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ASSIGNMENT

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

The play is an eye-opener to the causes of some lingering atrocities that have been bedeviling the nation’s campuses, identifying such important factors like negative peer influence, lack of adequate parental care and monitoring, and inability of constituted authorities to take decisive steps towards curbing the menace. It equally draws attention and proffers enduring solutions to what designated authorities in higher institutions of learning could do to curb criminal tendencies on the part of students, particularly cultism, prostitution, taking of hard drugs and other anti-social vices; what roles parents ought to play in the lives of their children/wards; and what cultural values students should imbibe so as to excel in their academic pursuits.

Solomon A. Edebor’s play, “Good Morning, Sodom”, explores a number of complex and interrelated themes. Here are five underlying thematic thrusts that the drama engages:

1. Theme of peer pressure: Peer pressure refers to the feeling that one must do same thing as other people of one’s age and social group so as to be liked or respected by them. This is evident in the play Good Morning, Sodom as Demola Diran was negatively influenced into terrible acts like cultism, rape and drug abuse. He was pressurized into joining cult group, Red Shadows Confraternity by his friend KK all because he wanted to have a way with Keziah which he eventually raped her. As a result of guilt, he started taking in hard drugs which according to KK would make him “high” which ultimately led to the destruction and disastrous loss of his life. He was also influenced into living off campus. Also, Keziah never wanted to go to Demola’s place but with time, she began to soften up to him due to the pressure she got from her friends, Ovie and Bunmi who are also her course mates.

2. Theme of bad parenting: Bad parenting can be described as when the parents of a particular ward does not perform their parental duties towards the upbringing of the ward. This can have a long lasting impact on the child’s life. It can also greatly affect the child when he or she begins to grow. This is due to the fact that the child did not get major or correct words of advice or encouragement from his parents while growing up. The child then begin to seek these things or words from an outsider. The theme of bad parenting can be best explained in Demola’s life. Demola’s parent were only concerned about the financial aspect of his life that is why he is easily convinced and lured into the secret cult by KK. He was not monitored and scolded when necessary this is why he could lie to his parents about his room accommodation which made him leave off campus. His parents did not make attempt to monitor him and do some certain investigations about it which took their son away from them. Demola engaged himself in immoral acts because he lacked proper home training. Although he was from a wealthy home but still lacked good parenting because if he was properly brought up, he wouldn’t have engaged himself in despicable acts like rape, use of hard drugs and so on as it is in the play. Towards the end of the play, it is seen where Eng. and Mrs Diran are regretting their actions in their son’s life and how they could have been more involved in Demola’s life. “The best inheritance a parent can give their child is a few minutes of their time every day”. Without good parental guidance, a child would eventually be led astray. This is shown perfectly in the play with Demola’s parent’s negligence over their son.

3. Theme of cultism: Cultism is a huge problem in Mayflower University and also in real life universities. A cult is a secret society which is not open to everyone. Cultism is an act of belonging to a secret cult. Cult members come together for certain purposes that majority are not approved, proper and desirable. Most times, members of cult groups use dangerous weapons to harm people; rival groups. Cultism has a major negative impact on the lives of the individuals and societies as whole. Cults use manipulative tactics to recruit members and then they have maximum control over their lives. The theme of cultism is a pivotal element in the play because it is practically what led to the climax of the play. Cultism is a very dangerous act which breeds violence in societies, shown perfectly in the play, Good Morning, Sodom when “Red Shadow Confraternity” had a deadly shootout in which multiple people were injured and a member lost his life and this time was when all things were let loose in the play.

4. Theme of rape: The theme of rape is evident in the play and should not be overlooked. Rape refers to the unlawful sexual activity, usually involving sexual intercourse without one’s consent. The play explores rape in two characters, in Keziah and in Stella. Keziah had a more positive reaction to her situation compared to Stella who made her hate and stayed away from God after the incident. She was raped by four in which that they were pastor’s sons and also gave her a trauma. It goes in depth analyzing the horrendous act in our society showing how it affects and changes lives. Also, Keziah was raped by Demola. As a result of this, she had nothing but hatred for him. According to her, “I hate you Demola! I curse the sun that shone the day I set my eyes on you; I curse the feeling of friendship that drew me to this theatre of ridicule. Never again! Never again must our paths cross, or else…” As a result of the rape, Keziah becomes pregnant; her educational adventure is truncated, leaving her psychologically traumatized also.

