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TOPIC: 5 UNDERLYING THEMATIC THRUSTS &

DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSES (GOOD MORNING, SODOM)

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  **Five Underlying Thematic Thrusts**

1. Friendship/Peer Pressure: Friendships, in whatever form they come, can

alter one’s life. The influence of peer pressure cannot be overemphasized. It makes you do things you never thought you could. It is obvious Demola was from a good home, Intelligent, hardworking and focused. His life ended up going in a direction he could never have imagined due to peer pressure. It is evident in the play that Demola actually loved Keziah but his friends, K.K and Bentol, had led him in a completely different direction that led to the abrupt end of a seemingly blooming relationship and his untimely death. Let’s not forget the place of Stella in Keziah’s life. Stella had always been in the background of Keziah’s life. Stella tried to warn her but Keziah never paid much attention to her. Ironically, she was the one who stood firmly by Keziah’s after she was raped. Her so called friends, Bunmi and Ovie were nowhere to be found. Stella is an example of a friend everyone should have in their corner, someone who would stand by you through thick and thin. She narrated her own experience to Keziah to encourage her.

1. Rape: The female lead, Keziah was raped by Demola. Rape is a crime no

matter what forms it takes. In this play, it was done unintentionally due to the fact that he was pressured by friends or perhaps under the influence of drugs. No matter how it happened, it was still without consent and hereby tagged as rape. This theme illustrates what peer pressure can result in amongst other things. Keziah’s traumatic experiences did not end with rape but she had to face rejection from her father which almost killed her as she attempted to commit suicide. It was just enough to be victimized by the world. A rape victim should be lived not stigmatized. It is very obvious that Keziah adored her parents. The feeling of the shame, disappointment and rejection she received from her father pushed her to attempt suicide. Fortunately, she didn’t die and neither did her baby. Her father had a second chance to rekindle their failing relationship. The rape led to her being pregnant. She not only had to go through trauma but the challenge of being a teen mom.

1. Justice: Valuing and seeking Justice is our responsibility as humans. Justice, when well-served serves as a deterrent to other youth in society. Punishment should be given accordingly. Whenever there is a breach of the law, and relevant tasks have been performed in the court, the accused persons should face the law clearly. The Justice is last Hope of the common man. The society should not overlook terrible act even when the accused persons have own up to their guilt. They surely knew the consequences of their actions before engaging in it. No one is above the law. The law is the law not even money should suffice. The lives of people depends on the Justice served. There is no peace without Justice. Discussions of Justice should include fairness, equality and impartiality. The defence counsel(representing K.K) tried to side play the accused crimes with emotions claiming he was the only child of a widowed mother. The court is not a religious gathering. It is true, we are humans and capable of empathizing with others yet sympathy must not becloud our sense of judgement.

1. Death: Death is the loss of life. In the past, the death theme used as a device

to provide closure but in contemporary fiction, like Good morning, Sodom, death didn’t serve as a closure. Damola was confirmed death in the movement after which we still about 13 more movements before the final closure of the play. Death is inevitable but man prays to live long at least. The death of a child or a young adult, who is still at the prime of his age, brings nothing but sadness to the family of the deceased. It was after his death that his parents, engineer and Mrs Diran found out all he had been up to. They realized he had been deceiving them. All of these happened due to peer pressure. He was shot intentionally by his friend who mistook him as their rival. Could all of these have happened of he had better friends? No

1. Teen pregnancy: In certain points in life, pregnancy is a joy but not as a teenage young adult who still has her whole life ahead of her. It can and should be avoided.

Exceptional cases, like rape, happen and so was the case of Keziah. Her “learned” Father who previously had belief on not have abortions when pregnancy happens forsook those beliefs immediately. It came to his daughter. He practically victimized his daughter. He ignored her. He didn’t show her the love she truly needed at some point in her life. Rape victims should be loved and cared for, not victimized with or without pregnancy. Keziah's mom stood by her in the best way she could. The healing process of a rape is enough for a victim. Adding victimization and stigmatization to the plate makes it worse. The inability to hurdle of these probably pushed Keziah to attempt suicide. Luckily, she was rescued just in the nick of time. Other people are not so lucky.

