

## **AFE 122 (USE OF ENGLISH)**

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### **ASSIGNMENT**

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

## **1. Theme of immorality**

This concept talks about the crimes and immoral behaviour of some of the students of Mayflower university. K.K, Jumo, Spark and Demola were students involved in use of hard drug, cultism (as members of the Red Shadows confraternity) and other social vices. The first heinous crime was committed by Demola when he sedated and raped Keziah with the encouragement and support of his two friends- K.K and Bentol. Demola lured Keziah to his room under the pretence of helping her on an assignment, he sedated her using a drugged handkerchief and had his way with her. Afterwards, he met up with Nkanga Nwoko (K.K) in the seventh movement who persuaded him to use hard drug to get rid of his negative emotions. In the eight movement, Spark, K.K and Bentol, conducted an initiation ritual for the three new members of the Red Shadows confraternity- a cult, of which Demola was part. This cult carried out nothing but irrational and violent actions as shown when they had a shootout with their rival cult. The turnout of events showed the dangerous consequences of such confraternity living in our universities today. At the end of the day, their violence resulted in the murder of Demola and the apprehension of the remaining members of the cult. Later on, during the court trail, it was discovered that the person who was responsible for Demola's death was none other than K.K- his closest friend.

## **Theme of peer pressure**

Most of the disruptive and aggressive behaviour exhibited by the students of Mayflower university was largely due to the influence of peer pressure. Initially, in the first movement, Ovie and Bunmi cajoled Keziah to accept Demola saying that she should "give him a chance". This later resulted in Keziah trusting Demola enough to go to his room to study and gave Demola the opportunity to rape her. To make Demola feel better about the horrible crime he committed, K.K, persuaded him to take hard drugs, stating that it would get rid of his negative emotions. With little resistance, Demola eventually gave in and used them. Toward the end of the book, K.K, confessed that he was the one who made Demola "do so many terrible things" like leaving the hostel for town without the permission of his parents, taking hard drugs and raping Keziah as he was the one who suggested the strategy Demola used.

## **Theme of love and affection**

There are different types of love shown in this book. In the first movement, there was an expression of love and affection by both mother and child- Mrs Richards and Keziah respectively. When Mrs Richards visited her daughter, she bought some provision for her, gave her some money, chatted with her a bit and advised her along the line.

Another form of love shown was the feeling of attraction Demola had towards Keziah although, these feelings were unreturned. Demola was seen on three accounts confessing his feelings for Keziah, but on every account, he was rejected.

Due to Keziah's unwanted pregnancy, and the unloving way her father acted towards her, Keziah attempted suicide. She was rushed to the hospital, received treatment and was discharged. These events made Dr Richards reflect on his actions towards his daughter. He

apologised and made a promise to be a more loving and supportive father and so father and daughter reconciled.

### **Theme of death and suicide**

This concept, though unfortunate, served as an example to all who witnessed it. It shows that all actions have consequences and allowed some to reflect upon their actions properly. After the clash between rival cults (Red Shadows and The Sparrows) in the ninth movement, Demola was found dead near the universities main gate. It was later discovered that Nkanga Nwoko was the one who shot him but it was unintentional.

Keziah nearly met the same fate as Demola when she attempted suicide. She felt the need to do this because she believed the unwanted pregnancy and the negative emotions surrounding it were too much for her and her parents to bear. Coincidentally, Dr Richards forgot some documents and came back home to retrieve them. He found Keziah's suicide note on the centre table, ran to her room and found her unconscious on the floor. He then rushed her to the hospital where all the poison was flushed out of her system. Luckily, both her and her unborn baby survived.

### **Theme of spirituality**

This theme mainly centres around Stella. In the sixth movement, Stella was seen consoling Keziah when she was raped. Stella decided to share a bit of her past with Keziah as she had found herself in that position before and understood how she felt. Stella was raped as a child and because of this she turned away from God.

When she entered university, she had two dreams. The first one was about her trying to drown herself due to her shame and mockery, but a mysterious man persuaded her not to do it. He said to her "your situation is not as bad as you are painting it." Then he told her to come back to him. In this dream the mysterious man represents God and he was trying to make Stella turn from her sinful ways. Stella affirms this dream when Emmanuella (Stella's floor mate) came to her room that day and said that "God impressed it on my heart this morning to tell you that he still loves you dearly and that he will heal your wounds if you can just come back to Him. Not up to a month later, Stella has a similar dream but with a slight addition. She narrates that in this dream, another man (in a hunter's dress with a local gun) appeared beside her and began forcefully dragging her to the heart of the river. After all her series of screaming and pleading, Stella woke up. Fortunately, that day was a Sunday and so she hurried to the church and gave her life to Christ. The man in the hunter's dress represents the devil. In the dream she tried to drown herself and so he pulled her towards the heart of the river to complete her initial action.

