

NAME: OJO OLUWAPEMI BEATRICE

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COURSE TITLE: USE OF ENGLISH

NAME OF BOOK: GOOD MORNING, SODOM

ASSIGNMENT

1. Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning Sodom, underscoring at least 5 underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.
 - a. **Theme of Negative Peer Pressure:** There is a saying "Bad association corrupts good manners". This is shown in the life of Demola and Keziah. Demola had been persuading Keziah consistently into being in a relationship with him which she blatantly refused on several occasions. He never gave up and came up with different to talk to her (2nd Movement, pg18-19, 4th Movement, page 23-25). One of the ways he used was to talk to Ovie and Bunmi, Keziah's course mates who later convinced Keziah to give him a chance which led to her being raped (3rd Movement, page 21-22, 5th Movement, page 26-27). The line 'You know, none of these would have happened if not for you and Bentol' said by Demola during his conversation between him and K.K shows that he was persuaded to rape Keziah even though it was against his will (7th movement, page 39). Due to his bad company with K.K, Demola joined a cult group named 'Red Shadows' which later led to his death, was introduced to drugs and was encouraged rape Keziah. He was also influenced to do many terrible things (8th movement, page 40-41, 19th movement, page 70).
 - b. **Theme of Moral Decadence:** Moral decadence is a prevailing issue in the book and in our present day society. It occurs when there is a failure to uphold sound morality in the society.

The forms of moral decadence in this book are rape, cultism, violence and drug abuse. After Demola used a handkerchief to clean dirt off Keziah's face, she began to feel light-headed and ended up sleeping in his room. She was raped by him while she was unconscious. When she regained consciousness, she was devastated because she lost her chastity. She said 'I sold myself cheaply, Stella! I gave my pride to the dogs! I opened my door to the thieves!' (6th movement, page 29-31). It was later revealed that the handkerchief Demola used was not ordinary (21st movement, page 73-74). Cultism and violence are related. In the 8th movement, the Red Shadows are seen initiating new members into their cult. One of the new members is Demola. K.K. and Jumo are also members of the cult (8th movement, page 40-41). Violence between rival cult groups led to the death of Demola as he was seen soaked in the pool of his own blood (9th and 10th movement, page 42-43).

- c. **Theme of Mental Health:** Mental health is a very important aspect of human beings. Once the mental health is affected negatively, suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety, PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) and other mental health issues begin to emanate. It is of utmost importance that people prioritize their mental health.

Stella, Keziah's roommate was raped by four boys when she was 14. This affected her mental health tremendously, she hated God because she was not saved while she was being raped. Her heart became hardened and she became promiscuous. She had a dream that revealed the state of her life as at then. In the dream, four men set her clothes ablaze and by the time she arrived, it was too late. After that, she wanted to commit suicide by drowning in a river but a man came in time to talk her out of it. Not long after, she had a similar dream which led to her giving her life to Jesus and her mental health was restored (6th movement, page 31-37).

When Keziah's parents found out about her pregnancy, they were disappointed and hurt. During the pregnancy, her father was harsh to her. This made her extremely sad. While her parents were away, she wrote a suicidal note and attempted suicide by taking drugs but rushed to the hospital and was saved before it was too late (14th movement, page 48-50, 16th movement, page 55, 18th movement, page 65-68).

- d. **Theme of Justice:** In every society, it is paramount that justice should be served to the perpetrators of crimes not only to punish them but to also serve as a deterrent to other youths in the society.

Due to the heinous crimes committed by Nkanga Nwoko (a.k.a. K.K.) and others, legal actions were taken. Nkanga Nwoko was charged with manslaughter, membership of an unlawful society and illegal possession of firearms in consonance with the sections of the Criminal Code Act. The others were charged with membership of an unlawful society and illegal possession of firearms. They showed contrition and repentance. The judge found them guilty of their respective crimes, he sentenced Nkanga Nwoko to life imprisonment for the offence of manslaughter, two years imprisonment for membership of an unlawful society and a fine of 100,000 naira for unlawful possession of firearms. He then sentenced the others to two years imprisonment for the offence of membership of an unlawful society and a fine of 100,000 naira for unlawful possession of firearms (17th movement, page 58-64).

- e. **Theme of Bad Parenting:** It is known that bad parenting affects the parents, child (ren) and society at large. Bad parenting can come in various forms such as neglecting, abuse or overindulging of the child. This can be vividly seen in the life of Demola. His parents focused on his material and financial welfare while being oblivious and ignorant of his psychological and emotional welfare. They were unaware of the immoral lifestyle Demola was living which later led to his death. It was until after his death that his parents realized how irresponsible they were and how they had failed him. (21st Movement, pg 74-75). His parents had to live with the effect of their irresponsibility. This proves the saying “Good parenting gives headaches but bad parenting gives heartaches”.

