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LECTURER: DR SOLOMON EDEBOR

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

Answer

- Friendship/ peer pressure: Friendship is seen as one of the thematic thrusts of the book *Good Morning Sodom*. The power of friendship and peer pressure is clearly showcased in this novel as we see both the female and male lead is affected badly by it. Demola is greatly affected by bad friends as he was pressurized by his so called friends to rape Keziah and also join a cult behind the back of his parents. Keziah as well is affected by friendship as her so called friends Ovie and Bunmi push her to accept the friend and love request from Demola as they see it as a normal occurrence for a university student. These friends are however nowhere to be found when she was raped but shockingly Stella which is Keziah's roommate is the one there for her during the trying times.
- Pain: Pain is seen in full display as this novel is a tragic one. Most characters are seen suffering from emotional pain especially Keziah. Keziah was raped and had to face the pain of losing her virginity before marriage and also getting pregnant from the rape assault. On top of all that, she also faces the pain of mistrust and disdain as her father refuses to believe her when she tells the story of her rape. She then also had to carry a child of her rapist (Demola) who was shot dead in a shoot out. Demola as well had his share of pain as he was someone who looked for a sense of comfort and someone who will listen to him as his parents are always busy with their work. Unfortunately, Demola does not meet the right friends for his life, as his friends advise him to rape a friend whom he liked and join a cult which they were in as well. He faces guilt and emotional pain after raping his friend and he does on his first mission with his cult members.

- Rape: Rape is one of the thematic thrusts of this book as well. The female lead Keziah was raped in the book by the male lead Demola. After she and Demola had built a somewhat better relationship than they had, she had the confidence to go to his room off campus for an explanation of an assignment that was given to her. There, she was drugged and charmed as well, as she fell into a deep sleep and was raped brutally losing her virginity in the process. As she wakes up and sees what has happened, she becomes very angry at Demola and refuses to ever forgive him even after he begs for her forgiveness. Stella who is Keziah's friend and roommate is also shown to have been gang raped by four boys in which one was her pastor's son, Daniel and Tosin. She tells the story of her rape as she tries to comfort Keziah when Keziah tells her about the awful occurrence she had experienced.
- Cultism: Cultism is another great theme of the novel as we see Demola join a cult called Red shadows which is led by his friends Spark, K.K and Bentol. Through peer pressure he is coaxed to join the cult and he eventually gets initiated into the cult which eventually leads to his downfall. On his first mission in the cult, he is shot by his own comrade K.K in a shoot out involving an opposing cult group and dies leaving his family without a son and in pain. His friends Spark, K.K , Bentol and him are expelled from their university. On top of all that his friends are punished for their wrong doings. K.K is charged in court with life imprisonment for manslaughter with an extra two years and a fine of two hundred thousand naira, while Spark and Bentol are given two years of imprisonment for their involvement in cultism and a fine of one hundred thousand naira for unlawful possession of firearm.
- Pregnancy: Pregnancy also comes into play in this novel as Keziah becomes pregnant from the rape assault she experienced. She had to drop out of school because of the pregnancy and also had to face her father's insensitivity and mistrust as he did not believe her when she confessed that she was raped. She eventually gave birth to baby girl she named Mouritha. Keziah eventually gets a second chance to go to university again but that is after she had lost at least one year of her life already.

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

Answer

- DEMOLA DIRAN: Demola is a 200 level English major student studying at Mayflower university. He is wealthy and is described as a dark, tall, handsome and hardworking young man. He has feelings for a fellow 200 level student named Keziah. His intentions are pure as he genuinely wants to be friends with her and also wants to have a relationship with her but he doesn't know how to go about it. Being a person who comes from a home where his parents do not pay attention to him, he takes the wrong advice from his friends on how to go about it. His friends advice him to rape her which after some resistance he agrees to do it. After he had raped Keziah he feels guilty and

tries to apologize to her but the deed had already been done. He later introduced to drugs and initiated into a cult by his friends without the knowledge of his parents as well. He eventually is killed in a shoot out against a rival cult group by one of his comrade K.K mistakenly and loses his life. Even after he had died, he was expelled from Mayflower university. Demola in summary is a victim of bad parenting and bad influence.

