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QUESTIONS:

- (1) Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's good morning Sodom, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrust the drama engages.
- (2) Attempt detailed character analysis of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom.

SOLUTIONS TO QUESTIONS

(1) Attempt an incisive interrogation the book good morning, Sodom, underscoring at least five thematic thrust the drama engages.

➤ NEGATIVE PEER INFLUENCE

Negative peer pressure usually involves influence that sways people towards risky activities such as criminal behavior, underage drinking, drug use and an overall unhealthy lifestyle. Negative peer pressure is the influence a person faces to do something they wouldn't normally do or don't want to do as a way of fitting in with a social group. It is often said that “Don't let anyone dilute you, don't be peer pressured into being less than you are. People willing to dilute themselves for the sake of others is one of the great tragedies of our time. Stop letting others define and set a pace for your life. Demola was succumbed to the cold hands of bad influence. In movements seven and nine, we read how k.k., initiated him into a cult group called Red shadows. And also how influenced him into taking hard drugs, he even made him live off campus and how he even encouraged him to rape a female course mate. Because of this bad influence of his so called friend, he died an ignominious and inglorious death and his life was short lived, ironically he was killed by the friend who negatively pressurized him. Good morning, Sodom portrays the effect and destruction of negative peer influence on youths. In movement nine. K.k. said “Demola was my very good “friend”, even though we were not in the same level. The first day I set my eyes on him. I knew he was different from other boys around. When I discovered he was from a wealthy home I decided to get closer. I succeeded in making him do so many terrible things”. There is also an adage that state show me your friend and I will tell you who you are. Demola moved with bad friends and he became bad, also bad communication corrupts good manners. Our old men will say “Agutan to ba ba aja rin a je igbe, aja to ba ba ewure rin a je epo isu” meaning, a sheep who follows a dog will eat feces and a dog who follows a Goat will eat yam peel. Therefore as youths we must be mindful of the type of company we keep.

➤ AGONY OF RAPE

Rape is coming increasingly to be viewed as a crime not of passion but of power, the assertion of the will of one human being over another. The sexual aspect is viewed only as particularly humiliating assertion of dominance. We can see in movement six how Demola forcefully took Keziah against her own will by drugging her. The victims of rape often blame themselves for somehow inviting violence, in the same movement, when Keziah was with Stella, she said “No! I

caused it! I... She also said "Can't you see? I sold myself cheaply Stella! I gave my pride to dogs! I opened my door to the thieves. There is an aftermath of rape, a sense of never being able to be what one has been, of disillusionment and despair. In same movement we read how Stella was raped by not one but four boys. She had accompanied her father to the house of their pastor, where the pastor sons and their friends deceived her, and raped her in turns (The "pastors sons" symbolizes a high level of moral decadence), it made Stella loose her faith in Christ. She loosed herself and true Identity, she went into prostitution. The agony was shown in her voice when she said "I had been irredeemably, forcefully deflowered. I had been rushed into a world of sexual gratification. That marked the beginning of my journey to the land of degeneration." Rape of one woman is a degradation, terror and limitation to all women. It includes assault, and physical violence. About 13% of all student experience rape and sexual assault through physical force or incapacitation. Demola had to quench his desire. This signifies distrust and betrayal.

➤ BETRAYAL

In the book good morning Sodom, the play shows a strong theme of betrayal. How the character manipulated and took advantage of the other. The character start to break relationships and become more independent after betrayal has taken place in the play. After the character has been betrayed we can see the true nature and intentions of those involved In Solomon Adedokun Edebor's good morning Sodom, the theme of betrayal develops plot, reveals a character's true nature, and affects the atmosphere of the play. To begin, a deceptive act of betrayal never ends well for any of the characters, an act of betrayal will always leave one of the characters with a loss of trust. In the sixth movement, Keziah finally went to Demola's room which is off campus after being ignored by Keziah so many times, meaning it will have taken a level of trust and friendship for Keziah to accept going to his house. In the twenty-first movement, Demola was talking to his friends "Don't you get it? I love this girl. You know how long it took me before she agreed to visit". He used an assignment as a bait and used that opportunity to take advantage of her by sleeping with her and taking away her chastity. After this, all ties of friendship and trust were broken. An adage says "Accepting a friendship betrayal is quite a tough job, you've got to accept the face behind the mask of a good person".

➤ REDEMPTION

Failures or tragedies set a stage for a sad story, but it doesn't have to end that way, the book good morning Sodom portrays redemption as a central theme. Redemption is a powerful and uplifting theme that acknowledges the human potential to succeed after having failed. The characters Keziah and Stella sees the errors of their ways

and strives to right the wrong they have committed making for an uplifting tale. Redemption according to the Max-Webster dictionary is defined as an act, process or an instance of redeeming. Keziah became pregnant for Demola, unknowingly, her educational adventure as truncated and she was forced to live with the consequences. In the twenty-third movement first her parents changed her environment, so she could put all the ugly experience behind her and then enrolled her in a school to make her dream come true. In the last movement Dr. Richard said “Just take this opportunity and right your wrong, and make your dream come alive again”. Because of the experience Stella had to go through, she dabbled into all of forms of despicable heart, she increased her promiscuity. Then she had a dream which changed her life the second being a nightmare and after the cut-shot counsel from Emmanuella, she made herself go to church where she gave her life to Christ once again. God’s love is an important theme in Stella’s redemption. Stories of redemption often involve a reformed character sacrificing his or her freedom or life.