1. Cultism: A secret cult can be defined as an organization of which people come together to pledge their allegiances, under an oath and have a social bond of commitment and dedication for the good of the organization. Their activities are kept secret- thus the name “secret cult”, and kept away from other members of the society or non-members of the group. Secret cults carry out their meetings when people are not aware of, especially during the odd-hours and far away from residences. This act is cultism and someone who practices it is a cultist. Secret cults are rampant in schools all over the world. This social vice is eating up the educational and moral standard of students. Demola was initiated into a cult willingly I guess by K.K and his goons. This is still indirectly linked to the friends he kept. This was the cause of his death. His cult clashed with another and he was shot mistakenly by K.K who mistook him for an opponent.

 **Detailed Character Analyses** a. Keziah

 Keziah is a 200-level student of Mayflower University. She adores her parents, no wonder she was so crushed about her father's attitude towards her after she got pregnant. She is honest to her mum and probably tells her everything. A particular guy, Demola, chases after her constantly but she seems uninterested in dating him or anyone else for that matter. She seems like someone that was raised well despite being born into a comfortable home. She thanked her mum for bringing her provisions when some people see it as their parent's duty. She thanked her mum's driver for carrying the provisions to her when others see it as an entitlement. Her family seemed wealthy. Demola ruined a seemingly small chance of friendship with her by raping her. Stella is Keziah's roommate. It is later obvious in the play that Stella was uncomfortable with how quickly she and Demola became close and had made it known to Keziah who paid no attention to her. She later became pregnant as a result of the rape. Her parents were not happy and thought she was being wayward especially her father who constantly looked at her with disdain. Her father who initially didn't support realized his mistakes later while her mother was by her all the time. Even though she wasn't expelled, her father decided that she needed a change of environment and got her admitted in 200 level at the university of Ibadan and hired a babysitter and Nanny to take care of her Demola b. Demola

 Demola is a hardworking, handsome and intelligent student. He is a 200-level English student of Mayflower University. He was genuinely interested in Keziah. His friends were K.K and Bentol. They were the ones who initiated him into a cult and introduced him to drugs. He seems like a well-trained person who forsook his beliefs along the line. It can be inferred that he was paid little attention to by his parents who just gave him money when he needed. His friends pressured him to defile a girl he was genuinely interested in only for him to regret it later. To me, he looked like someone who was genuinely interested in her but got misled along the line, thanks to the friends he kept. He was from a wealthy home. This was made K.K to befriend him. K.K is responsible for most of the terrible decisions he made. Unfortunately, while some get the opportunity to make amends, some don't and that was the case of Demola. He died in a sporadic shooting courtesy of his cult members who mistook him for their opponent. His parents were really sad I mean, who wouldn't? They said they failed as parents. Did they or did their son refuse to listen to them? He left a seed behind the parents and Keziah's parents met his parents who promised to fulfill his responsibilities. c. Dr. Richards

 Dr. Richards is Keziah's father. He is a busy and wealthy man. (He couldn't make it to Keziah's school because he received an urgent call this morning). He was also not immediately available when Keziah fainted after she found out about Demola's death. According to Mrs. Richards, he had beliefs that abortion was a risk but seemed to fly out the window the minute it had to do with his daughter. He didn't initially believe her when she said she was raped. She thought she was been wayward but was she? No. He never cared about his daughters feelings instead he was more concerned about his reputation. A rape victim is never at fault; the rapist is. Nevertheless the victim is the victimized one, the one who's life is said to be ruined. He never paid attention to her. He looked at her with disdain. She no longer became his daughter but her mother's daughter. He raised the issue of abortion forgetting the risk he was going to put his daughter through. He realized his mistake only when Keziah attempted to commit suicide but thank goodness, it wasn't too late from then on he became the supportive father he was meant to be from the onset. He got her admitted into the university of Ibadan and made arrangements for her and her baby's well-being.

