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ATTEMPT AN INCISIVE INTEROGATION OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR GOOD MORNING, SODOM, UNDERSCORING AT LEAST FIVE UNDERLYING THEMATIC THRUSTS THE DRAMA ENGAGES.

Good morning Sodom is a play by Solomon Adedokun Edebor published by Patrick Edebor and associates, Ibadan that was reprinted in 2023. There are twenty-three movements in the play that paint a realistic picture on how a seemingly harmless encounter among students, turn out to be deadly and utterly destructive. The play follows Keziah Richards and Demola Diran, 200 level students of Mayfield University. The thematic thrusts of the play are as follows-

1. LACK OF PARENTAL CARE- Parental care is any behavior that contributes to offspring survival, such as provision of shelter, food, protection. It is a behavior demonstrated by adults, which may have direct consequences for the survival, growth and psychosocial development of offspring. Engineer Diran and his wife did not really pay much attention to Demola during his childhood and missed certain things, to the extent that if Demola told them about something, they just agreed to it, instead of looking into the matter, they make mention of this in the twenty first movement, in here they meet Keziah and her parents the Richards, this is not to say that the Richards are absorbed from this, when Keziah finally came back home after being raped by Demola, as her parents, they should have spoken to her calmly, as she told them how the pregnancy resulted her fathers first reaction was to call her a liar. He became so rude to Keziah and asked her to get an abortion to the disapproval of Mrs. Richards because she knew the consequences of abortion, it made Mr. Richards so angry, he did not speak a word to his daughter, this character kept up eating Keziah inside. This indifference from her father is what pushes her into attempting suicide.

2. PEER PRESSURE- Peer pressure in this play manifests in the form of the friendship between K.K stars up with Demola. K.K is far more in delinquency as he is a member of the secret cult society. During his confession to Engineer Diran and his wife, he makes mention of how he pressured Demola, who in turn pressured his parents into getting him an apartment outside the university campus where it is much more easier for them not to monitor his activities.

Through a minor flashback in the play, we learnt that it is K.K who gave Demola the idea to outrage Keziah. Though Demola refuses at first, he friend gave him reason to do it, Moreover, that is the only friend Demola is mostly seen with throughout the play hanging out with it is also shown that K.K is the one who introduces Demola into drugs

and subsequently assists in initiating Demola into his cult. By the end of the play, through the people he kept around him and the influence they had on his decision making, Demola was shot dead during a shootout he was involved in by a fellow gang member. Though K.K gets in jail, He is still alive but Demola is DEAD.

3.THE DECLINE IN MORAL DECADENCE- Moral decadence is the process of behaving in away that shows low moral standards. It means gross reduction in the moral values in a particular society. Thus, moral decadence appears to be a fall in the moral standard of the society.

Ignorance, poverty and lack of moral values have been identified as the factors contributing to the high moral decadence prevalent in Nigerian society. Moral decadence among youths has a direct negative impact on the family and society at large. As a result, youths are not committed to their basic duties and perform poorly in their responsibilities and often in school

This is something the play does well to highlight, in the way K.K casually has drugs with him and offers it to his friend to finally get the girl who has been proving hard to get, the way he offered it to Demola to get high. It is seen that the number of young boys who rape girls for fun join gangs in the name of brotherhood, ending up getting killed by rival or fellow members, getting jailed and owing to a life of cowardice waywardness.

4.VICTIM BLAMING AND VICTIMIZATION- Victim blaming is a devaluing act that occurs when the victim of a crime or an accident is held responsible in whole or in part for the crimes that have been committed against them. Many times, these sorts of statements or behaviors come from the misconception that people can do specific things to avoid being harmed by others. The desire to believe that other people are not capable of spontaneous harm or abuse can drive victim blaming. In reality, experience a traumatic event is never your fault. This occurs in the character of Keziah and Stella both who have been victims to rape and sexual assault. Demola a fellow college student whom she had started developing some romantic feelings for and Stella is raped by four boys in the home of a spiritual figure, that did not only leave her emotionally scared but for a time fractures her spiritual relationship with God. Keziah's dad blamed her for everything that happened which led Keziah to commit suicide but luckily for her, she survived, her dad kept on asking what has the reason that led her to Demola house, victim blaming has a lot of consequences that eats the victim up.

5. POVERTY- Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter. It means that the income level is so low that basic needs cannot be met. It is the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of

money or material possessions, it exists when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. Across the lifespan, residents of impoverished communities are at increased risk for mental illness, chronic disease, higher mortality, and lower life expectancy. In the case of K.K, his mother is a poor woman which assumes that his upbringing in a poor household and lack of proper influence affected the decisions he comes to make as an adult and a contributing member to the society.

ATTEMPT DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF ANY THREE CHARACTERS IN SOLOMON EDEBORS GOOD MORNING SODOM.

1. **KEZIAH-** She is a medium height, slightly round fair lady, a 200 level student of Mayflower University. At the start of the book, she is in a loving relationship with her parents and has a select group of friends and an admirer who has been pursuing her. Her life takes a drastic turn when one day while visiting her admirer who has been pursuing her, she is sedated and drugged by him. Resulting to an unplanned pregnancy to that shatters the trust and relationship she has with her parents which pushes her to attempt suicide. Through the course of the play, we see her as a single university student of Mayflower university but by the ending, she is seen as a single parent in the university of Ibadan.
2. **DEMOLA DIRAN-** Through the company he keeps, a once 200 level student turns to drugs in order to sexually assault a woman whom he claims to love and is infatuated by. This lifestyle influenced by his friend took him to his early grave, K.K further leads him to drugs, joining a cult, engaging in violence on campus and later getting shot by a fellow gang and dying untimely. Through his character, the playwright explores the influence of peer pressure and delinquency among our youths in the society today.
3. **STELLA-** Though we get a few scenes with her character, she is seen to be a kind and supportive friend to Keziah, she relates her rape story to her and how it fractured her spiritually as well as how it was rejuvenated. We learn about her tragic story of how she was raped in her pastor house which ate her up for years. She comforts Keziah and gave her more reason why she should have hope and faith in God. Stella is a lady in whom in a few flashbacks we see grow into a character, even though she was not a major character she was still visible because of her kind heart.



WHAT ARE THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING, SODOM ?

There are different points of divergence between the published and film version of Good morning Sodom.

In the text it was stated that the D.P.O is a female but it differs from the film, we notice it was a man who spoke to the police officers.

Furthermore, when Demola wanted to speak with Ovie and Bunmi after their class in the play, it was noted that he only spoke to Ovie and it was in a corner, but the book film displays a different scene showing us that Demola spoke to both Ovie and Bunmi and they were all seated on the chair.

In addition, the lecturer in the film, Dr Yusuf, sent two students back for coming late for lectures, however, in the book, it was not stated that the lecturer sent anyone out for late coming because no student came late.

However, the child of Keziah was not called Mouritha in the published book but in the film, the daughter was named Heritage Demola Diran.

And last but not the least, it was not stated in the film that Chinenye will help babysit Keziah's baby and also be a househelp to her.