➤ THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL NEGLECT/BAD PARENTING.

Parental neglect is a major theme that runs through this play, the playwright takes a serious view on the issue of parental neglect. As we have observed in the play, the issue of parental neglect ultimately creates tensions within society. Parental neglect means the failure in the exercise of parental responsibilities to provide for a child's basic physical, intellectual, emotional or social needs. In the case of Demola, his parents, engineer Diran and his wife failed in their parenting duty towards Diran, in movement nineteen, Mr. Diran explained how they were never bothered to check on him, how he was doing in school and what his challenges were. Bad parenting makes a child more prone to criminal behaviors. The failure of Diran’s parent to keep a close eye on Diran and how he was fairing in school made k.k. to take their place in his life who influenced him negatively. Neglect is abusive, ignoring a person and not caring about what they want and need. Although Demola’s parent cared for him financially they failed in the aspect of physical and psychology matters. Demola didn’t know how to control his own issues and instead of his parent to help him k.k. took the advantage to make him do many terrible things. In movement twenty one, Mr. Diran said “We couldn’t just fathom how our son changed overnight”. The playwright tries to view parental neglect and bad parenting as what causes most of the moral decadence and social vices in our society today.

(2). Attempt detailed character analysis of any three characters in Solomon .A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom.

(a) KEZIAH RICHARDS

Keziah is one of the main, round character in the story Good Morning Sodom. She is a medium height, slightly rounded, fair young girl who is clearly in her late teens. Keziah seems to come from a good home. The story shows that she has a really good relationship with her parents. Keziah takes her studies very seriously, she is very studious she also tries to avoid any distraction. Her moral standard is very high especially when it came to the issue of opposite sex. She doesn't give in easily to other people's opinion and she is not easily swayed by them, she is a person of her own word. She started out as a very disciplined and focused person but fell into Demola's cruel trap, she was mercilessly and intentionally raped. She was the target. She later got pregnant and her educational journey was truncated. She had to face its consequences including the anger and shame of her family towards her. This brought tragedy and agony into her life. As the story revealed more of what happened we saw that after giving birth to Demola's child Moritha, She offered a heartfelt apology to her parents. But the story ended up as a good one for Keziah, she got back her parents love. She got enrolled in another school and also had to change her environment so as to put all the ugly experiences behind her. The story line shows that she didn't understand who her friends really are. She also had a feeling of regret for meeting the friend whom she had managed to trust, during the line of the story she expressed anger, regret, happiness and victory at last. Keziah in the story symbolizes hope for youths who have lost their ways.

(B) DEMOLA DIRAN

Demola is the main character, he is dynamic in nature (antagonist). His life in the story centers mainly on the moral decadence among youths in the society. The story line shows that he came from a wealthy home. Demola's life is also an eye opener on some of the causes of criminal tendencies among students. He was kept in the web of bad influence by his friends, he was succumbed into the cold hands of bad influence, he was initiated into a cult group, made to take hard drugs and indulge in all forms of despicable act. At the beginning of the story we saw how he was trying to develop a good, mutual relationship with Keziah. Just like how Amnon get advice from his cousin Jonadab, Demola decided to lure her using assignment as a bait. He raped and took advantage of Keziah. This scene shows how far negative influence from peers can affect one's life and destiny. At the long run, He suffered a disgraceful death. One of the factors that made the character like this is lack of adequate parental care and monitoring. At the end of it all he suffered an ignominious death long before his time and ironically the friend who initiated him into the fraternity was the one who shot him during the clash. During the time of this characters death there was a feeling of regret, the picture symbolizes love and care

he had for his parent. His story ended tragically in movement ten. Demola's life shows negative consequence and the danger associated with immoral acts.

(3)K.K (NKANGA NWONKO): K.K played the role of Demola's close friend. He is the bad guy in the book, He is an irresponsible person to the core and a child of a widowed mother who struggles daily, roasting plantain to finance his education. The story depict some sort of financial struggles in his life. He also played the role of influencing Demola negatively. They both indulged in all sort of immoral activities, such as the use of hard drugs and rape. He is a member of the fraternity (Red shadows). He later regrets the course of his actions, after the rival cult group clash where he unintentionally killed his friend, he was arrested alongside with other cult group members He was charged in the cult, guilty of man's slaughter, in possession of illegal arms and membership of an unlawful society. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, Oh! What a waste of precious time. In movement nineteen, he showed remorse and confessed to Demola's parents about how he has been responsible for what happened to him and even how he encouraged him to rape a female course mate (Keziah). In the same movement he said "I never knew my actions would result in this". K.K regretted his actions. He faced a life time consequence and was difficult for him to realize how damaging his actions could be even for his future.

