's dream was shattered because of the bad company she had, her friends Ovie, Bunmi and Stella were not as determined as her to chase her dreams, Keziah wanted to focus on her dreams until she came in contact with Demola who ended up spoiling all her dream, at first when she met Demola she was so persuaded by him, he wanted to get her by all possible means, Keziah who had no time for any relationship of any kind was resisting him, as they progressed Keziah's friends were telling her to give Demola a chance, eventually Demola got his way through, Keziah went to his house after several discussions Demola eventually got Keziah into his bed although Demola added a substance into Keziah's juice, when she woke up she was so shocked about what happened, she was so betrayed, she said to Demola what have you done to me? Demola told her that it was a mistake and it was not intentional.

As the story continues, with the pain and feeling of guilt, Keziah had to go to her friends about what happened, Stella was trying to console her about what happened to her also, how she was raped by four boys in her pastor's house, her dad and the pastor when they delivered a woman from an accident, so she had to stay with the boys, unfortunately for her she got raped by the four of them. This incident made Stella to never believe in God, she regretted ever going to the pastor's house that day. So Stella told Keziah her story in order to console her about her present situation.

To worsen the situation Keziah was into, Demola who belonged to a cult group was found shot dead at the university gate during an operation, Stella had to call Keziah to the scene, on getting there she saw Demola lying lifeless, she quickly left the place with a move she dropped out, with blood at her back, she was quickly rushed to the hospital, when they got to the hospital with the arrival of her parents, Mrs. Richard and Dr. Richard, they met the doctor, Dr. Handson, and the doctor told them that she was fine, after having some medications she was taken home, then her dad gave her the doctor's test result, only for her to open it, it was seen that she was pregnant, she was in a huge shock, her both parents were so disappointed in her, Keziah on the other hand was so confused that she did not know what to do, she was down emotionally and mentally, adding to the fact that Demola who is the father of the child is dead.

The treatment given to Keziah this period by her father mostly was so terrible, she had to drop out of school because of the pregnancy, her father was so disappointed in her, but her mother Mrs. Richard was there for her, she took good care of her daughter. Keziah felt all hope has been lost for her.

Later when the truth of her Demola drugging her was revealed by K.K to Demola's parents, and when they found out they had to inform Keziah's parents.

Due to the pressure and pain with maltreatment Keziah was getting from her dad she ended up poisoning herself, when her dad came back, he saw her lying lifeless with a written note on the

table, apologizing for all she had wronged them, Keziah was rushed to the hospital immediately and she was given treatment and her parents were so scared that they were going to lose her, the doctor told them she was okay and the baby was still intact, Dr Richard apologized to his daughter for the maltreatment he gave to her. Finally Keziah gave birth, and it was a girl, named Mouritha, They was joy and celebration among the two families.

Keziah was still able to go back to school to complete her education, and her joy was gotten back, she gained admission into the University of Ibadan, and she entered as a 200level student.

### **DEMOLA**

Demola was also known to be one of the main character in the play Good morning Sodom, Demola was a young boy who got influenced by friends in the university, Demola was so interested in Keziah that he was ready to do anything to get her, so he had to get her with the help of his friend K.K, K.K gave him a substance to drug her drink, K.K who was known to be a good guy did not want to use it, but he did it because he was very desperate to get Keziah , he used it on her and he was able to sleep with her.

Also Demola was involved in a secret cult, called red sparrows, he was influenced by his friend K.K they went into their first operation and unfortunately he was shot dead by K.K mistakenly. His death affected many, and also a terrible one, he left Keziah who was pregnant for him, and also his family. Demola death served as a lesson to many young youths out there, who belong to one secret society or the other.

### **NKANGA NWOKO (K.K)**

K.K was known to be a character in the play Good morning Sodom, he was known to be a bad influence to Demola, most of the dubious crimes Demola did where all masterminded by K.K, when he called Demola's parents while he was in prison, he told them he was responsible for Demola's death and bad behavior , he went further to tell them that he was the one who told Demola to live outside the university, giving the excuse that school hostels where full, he was also the one who made Demola to join the secret cult red sparrows, which eventually led to his death. Parents should make sure friends like K.K are not around their children so as to prevent their children from being spoilt, like in the case of Demola. His story never ended well.

### **3) What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of GOOD MORNING, SODOM?**

o **THIRD MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, Demola talked to Ovie and Bunmi when they were leaving the class and he only talked to Ovie but in the film version They were sitting down in class when he spoke to the two of them.

o **SIXTH MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, Stella just woke up from her dream when Emmanuella met her to talk to her but in the film version Stella was spreading clothes when Emmanuella met her to talk to her.

o **EIGHTH MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, three blindfolded young men were kneeling and initiated into the Cult but in the film version only two blindfolded young men were kneeling and initiated into the Cult.

o **ELEVENTH MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, a scene of nurses, students and other hospital attendants was included but in the film version it was skipped.

o **THIRTEENTH MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, the Inspector came in with three apprehended cultists and the DPO was a woman but in the film version, the inspector came in with four apprehended cultists and the DPO was a man.

o **SIXTEENTH MOVEMENT:** The kitchen scene was skipped in the film version and another scene was included of Keziah crying in her room and her mother was consoling her.

o **EIGHTEENTH MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, Dr Richards saw Keziah's lifeless body on the floor of her room but in the film version, he saw her lifeless body on the floor of the sitting room.

o **NINETEENTH & TWENTY FIRST MOVEMENTS:** Mrs Diran was not present in the film version.

o **TWENTIETH MOVEMENT:** In the published version of the drama, Keziah was taken to her room before having a discussion with her parents but in the film version she was laying down on a couch in the sitting down.

o **TWENTY SECOND MOVEMENT:** In the film version there was no labour scene.

o **TWENTY THIRD MOVEMENT:** In the film version, this scene was not acted out but was stated as a note.