2. Attempt detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom.

- a. **KEZIAH:** She is the protagonist of the book. She is a medium height, slightly plump and fair young lady. She has a good home training. She is disciplined, determined and focused on her education. She loves education, this is proven in the 23rd movement of the book where it was revealed that she often wished to go back to school during her pregnancy.

She was influenced by Ovie and Bunmi to give Demola a chance which led to her rape. After she was raped, she became sad and angry with Demola and herself for “selling herself cheaply” (page 31). She was sorry for the hurt and embarrassment her unwanted pregnancy caused her parents. Due to the harsh treatment of her father and the condition she was in, she attempted suicide but was rushed to the hospital by her father. The medical personnel were able to save her. She and her father later reconciled. During her labour, surgery was suggested but she refused. She gave birth to a girl who was later named Mouritha. In the end, she was given the opportunity to go back to school to study and was extremely happy that she could redeem herself.

- b. **STELLA:** She is Keziah’s roommate and was formerly Mmaobi’s roommate. She was raped at the age of 14 by four boys. After the ugly incident happened, she began to live an immoral life. She hated God and did not pray to Him for five years. She became stone-hearted. She blamed Him for what happened to her. She had a dream in which four men who were under the command of Adeyoju burnt her clothes and hurried away. When she arrived at the scene, she was dismayed. She then wanted to commit suicide by drowning herself in a river but before she could do that, a man dressed in khaki shirt and shorts with a cap tried to talk her out of it. When she woke up, Emmanuella who is her floor mate came to talk to her about Go’s love for her. She became angry and sent Emmauella out of her room. After the second dream she had, she repented and became born-again. From then, she stopped living a promiscuous life. She was empathetic and sympathetic towards Keziah who was also raped. She allowed Keziah’s deprecatory comments to get to her. This shows that she is sensitive in nature. She played the role of a supportive friend and roommate to Keziah.
- c. **MRS RICHARDS:** She is an imposing figure. She is the mother of Keziah and the wife of Dr Richards. In the book, she displays the attribute of motherly love and care towards her daughter, Keziah. During Keziah’s pregnancy, she made sure that she was available for her. She was also sympathetic towards her daughter. She told to her husband that he was being too hard on Keziah. She was anxious when Keziah was in the labour room as she was seen pacing and muttering. At the end of the

book, it is revealed that she was the one who told her husband of how Keziah often wished to go back to school. It can be said that she is the backbone of the Richards' family.

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

The following are the differences between the book and the film version of Good Morning, Sodom:

- i. One of the points of divergence between the book and the film is the change or difference in the name of Keziah's daughter. The name of Keziah's daughter is Mouritha in the book meanwhile, in the movie, Keziah daughter's is named Heritage Demola-Diran.
- ii. In the book, Mrs Diran is one of the background characters and she is alive. She went along with her husband, Engineer Diran to Agobi prison to meet Nkanga Nwoko also known as K.K. In the film, she is dead.
- iii. In the 1st movement of the book, Keziah is described as a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady with newly plaited hair. In 1st scene of the film, Keziah is not seen with newly plaited hair instead, she is seen wearing a wig.
- iv. The 3rd movement of the book is about students receiving an Oral Literature lecture from Dr Yusuf. After his lecture, Demola goes to meet Bunmi and Ovie as they exit the class, he intends to speak with Ovie only. He and Ovie then go to a corner to talk. In the film, it is seen that during Dr Yusuf's lecture, two students arrive late for the class and he sends them out. After the lecture, Ovie and Bunmi are seated in the classroom studying together, Demola is seen sitting behind them. Demola begins to converse with both Ovie and Bunmi. They are not really paying attention to him while he is talking to them, they seem uninterested in what he was saying and preoccupied with their study.

- v. In the 5th movement, Keziah is with Demola leaving a lecture hall and ahead of them are Bunmi and Ovie. In the movie, they are seen outside, near a driveway, they are not leaving a lecture hall. The cast for Ovie and Bunmi also seems to be different from the cast seen in the 3rd movement.
- vi. For the 6th scene, there is a time skip of three weeks while in the book, there is no time skip. Also, in the 6th movement of the book, Demola is lying on the bed while in the scene of the movie, he is shown sitting on a chair. In the book, he asks Keziah if she just bought her phone to which she replies no and he then gives her phone back but in the movie, after he asks her that question, she forcefully collected her phone from him.
- vii. Keziah and Stella are having a conversation in the 6th movement, during their conversation, Stella moves over to the window side but in the film, she does not stand up from her seat.
- viii. In the flashback of Stella's life, it is written in the book that 'Daniel and Tosin switched on the Television and started watching some musicals' but in the film, they are seen talking. In the book, two of Daniel and Tosin's friends visit, but in the film, their friends are already present in the house. In the book, Daniel, Tosin and their two friends go inside to discuss. In the movie, only Daniel and the two friends go inside to discuss while Stella and Tosin are seen chatting.
- ix. In the 6th movement of the book, this is written in the narration 'four men are seen bringing out some clothes from a house under the command of Adeyoju' and in total, they are five men (page 33) but in the movie, only one man is seen bringing out the clothes with another man waiting outside and in total they are two men.
- x. Stella is seen walking quickly on a bushy narrow path as narrated in the book but in the film, she is seen walking on the rocks in the river. When she was about to drown herself in the river, the man that came to help her