3. Points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good Morning, Sodom

There was no point of divergence noticed in the movements not mentioned

FIRST MOVEMENT

In the movie, Keziah was dark not fair. She wore a wig, her hair wasn’t plaited. The opening scene in the book was absent in the movie. The opening scene of the movie went straight to Keziah’s discussion with her mother.

FOURTH MOVEMENT

Demola wasn’t eating in his conversation with Keziah in the cafeteria, neither was he drinking although he had before him a can of malt.

Emmanuella met Stella while she was spreading clothes not in her room as stated in the book.

SIXTH MOVEMENT

Demola wasn’t lying on the bed but sitting on a chair.

After Keziah was raped and woke up, she slapped Demola in the movie.

When Stella was telling her story, she was sitting on the bed in the movie and not standing.

In the flashback of Stella recounting her rape experience, in the movie, her father didn’t whisper anything to her ear and nobody was hiding behind the curtains.

We didn’t see Stella walking through a bushy narrow path. The man in Stella’s dream was dressed in native attire and no cap in the movie but was wearing khaki shirt and short with a cap.

There were no cows in the book but it was present in the movie. Stella and Keziah’s discussion was outside the room in the movie, on Mayflower University’s campus.

SEVENTH MOVEMENT

In the book, K.K and Demola’s discussion started with K.K walking towards him but K.K was already sitting in that scene in the movie.

EIGHTH MOVEMENT

The song sang by all during their cult meeting in the movie was different from that in the book. Spark didn’t walk around in circles and he stretched his right hand and not his left.

In the book, Demola was being initiated. In the movie, he was already an initiate/a member of the cult.

NINTH MOVEMENT

The ninth movement was skipped in the movie.

TENTH MOVEMENT

Demola was not exactly soaked in a pool of his blood. Just a little blood was noticed on his head. The book stated Keziah fainted a few metres away from the scene before she fainted. In the movie, she fainted immediately.

 The next scene in the movie was in the hospital skipping the process of students rushing to lift her up and carrying her into the car as stated in the book.

TWELFTH MOVEMENT

In the movie, Stella enters into the car with them in contrast to the book where she was waving at them.

THIRTEENTH MOVEMENT

The DPO is a male in the movie unlike the book where the DPO is a female. The DPO in the movie also stated that a duplicate file should be made for the DPP which was absent in the book.

FOURTEENTH MOVEMENT

Mrs Richards was not seated on the sofa with Dr Richards while the conversation of Keziah’s pregnancy wae going on. The last two lines of Dr Richards and the last line of Keziah was skipped.

SIXTEENTH MOVEMENT

The opening scene was in the living room not the kitchen as stated in the book. The closing scene was presented differently. There was consolation scene(Keziah’s mother to Keziah) in the movie but not in the book

SEVENTEENTH MOVEMENT

Mrs Nkanga was not shown. The names of other cult members were mentioned in the movie and their punishment was 2 years imprisonment for unlawful use if firearms and a fine of 100,000

EIGHTEENTH MOVEMENT

A Toyoto Sienna was seen instead of a Toyota Venza.

Keziah’s letter was found in the living room not the bedroom.

Keziah’s lifeless body was not in the room but somewhere in between the living room and maybe the dining room.

TWENTIETH MOVEMENT

Dr Richards gave Keziah a kiss on the hand in the movie not the forehead as stated in the book.

TWENTY FIRST MOVEMENT

The 19th and 21st movement was merged in the movie. Some lines in the book were skipped in the movie. Demola’s mother is actually dead in the movie unlike in the book where his mother was alive. Keziah’s father said Mrs Diran’s lines instead.

TWENTY SECOND MOVEMENT

The opening scene was in the room not the labour room. The process of her labour(surgery) was skipped in the movie.

TWENTY THIRD MOVEMENT

This movement was skipped in the movie but was narrated at the end of the movie.