- **KEZIAH RICHARDS:** Keziah is also a 200 level English major student of Mayflower university. She is seen as a lively person and has two friends named Ovie and Bunmi and has a roommate named Stella. She adores her parents and wishes to always make them proud. She has a course mate named Demola who continuously runs after her but is strictly against any romantic relationship at the time. She however becomes friend with Demola and they grow close. She becomes comfortable enough to visit him in his room off campus for an assignment that she didn't understand so that he can explain it properly. There she is drugged and charmed without her knowledge and she is then raped while she is asleep. She wakes up to find out what had happened to her and resents Demola. She leaves Demola's house and goes back to her room on campus. There she is comforted by Stella. Demola eventually dies and she becomes pregnant as a result of the rape but her father refused to believe that she was raped as she explains. She continually receives stigmatization from her father for her unwanted pregnancy which eventually leads her to taking poison to kill herself. Fortunately, her father arrives on time and saves her by taking her to the hospital where both she and her baby were said to be fine. She gives birth to a baby girl and names her Mouritha and her father eventually forgives her and she is given a second chance at life to be able to go back to school as she gains admission to 200 level in university of Ibadan.
- **DR RICHARDS:** Dr. Richards is Keziah's father. He is seen as a busy man as he most times doesn't have time to visit his daughter in school due to work related circumstances but In all these, he loves his wife and daughter. Mr. Richards rushes to the hospital with his wife Mrs. Richards when he gets the news of Keziah fainting due to shock of Demola's death. Dr Richards request for a full body check up while Keziah is asleep to make sure everything was alright and gets shocked when he gets the news of his daughter's pregnancy. He demands an answer from Keziah but refuses to believe her when she confessed she was raped. He begins to treat Keziah indifferently for months out of his anger and disappointment towards her which leads Keziah to attempt suicide. Fortunately he arrives on time and saves her as he needed to get a document he needed for a business trip which he left at home. He sees Keziah's suicide note and quickly rushes to her room and catches her on the floor. He rushes her to the hospital and everything was well with his daughter and her baby. His daughter's attempted suicide became an eye opener to the weight of his actions and he eventually forgives his daughter. He also goes the extra mile to assist his daughter in getting an admission into another school after she had given birth so that she can continue her life.

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

The points of divergence between the published book and film version of Good morning, Sodom are from each movement or act.

FIRST MOVEMENT

Keziah as described by the book is a fair young lady with neatly plaited hair but in the movie Keziah is a dark lady and she wore a wig. The opening scene of the movie is different as it skips to the point where Keziah comes to greet her mother totally cutting off the part of female students chatting and washing clothes.

FOURTH MOVEMENT

Demola in his conversation with Keziah was not eating any food as he didn't get any food but only got a drink.

SIXTH MOVEMENT

In Demola's room , while trying to persuade Keziah to have a drink was laying down on the bed but in the movie, he was sitting on the chair.

Also after Keziah woke up from her drugged state and realized she was raped by Demola, she slaps him and this was not recorded in the book.

After Keziah meets Stella for consolation and Stella begins to narrate the story of her rape assault, Stella moves to the window in the book to narrate her story but she didn't move over to the window in the movie but sits on the bed and narrates her story.

In Stella's narration of her dream, cows were seen moving into the river which wasn't so in the book. Also the man that saves her from suicide was not dressed in khaki shirt and short with a cap as described in the book but he was dressed in a native attire. Emmanuella met Stella while she was spreading clothes and not while she was in her room.

Stella doesn't end her narration in the room just like the book narration but she finished her narration while they walk outside and rest under a tree.

SEVENTH MOVEMENT

In this movement, K.K is not seen coming in the direction of Demola as narrated in the book but in the movie, K.K was seen already sitting with him and not coming towards Demola.

EIGHTH MOVEMENT

The song during the initiation ritual is different in both the movie and the book. Also Spark doesn't snap his fingers but he points his fingers towards Jumo after the initiates have drunk the water of covenant. Spark also stretches his left hand in the book while he stretched his right hand in the movie. Spark in the book, after addressing his comrades, walks around in a circle calling Red shadows but he stood in one place in the movie. A major point of divergence in this movement is that Demola was already a member of the cult in the movie while he was being initiated in the book.

NINTH MOVEMENT

The ninth movement was totally skipped in the movie

TENTH MOVEMENT

Stella doesn't move away from the crowd but she faints right where she is standing and there wasn't any car shown but students carried her by their hands.

TWELFTH MOVEMENT

Stella doesn't wave at the car Keziah is in but she enters into the car as well.

THIRTEENTH MOVEMENT

The DPO in the movie is a man while the DPO is a woman in the book. Also the DPO instructed the officers to create a duplicate file of the perpetrators and send them to the DPO for further investigation which was not included in the book.

FOURTEENTH MOVEMENT

Mrs. Richard is not seated on the sofa at first with Dr. Richards and Keziah but later joins them after a while.

SIXTEENTH MOVEMENT

The opening scene of this movement is not the kitchen as described in the book but was skipped to when Keziah opens the door for her father. Also in the movie, Mrs. Richards consoles Keziah after she overhears the argument between Dr. and Mrs. Richards but that wasn't included in the book.

SEVENTEENTH MOVEMENT

In this movement, the court argument was skipped and the sentence for the guilty was immediately given. Also, all the names of the punished cult members were mentioned in the movie while in the written play, only K.K's name was mentioned.

EIGHTEENTH MOVEMENT

The car used was not a Toyota Venza but it was a Toyota sienna.

TWENTIETH MOVEMENT

Dr Richards kisses Keziah's forehead in the book while he kisses her hand in the movie.

TWENTY FIRST MOVEMENT

The twenty first movement and nineteenth movement were combined into a scene. Demola's mother Mrs. DIRAN is not involved in the movie as she has died in the movie.

TWENTY SECOND MOVEMENT

The labor is shown to start from her bedroom in her house in the movie which wasn't so in the written play and the labor scene in the hospital is excluded and skipped to the part where the good news is brought to her parents whereas In the written play, the labor scene was added.

TWENTY THIRD MOVEMENT

This movement was not acted but narrated in the movie giving only the vital points.