

# AFE 122

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## ***THEMES IN GOOD MORNING SODOM:***

1. Theme of Naivety: The book also portrays the effects of lack of experience, wisdom or judgement in young adults. This was shown in different parts of the book and I'll outline a few; At the beginning Keziah did not want to entertain any sort of relationship with Demola because like she said; it's only one "thing" that's boys are interested in, despite all this she was still somehow convinced to go to his place. Also I have reasons to believe Demola knew about the dangers of hard drugs and cultism but he succumbed to peer pressure, took hard drugs, raped someone he seemed to love dearly over a few words of persuasion and joined a cult. The other cult members who either died or were jailed were also products of weak willpower i.e the inability to say "NO" and stand firm.
2. Theme of Rape: In the book, Keziah, a lady in her late teens and also her room mate, Stella, were raped. Now while Stella was quite young when it happened it still didn't make it any less worrisome for her than it did for Keziah. Keziah was old enough to make a lot of decisions that could prevent her from being in such a situation but unfortunately she made the wrong ones. The book depicts all the emotional trauma rape victims go through, the shame and self loathe as seen in both ladies lives and also the different ways the people around the victims take the news. Stella's parents didn't blame it on her, whereas Keziah's parents didn't give a good listening ear to their daughter's plight which later led to her attempted suicide.
3. Theme of Cultism: Good Morning Sodom also greatly emphasizes the dangers of cultism to the cultists and the people around them. Cult clashes lead to an outburst of violence on the campus which leaves many students wounded, maimed or killed as the case may be. It sometimes lead to the incarceration, rustication or expulsion of both innocent and guilty students. Innocent people could also be caught in crossfires during these clashes, Demola, even though he wasn't necessarily innocent, also lost his life to a misfire. Then those other students who were expelled clearly have no place in the educational line, they've marred their chances of having a clean record in society.
4. Theme of Negligence: The book delineates bad parenting at it's worst. Demola was a product of bad parenting. Though his parents were rich and provided everything he

needed, those were not enough to produce a good citizen of a society. They disregarded the other roles they were supposed to play in his life. Did not bother checking up on him, never sat him down to know how he was faring, they would just give him whatever he asked for not caring what it was for; as seen in when he asked for an away from campus hostel. This led to his downfall and eventually his death. This shows that parents should not only provide material things for their children, they should also show care and teach them good morals, create time for deep conversations and make it a safe space where their child would feel comfortable talking about their problems with fearing condemnation or mockery.

5. Theme of Forgiveness : Now this was portrayed at the later parts of the book after Keziah's suicide attempt. Her father spoke to her and apologized for his lack of empathy. Keziah in turn forgave him and they also forgave each other as a family. Forgiveness is part of the process of healing and letting go of the past. Forgiving ourselves and others is like watering parched, dry soil; forgiveness softens and renews your spirit and brings you back to life.

## Character Analyses

1. Keziah Richards: she is the protagonist. A 100 level student of medium height, fair in complexion and in her late teens. The love interest of Demola Diran. She was interested in her school activities, usually seen studying or attending classes. She was really close with her parents, particularly her mother and had sound morals. She was really respectful. She seemed to be really cheerful up until she got raped. Then she became depressed and even attempted suicide and from her character it seems this was because she wasn't getting the full support of her parents. Although suicide was extreme it melted her fathers heart and made him realize he loved his daughter. So she got her parents blessing with the child she was pregnant with and gradually started easing back into herself and was even given another shot at education.
2. Demola Diran: He is tall, dark and handsome. A 100 level student and was also in love with Keziah. He's from a rich family and he has a poor relationship with his parents. His close friend was K.K and he often listened to his suggestions when making decisions. He seemed to be someone who would easily be morally upright if given the right amount of care, unfortunately the company he kept was bad for him. He made lots of horrible decisions with three major ones being raping Keziah, taking hard drugs and joined a cult. His terrible decision making skills also led to his death as it was because of cultism he lost his life.
3. Nkanga Nwoko: He was also known as "K.K". He was a member of Red Shadows confraternity. He is the only surviving child of his widowed mother. He was a "very good

friend" of Demola and was a big influence on many decisions the boy made. He convinced Demola to take drugs, rape Keziah and maybe even join a cult too. K.K was the one who mistakenly shot Demola. He was later caught and sentenced to life imprisonment for manslaughter. Although he later felt remorseful and apologized to Demola's parents there really wasn't any ways to redeem himself as he was stuck in prison for the rest of his life.

### **The Differences Between The Movie And Book**

~The first difference was the Third Movement. In the book we are told the Lecturer (Dr Yusuf) is teaching the class and when he is done, he abruptly exists. Meanwhile, in the movie; in the middle of his explanation, two students walk in late to his class. He dismisses them and tells them to "GET OUT!".

~The second difference we notice is in the Thirteenth movement. In the book, the D.P.O. is a Female but in the movie the D.P.O. is a Male.

~ The third difference was the gender and name of Keziah's baby. We are told this in the movie. Compared to the book where these are not mentioned.