

COURSE CODE: AFE 122

COURSE TITLE: USE OF ENGLISH II

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COLLEGE: MHS

MATRIC NUMBER: 22/MHSO2/238

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

1. The broken circle of trust

In the book it portrayed negative effects trust yielded Keziah and Stella. Initially, Keziah was weary of Demola despite all the affirmations that he was a good person by her friends but Demola slowly eased his way into her life. Immediately her walls were down, Demola broke the trust that Keziah had on him by drugging her and raping her. The same can be said for Stella's father because he trusted the sons of his pastor to watch Stella and keep her out of harm's way but little did he know that the pastor's sons together with their friends planned to gang rape Stella.

2. A call to mercy

In the book, after Stella was raped, she went through a path of self depreciation and hatred for the church and anything concerning it. She used reckless sex as a coping mechanism even till the university until she gave her life to Christ. For stella, it showed the psychological trauma of being violated and coping mechanisms which she adopted which was not advised for healthy living. In a dream, she was called to salvation but she refused till she was dragged to her impending doom which made her realize that the life she was living was sinful and she needed to let go of her anger and forgive the boys, her parents and most importantly, herself.

3. Effects of peer pressure

As a popular saying goes, "show me your friends and I will tell you whom you are". Demola would have had a bright future if he had good companions but as it was, he did not. His best friend was the only surviving child of a poor widow who saw that his parents were wealthy and decided to befriend him though they were not age mates or set mates. He introduced Demola to a world of hard drugs and cultism which later lead to Demola's demise. He even convinced Demola to rape his friend who he had a crush on because she was being too hard on him. Demola died a pitiful death during a gang war and left his family and pregnant Keziah alone to bear the burden of his recklessness.

4. Parental neglect and importance of friendly parenting

Demola's parents worked so hard to secure their son's future that they neglected their son unknowingly. In school, they always made sure he was financially stable but they never bothered to check up on him and know the kind of life he lives out of home. This caused Demola to befriend Nkanga Nwoko known as k.k. to his friends who led him astray to the point of his death. For Keziah, her father was so strict with her that she did not form a relationship with him that she feels that she can tell him anything. This was to his detriment because as Keziah was raped, she rather confined to her friends than to her parents before they realized that she was pregnant and raped in an unbecoming way. Even at that, her father ostracized her because she refused to abort the pregnancy till she felt that death was the only way out of her misery.

5. Monetary influence on education in Nigeria and wages of sin

In movement fifteen of the play, it briefly showed that some students engage in unbecoming activities including cultism because they know that their parents can afford to bail them if anything wrong happens or they can just change them to another school or fly them abroad. This is sad because it takes justice away from those who deserve it legally and it insults the honesty of the competition annually for a person to get into tertiary education because they are rich. Unfortunately for these set of cultists, they were caught because of the death of Demola and no amount of money or plea can bail them out of this because they were imprisoned, expelled and an article was written with their names on it which will make it hard for them to get into any university in the future. Truly, they learnt their lesson that the wages of sin is death.

QUESTION 2: Attempt detailed character analysis on any three characters in the book

- I. **Nkanga Nwoko:** Known as k.k. by his friends is the only surviving son of a poor widow who sells roasted plantain trying to make ends meet. He was sent to the university with the purpose of graduating, getting a job and alleviating his family from poverty. Out of greed and selfishness, he befriended Demola who was the son to rich parents. He taught Demola how to extort money from his parents, do drugs and even convinced him to join a cult. He was already an active member of the cult when they went for a gang war and he mistakenly killed his best friend, Demola. He was caught by the police and arrested. He also got expelled from school wasting all the money, time and energy that was put into his education. He was convicted with manslaughter and sentenced to life imprisonment with a fine of hundred

thousand for possession of firearms. He felt regret for convincing his friend to do bad things and tried to make it up by talking to his friend's parents.

- II. **Dr. Aworawo Richards:** He was the father of Keziah. He believed in strict parenting and strict showing of love to his child. He was a busy and a wealthy doctor who did not support abortion but when the matter of Keziah's rape hit home, he advised her to abort the baby as the child did not come in favourable conditions including the death of its father. He got mad when Keziah and her mother refused to abort the baby and completely neglected Keziah even to the extent of denying paternity of Keziah. He would have lived the rest of his life in regret if Keziah had died when she attempted suicide. He was able to rectify his mistake and supported Keziah through the remaining course of her pregnancy and even helped her get admission into another university.
- III. **Stella:** Stella was a victim of rape when she was fourteen. She was raped by the sons of her pastor and their friends. She suffered from an undiagnosed psychological trauma. She hated the church and everything that had to do with Christ until she was called to Christ. While she was still living her sinful lifestyle, Keziah was her roommate. Keziah shunned her lifestyle and judged her but she was still a good friend to Keziah. She supported Keziah as she found out that Keziah was raped by reliving her nightmare and telling Keziah her story. This action saved Keziah from falling into an emotional abyss as she did because Keziah had her to relate with making her not to feel all alone. Stella remained a good friend to Keziah throughout the play even in the face of hardship.

3. What are the points of divergence between the written and filmed version of the book?

- In the third movement of the movie, Dr. Yusuf's lecture was interrupted by a few late students before he was able to proceed, although in the novel, there was no such interruption.
- The third movement was written rather than seen in the movie version.
- Demola's mother was portrayed as being dead in the movie, while she was really described as being alive in the written version.
- The name of Keziah's daughter was displayed in the film version but was not in the written version.
- In the third movement, Demola asks Ovie about Keziah while they are both seated in class, although in the written form, Ovie was supposed to accompany him to a corner and ask about Keziah.

- When Stella was preparing to tell Keziah her story, it was described in the book that she moved over to the window side and looked into the distance, however in the movie, she was seated on a bed next to Keziah.
- In the book version, it was stated that Stella awoke from a dream as Emmanuella entered; however, in the movie, Emmanuella's visit to Stella was included in a different scene.
- The DPO was portrayed as a female in the book version but a male in the film version
- In the fifteenth movement, Mr. Richards was shown comforting her daughter Keziah in her bedroom in the movie version, although this moment is absent from the book version.