These dreams were a message and a warning to her. It was trying to tell her that no matter the situation she found herself in God was always there for her. It also warned her about the consequences of not turning a new leaf. Overall, she needed to give her life back to Christ and quit her immoral and promiscuous life.

2.

## **Demola**

Demola is someone that would be described as unlucky in the aspects of love, choice of friends and overall decision making. In the drama, he is a tall handsome man in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of university as an undergraduate of the department of English in Mayflower university. He was unlucky in love as the woman that he claimed to love- Keziah, did not return any of his feelings towards her and then further tarnishing their relationship by taking advantage of her innocence when he raped her. Unlucky in the choice of friends when he allowed cult members like K.K and Bentol to become too close to him that they initiated him into the act of cultism, use of hard drugs and influenced him into raping the woman he supposedly loves.

It is quite evident that Demola did not have strong moral orientation as his parents did not prioritize that aspect while raising him. His parents (Engineer Diran and Miss Diran), never bothered to check on the wellbeing of Demola but only focused on his financial status. They neglected their roles as parents to him and so he made friends with people who influenced him negatively. On the bright side, Demola is a very consistent and persistent person. He constantly pursued Keziah with the hopes of initiating an intimate relationship with her. He was so concerned about Keziah's wellbeing that he noticed a lot of little things about her.

Unfortunately, due to the influence of K.K and Bentol, he became a member of the Red Shadows confraternity. Their influence was also extended to the relationship Demola had with Keziah. After little persuasion from his friends, Demola drugged and raped Keziah. This utterly destroyed the premature relationship Demola had with her. He confessed that he didn't really want to rape her but Keziah hurled so much curses and insults at him that he had to go to K.K for comfort. To get rid of his negative emotions, K.K persuaded him to take some hard drugs, he tried to resist but he eventually used them. At the end, it was very ironical that K.K, his closest friend who had the most influence on him, was the same person who lead Demola to an early grave. If not for the negative influence K.K had on Demola, he might have not committed all these crimes and would definitely be alive and well.

## **K.K**

Nkanga Nwoko (a.k.a. K.K) was a prominent member of Red Shadows confraternity. He was one of the main reasons why a lot of unfortunate events occurred and so he could be seen as the main antagonist of this drama.

During the course of the court trial, we found out that K.K is the son of a widow who roasts plantain on the roadside for a living. This means that K.K is fatherless and comes from a very poor background. With the absence of his father, K.K may have not had a lot of morals and values instilled in him. His mother, with her little business, did all she could to send him to school but K.K was such an inconsiderate and cruel boy to have committed such crimes in school. I do not mean to justify any of his actions when I say that K.K may have felt greed and envy when he began to live among more privileged people in school whilst he came from a poor home. This could be one of the main reasons he joined the Red Shadows confraternity. Joining a cult would allow him be on of the "big boys" on campus and would provide him with financial resource to do or buy anything he needed, one of which were hard drugs.

His strong love towards money was shown when he noticed that Demola was from a rich home and aimed to get closer to him. He confessed this when he spoke to Demola's parents (Engineer Diran and Mrs Diran). The friendship between the two men was a very toxic relationship. K.K influenced Demola to take hard drugs, join a cult and even rape one of his female course mate. This shows that K.K only did things that pleased him and never considered how those actions affected others. Later on, he had a reality check when he accidentally murdered his close friend, Demola, during a fight with a rival cult. This caused him to be sentenced to life imprisonment for the offence of manslaughter. During his stay in prison and the confession he made to Demola's parents, K.K clearly felt remorse and finally understood that all his bad actions had worse consequences.

## **Keziah**

Keziah is a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady who came from a very loving home. She is a respectful, honesty and disciplined person who understood her purpose in Mayflower university- "to study and make something worthwhile out of my life". With objectives come obstacles and Demola proved to be one of them. From the beginning of the drama we could see that Demola was someone who constantly confessed his love for Keziah as he was a very relentless person, but every time he brought up such irrelevant topics, she would always reject him and state that the relationship that he hoped for was never going to happen. But Keziah was also a victim of peer pressure. Ovie and Bunmi persuaded Keziah to give him a chance stating that he had already gained their trust when he showed concern and worry for Keziah's wellbeing on the day Keziah didn't show up for class. This little conversation may have been the reason why Keziah agreed to go to Demola's room to study. This innocent mistake allowed Demola drug, charm and raped Keziah.