5. Theme of stigmatization: A pressing matter is the issue of stigmatization fallen upon victims of either rape or trauma and how they need to be treated with love. The play does well to shed more light on this matter in the movement shown when Dr. Richards harshly handles Keziah pregnancy and says “She is not my daughter” abandoning his daughter at her time of need. He abandoned her when she needed him the most. He wasn’t concerned about the future of the baby, all he was bothered about was that the child would be a great reminder of Keziah’s irresponsibility.

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

1. Keziah Richards: She is the protagonist/main character of the play. She is a daughter to Dr. Aworawo Richards and Mrs Joke Richards. She is a 200 level female undergraduate of Mayflower University where she studies English and literary studies alongside with her course mates, Demola, Ovie and Bunmi. She is roommates with Mmaobi and Stella whom she has a very close contact with. She is also a mother to Mouritha. The playwright addresses her to be slightly round, medium height and a fair looking young lady [pg. 15]. Keziah is portrayed as a God-fearing lady, a focused, disciplined and a straight A student. One must say that she’s beauty with brains. She later falls victim of negative peer pressure. Ovie and Bunmi, Keziah’s course mates bring negative pressure to bear on her as they lead her into Demola’s trap. Keziah experienced difficulty in the play. She was constantly disturbed by Demola who claims he loves her and ends up drugging her to rape her when she comes over for a tutorial at his apartment. This led to her unwanted pregnancy. This made her dropout of school and her education adventure truncated. She got depressed and experienced stigmatization and ongoing difficulty following the incident. Her father neglected her, she then considered murdering herself and her unborn child before being saved by him. Luckily for her, after giving birth, she was able to return to school to pursue her aspirations with the help of her parent to pursue her dreams.

2. Demola Diran: He is an only child to Engr. and Mrs Diran. He is also a student of Mayflower University, a course mate and friend to Keziah, Bunmi and Ovie. His other friends are KK and Benthol. He is a tall, dark and handsome young man. When his eye catches Keziah in which his intentions were good initially but due to bad parenting and peer pressure resulted in him drugging and raping Keziah as well as joining a secret cult known as “Red Shadows Confraternity” in which he was made to do horrendous deeds. He suffered an ignominious death long before his time. He was eventually gunned down by his friend losing his life, leaving his family in distraught as what happened to their ‘good child”. Demola was simply a lost person who was neglected by his parents leading him to be easily swayed by bad influences.

3. Stella: She is one of Keziah’s roommate in Mayflower University. Her narrative begins when she was younger, just 14 years old, and she was still a devout Christian. However, her life took a turn when was raped by the pastor’s son and two of his friends. Stella was terrified and scared after the occurrence but the harm had already been done. As a result of her response, she lost her fear in God since she believed that God had abandoned her. All these changed once more as she began to gradually rebuild her life and her faith in God after having contradictory dreams. She suffered as a result of her experience of rape, fell into darkness and eventually discovered light. She was of a great help to Keziah as she comforted her when she was also raped as it is contained in the play.

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

The main point of divergence between a play and a written play is that a play is intended to be performed on stage while, a written play is intended to be read. A play is a form of live entertainment that is meant to be experienced by an audience in a specific time or place, with actors bringing the characters to life on stage. A written play, on the other hand, is a literary work that is meant to be read in a private setting, with the reader using their imagination to visualize the characters and setting. While a play is a solitary experience that relies solely on the reader’s interpretation of the text. Additionally, a play often include stage directions and other instructions for the actors and director, while a written play may include more detailed descriptions of the characters and setting.

1. Setting: In the written version, the author can describe the setting in details, whereas in the drama version, the setting has to be conveyed through the use of scenery, lighting and sound.

2. Dialogue: In the drama version, the dialogue has to be written in a way that sounds natural when spoken aloud, whereas in the written version, the dialogue can be more literary and poetic.

3. Characterization: In the written version, the author can use interior monologues and other techniques to explore the characters’ thoughts and feelings, whereas in the drama version, the characters’ emotions have to be conveyed through their actions and dialogue.

5. Audience: In the drama version, the audience is resent and can react to the action on stage, whereas in the written version, the reader is a solitary observer.

6. Interpretation: In the written version, the reader is free to interpret the text in his own way, whereas in the drama version, the actors, director, and other creative team members have to interpret the text and bring their own vision to the production.