is wearing khaki and shorts with a cap (page 34). In the film, the man is seen dressed in Ankara from head to toe.

- xi. In the book, Stella immediately wakes up after the dream she had and Emmanuella comes to talk to her in her room while in the movie, Stella is seen spreading clothes when Emmanuella comes to talk to her (page 34).
- xii. The 6th movement ended with Stella comforting Keziah who was crying on her bed. In this film scene, it ended with Stella and Keziah under a tree. Keziah was not crying, she just had a sad expression on her face (page 37).
- xiii. In the 8th movement of the book, three young men including Demola are being initiated into the Red shadows but in the film, Demola is already a member of the cult group so there are only two men being initiated. Also, K.K. goes to bring a calabash stained all over with blood and Jumo removes the men's blindfolds. In the movie, K.K. and Jumo's roles are switched, Jumo steps forward to get the calabash and K.K. removes the blindfolds of the men (page 40-41).
- xiv. In the 10th movement, Demola is seen soaked in the pool of his blood and when Keziah sights him, she faints and starts to bleed. In the film, Demola is not soaked in his blood, he only has an injury on his head while Keziah did not bleed when she fainted. There was no car to carry Keziah after she fainted in this scene.
- xv. In the 11th movement, Keziah is lying still on the hospital bed with her mum crying beside her. In this scene of the movie, she is seen with a sad expression on her face and she is not in tears.
- xvi. In the 12th movement, Keziah is with her parents and Stella about to leave the health care centre. After she embraces Stella, the car drives out of sight and Stella waves at them while in the movie, her dad is absent here. She did not embrace Stella and Stella also entered the car with them.

- xvii. In the 13th movement, K.K. and two other students are brought to the DPO's office but in the movie, K.K. is brought alongside three other students. The DPO is a woman in the book but in the book, the DPO is a man.
- xviii. In the 14th movement, Dr Richards and his wife are already seated in the sitting room while in the movie, only Dr Richards is seen in the sitting room, Mrs Richards came out from the kitchen to join them.
- xix. In the book, Dr Richards is furious after he finds out about his daughter's pregnancy. In the movie, he is more of disappointed than furious.
- xx. In the 16th movement, Keziah opens the door for her father and says 'Welcome Dad'. In the film, she does not say this. She even offers to help him carry his envelope but he refuses and pushes her hand away. In the book, Mrs Richards talks to her husband in their bedroom while in the movie, they are seen in the living room. After this scene, Keziah is seen on her bed crying.
- xxi. At the time frame of 56:46, an extra scene is added. The scene is at night. In that scene, Mrs Richards is seen comforting and supporting her daughter who is in tears. They are both seen on a bed.
- xxii. In the court scene, most of the lines in the book are not said here. In the book, the judge wears glasses but in the film, he is seen not wearing glasses. The judge's orderly is absent in the film. Also, the names of the other accused persons are mentioned. Their names are: Torkuma Okorie, Musa Abubakar, Olupitan Steve and Sebiotimo Philips.
- xxiii. In the 18th movement, Dr Richards calls Patrick's name and he answered him. This happens as they are on their way to the airport. In the movie, Patrick is not seen and he did not say anything.

- xxiv. The 19th and 21st scene are combined or joined in the movie while in the book, they are two separate movements. In the 21st scene, Mrs Diran is not seen here.
- xxv. In the book, after the 21st movement, the next movement is about Keziah giving birth but in the film, immediately after the 21st scene, Keziah is seen in pain in her room. Her mum comes to help her, she then calls her husband to tell him of the situation Keziah is in.
- xxvi. The book ends in the 23rd movement but the film ends in the 22nd scene where Doctor Hanson, Dr Richards and Mrs Richards are having a conversation about the safe delivery of Keziah's baby. The conversation in the book between the three of them is complete but in the film, only the part in which Mrs Richards nervously asks about the state of her daughter and the doctor told her that she just had a granddaughter then she thanked Jesus and embraced her husband was shown.
- xxvii. In the 23rd movement of the book, the university in which Keziah is going to continue her study is not mentioned, but in the film, it is stated that she continued her education in the University of Ibadan.