When she realized what had happened, she broke down and confided in Stella (her room mare). While sobbing, Keziah realized that if she hadn't let her guard down, none of this would have happened. Later on, Demola tried to apologize and give excuses for his horrible actions but with so much hate and irritation in her words, she shouted and cursed Demola.

Not too long after this Demola was killed. Upon seeing his lifeless body, Keziah fainted and was rushed to the hospital. A pregnancy test was then carried out for her and she found out she was nine weeks pregnant. This shocked her parents severely because never in their wildest dream would they imagine Keziah having an unwanted pregnancy. After this sudden news, her parents became very distant from her and the one which was the most noticeable was the disappointment she felt from her father. Keziah was going through a lot as her mental state was not healthy at all. She couldn't study in the university, her parents practically disliked her and she was pregnant for a cult member who is currently dead. All these mixed feeling of disappointment, hopelessness and sadness makes Keziah attempt suicide so that she could end it all. Coincidentally, her farther came back home, saw her suicide note, found her and immediately rushed her to the hospital. She and her baby survived. Her little allowed her farther reflect on his actions towards her and realize that he had been unloving and unsupportive so he decided to change.

Her parents became nicer and more caring towards her and then she gave birth to a beautiful little girl, Mouritha. With the birth of her baby, Keziah began to accept her situation and all the things that have gone on so far. Dr Richard then surprises her by letting her further her education at the University of Ibadan.

3.

When it comes to the publication and its film, there are always some differences seen between them. The published version of “*Good morning, Sodom*” is a play and would serve as a script for the filmed version but there are still noticeable differences between them.

Some of the differences I noticed includes:

The second scene where we first see Demola and Keziah, they have part of their conversation inside the library while in the play, a change of location was never mentioned so they had their entire conversation outside. During the course of DR Yusuf’s lecture, there were two students who came late for his class-whom he sent out, in the film but not in the play.

Another that I noticed, was that in the film as Stella narrated her story to Keziah about being raped, they were walking round the campus. In the play Stella and Keziah both shared their stories in Keziah’s room. Also, when Emmanuella goes to tell Stella a message from God to her, she meets Stella in an open space for spreading clothes and not in the room like in the play. If the setting was maintained in the film, we would have seen that Keziah meet Stella in her room, Emmanuella meet Stella in her room and even Mmaobi, her roommate, would wake her from her bad dream in that same room.

Int the eighth movement of the book, Demola is said to be part of the new members to be initiated but in the film, he is already an old member There are scenes and lines in the book that were not acted and said in the film. In the book, there is a movement which shows the clash between the two cult groups but in the film, this scene was omitted. When the cult groups were apprehended, there were 3 students in custody in the book, but there were 4 students in the film. In this same scene the DPO is a woman in the book but a man in the film. When Dr. Richards confronted Keziah about her pregnancy he never paced around or stood up from his chair like stated in the book and there were some lines Dr Richards and Keziah did not say in the film which were present in the book. Even in the fifteenth movement of the book, Zuwaira and Nonso (students of Mayflower university) did not complete some of their lines in the film.

Before the seventeenth movement, there was an additional scene in the film where Mrs. Richards was consoling Keziah after her conversation with her husband. In the court-room scene of the film, most of the statements made by the prosecution and defense counsel in the book, were not said as this scene began with the final statements of the prosecution and defense counsel and the final verdict of the judge. Also, in the film, K. K’s mother is deceased but, in the book, she was present in his trial. Before the court was adjourned in the film, the judge mentioned “Torkuma Okorie, Musa Abubakar, Olupitan Steve and Sebiotimo Philips with their sentences respectively but in the book these names were only seen on the bulletin posted by the SDC in Mayflower university.

When Keziah attempted suicide, Dr Richard find her in the living room and not in her room as the book states. In the book, Engineer Diran and Mrs. Diran visited K.K in prison because of his confession but Engineer Diran was the only one who visited K.K as he later says that Mrs. Diran is dead in the film. Some of the movements in the film were not arranged as they were in the book. In the film, after the eighteenth movement came the twentieth then the nineteenth (as a flashback) and then the twenty-first movement.

Finally, the twenty third movement was not acted in the film but after the lights faded in the twenty second movement, the summary of what happened in the last movement was written at the end of the film.