(3) What are the point of divergence between the published and the filmed version GOOD MORNING, SODOM?

First Movement

There were difference in the physical characteristics or appearances of the main character, Keziah, in the novel she was described as a medium height slightly retound fair young lady with newly plaited hair, but in the movie she is a thin dark lady

Third movement

While Dr. Yusuf was teaching, in the movie some students came late for class but it didn't occur in the book. In the movie he said "are you just coming for the class, the female and the male student replied "yes sir" and then he sent them out.

Sixth movement

Stella was just waking up from her nightmare in her room when Emmanuella wanted to talk to her about the gospel She even wanted to come back later but Stella

encouraged her to say what was on her mind and when she saw it was the gospel she sent her out of the room, but in the movie we saw Stella trying to sundry her clothes when Emmanuella wanted to speak with her.

Fourth movement

In the movie Demola didn't eat anything he only ordered a drink. But in the book ,Good Morning Sodom in his actions "Later, he takes a mouthful of rice, then looks up from his plate to face Keziah.

Sixth movement

When Demola offered Keziah a drink in his room. Keziah sipped her drink "You're welcome (pauses a while to allow her to sip her drink). She sipped her drink immediately it was offered to her before the handkerchief incident scenario. It happened differently in the movie. Keziah sipped her drink when Demola was trying to explain Stress this happened after the whole handkerchief incident scenario. In the same movement, Keziah received a message opens up her bag and then picks up her phone. In the movie she just picked up her phone which was placed beside her handkerchief on her handbag

Eight movement

In the play Demola was just initiated into the cult group by his friend K.K, The movie showed that he was already a member of the cult group. And also in the movie only two men were initiated, they didn't drink a calabash stained all over with blood as in the play, but a water of covenant.

Ninth movement

Gunshots are heard from different directions in the university gate revealing some students hiding from and shooting sporadically at one another. But in the movie it was assumed to have happened as the next scene showed Demola lying dead in a pool of his own blood after the cult group meeting

Twelfth movement

In the book Stella waved at the family as they drove out of sight when they came to pick Keziah from the health care center, but in the movie Stella entered the car with them.

Thirteenth movement

In the movie the DPO is a man, and there were four apprehended cultists. While in the novel there was only three apprehended cultists and the Director of Police was a woman. Because the inspector addressed her as "yes ma".

Fourteenth movement

At the time when Keziah's father wanted to have some words with her. The book showed that her mother was present in the living room. "Dr and Mrs. Richards are seated on the sofa looking gloomy while in the movie her. In the movie her mum was not present at first but later comes to join them after dropping a tray on the table. Also there were some lines that were said in the book that wasn't included in the movie, the part where Dr. Richards told her that she was a shame to the family or rather the last two lines.

Fifteenth movement

When Zuwaira and Nonso were talking, they said somethings that were not included in the movie. In the last three lines of the movie like "Our lives are like open books Every day we write a line and then Nonso said "That is why we must learn how to take care how we live in our daily lives. The Zuwaira said 'Abeg let's snap out of this mood. How far about the textbook? Nonso said "It's still with him" and then and there they continued talking all this conversation above wasn't included in the movie.

Sixteenth movement

In this movement we were told that Mrs. Richards was preparing food together with Keziah and then told her to go and see who was at the door, Keziah tries to greet her father but he looked disdainfully at her without welcoming her greeting. Because of this, she started sobbing silently and then Mrs. Richards asked her if it was her father, she nods, and told Keziah to get back to the kitchen to cut vegetables. They had the rest of the conversation in the bedroom where Keziah was heaves dropping on all what they have said, weeping. But in the movie when Keziah's father came in she tried to collect the book that was in his hands but her father rejected the offer. They had the rest of their conversation in the sitting room and the movie didn't show Keziah heaves dropping on their conversation.

There was another scene in the movie where Mrs. Richards was seen consoling Keziah and telling her how her father still loves her this wasn't included in the book.

Seventeenth movement

In the novel, K.k. mother was present at the court witnessing her son being sentenced to death but this didn't happen in the movie. Also at the beginning of this movement, in the novel, there were argument between the prosecution and defense counsel before the judge's final decision or judgment on the crime. In the movie they went straight to the point.

Nineteenth movement

Mrs. Diran was late / dead in the film, it was revealed when Dr. Richards said “we are sorry about the death of your late wife”, but in the novel she was there when K.K confessed about everything that happened between him and Demola and even when the both families spoke together concerning all that had happened. In the movie the actions in the 21st movement and 19th movement were merged together.

22nd Movement

The scene showed Keziah in a labor room, struggling to give birth his wasn't included in the movie.

Apart from this the 23rd movement weren't acted, they were summarized and that marked the end of Good morning Sodom.