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USE OF ENGLISH

GOOD MORNING SODOM ANALYSIS

FIVE THEMES IN GOOD MORNING SODOM

1. **THEME OF PEER PRESSURE**~ The theme of peer pressure can be seen in the life Demola Diran, a 200-level student at Mayflower University. Demola tries to woo Keziah his course mate as he has feelings for her, but despite all his effort to get her she remains adamant, and this leaves him with no other option than to follow the bad advice of his friends K.K and Bentol who pressure him into drugging and raping Keziah due to her stubbornness and unresponsiveness to his romantic gestures. Demola can be said to be the main victim of peer pressure in the play as he is also pressured into joining a secret cult on campus to aid his life and strength on campus which later leads to his untimely death in the play. Keziah is also a victim of negative peer pressure as she allows herself to fall prey to the negative advice of Ovie and Bunmi her course mates as she adheres to their advice to give Demola a chance which leads her to unwanted pregnancy, educational halt, and parental neglect for a while.
2. **THEME OF CHILD NEGLECT**~ The theme of child neglect is headed by Dr Aworawo Richards towards Keziah his daughter. When she comes back home with an unwanted pregnancy, he insists on aborting the child while it's still in its early stage, but this idea is rejected by his wife as she under lists all the possible things that could go wrong during the procedure, this makes him even more angry at Keziah than he already was as he didn't like the idea of her keeping the baby, he constantly abuses her and says she is a shame to his family, he also makes her feel worthless, avoids her existence and even disowns her saying that she stopped being his daughter the day she brought the child to his house and although his wife tries to calm him down and convince him to be more affectionate towards his daughter he refuses. The constant abuse and neglect lead to Keziah's depression and she attempts suicide because she feels useless, this is an eye opener for Mr Richards as he realizes the gravity of his actions and the effects they had on his daughter, he then decides to make things right with his daughter.
3. **THEME OF MORAL DECADENCE AMONG THE YOUTH**~ This theme of moral decadence is very evident in this play as it is the cause of all the horrible actions and the consequences that followed. The evils are shown in the use of hard drugs, head turning alcoholic drinks, cultism, brutish sexual drive and encounters, and all other anti-social vices. The youth in the higher institutions today have fallen prey to these social vices due to inadequate parental care, low self-esteem, and peer pressure. The rate at which the youth

practice these social vices have caused a lot of havoc and destruction as in the book Demola Diran is seen to have fallen prey to these social vices like cultism, the use of hard drugs and brutish sexual drive, this is seen when he uses different substances to drug and rape Keziah but he did not go scot-free because soon after he committed those heinous crimes, he met his early demise. The theme of moral decadence among youths is also seen in the story of Stella, Keziah's friend as she tells the story of how she was gang raped by her pastor's children and their friends when she was younger, this in turn made her heart hard as she turned away from God and became an expert in immoralities. She realized soon after that the path she was following was not going to favour her in the end due to the repeated dream she had and the declaration made to her by a fellow student about God, she then realized if she did not change her ways, she would have a disgraceful end. The playwright uses this theme to serve as a means of education to the youth as it teaches them moral lessons and the consequences of their actions if they don't change.

4. **THEME OF UNTIMELY DEATH**~ The theme of untimely death is evident in this play as the youth in this play fall victim to this horror. A good example is Demola Diran who suffers this because of his participation in immoralities and crimes, at first, he joins the company of bad friends leaving all his values behind, he then goes ahead to rape Keziah, consume bad drugs and finally embark on a cultist mission which then leads him to his untimely death, he is mistaken for a rival during the mission and gets shot by K.K. Untimely death is not only suffered by Demola as some of his cult members and friends also fall prey, Keziah as well almost suffers this as she attempts to commit suicide to escape the world and her reality, because her life seemed to be in shambles, she has an unwanted pregnancy which forces her stop school for a while, she also suffers resentment and rejection from her father, she then falls into depression all these things she faces makes her feel less of herself so she attempts to take her life, but fortunately she is found before she gives up the ghost and is then rushed to the hospital where her life is saved.
5. **THEME OF REDEMPTION**~ The theme of redemption is championed by Stella, Keziah's friend in the play when Stella visits her pastor's house with her father and is left behind with the pastor's sons as her father and the pastor have to go to the hospital urgently, she is lured to the room inside and she sheepishly follows being told that her father wanted to speak with her on the phone, she is then gang raped in turns by the pastor's son and his friends, her virginity is taken furiously and she is traumatized, and although the offenders were arrested they weren't there for long as the church interfered. Ever since the incident Stella hated God so much for allowing such a thing to happen to her, and even though she relocated and continued attending church with her parents, her heart was hardened towards the things of God. Stella entering the university gave her the opportunity to turn against God without any hindrance as she started practicing immoral activities and even became an expert in them. She is soon called to God through a reoccurring dream she has and a word of reassurance from God by a fellow student, the dream showing her, her disgraceful end if she doesn't turn to God soon. Eventually immoralities become a thing of the past for Stella, and she turns to God with all her heart.

DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. **DEMOLA DIRAN** ~ Demola Diran is the son of Mr and Mrs Diran; he is an undergraduate student at Mayflower University. Demola is said to be an intelligent and hardworking guy who upholds good values. He is also in love with Keziah his course mate and he constantly tries to woo her, but she declines. Demola loses his values along the line as he falls into the company of bad friends like K.K who lead him astray, the fact that he is easily led astray shows how weak hearted he is. When he tells his friends K.K and Bentol about his situation with Keziah, they advise him to drug her and rape her and he sheepishly agrees even though he knows its wrong and this due to his frailty. He goes ahead to rape Keziah and as a result he not only loses his chance with her, but he also loses their friendship, this makes him sad and goes ahead to tell K.K what had happened, K.K tries to console him and offers him a drug to sniff, he declines initially but later agrees to take it because K.K pressures him. It's safe to say that Demola is easily influenced and has no mind of his own because he also goes ahead to join a secret cult due to peer pressure, and this leads to his early demise. If only Demola upheld his values and remained a good student maybe he wouldn't have met his end so early in life, but it seems like he wasn't strong enough to do so.
2. **STELLA** ~ Stella is Keziah's friend and roommate, and she is also an undergraduate student at Mayflower university, she is strong spirited lady and a born again, she advises Keziah and warns her when she sees her becoming too friendly to Demola as she senses that something bad would happen. She is a strong lady as she is seen to have passed through a lot at an early age and she still stands strong till date, she tells Keziah her story of how she was a victim of sexual abuse and harassment by her pastors sons and their friends when she goes for a visit and her dad had to rush out with the pastor, leaving her in the custody of the pastors sons, the pastors sons plot and they successfully lure her into the bedroom with an excuse of her dad wanting to speak to her so she sheepishly follows as she doesn't think much of it. They successfully gang rape her, her virginity forcefully taken away, she was traumatized indeed and since that incident she hated God for allowing such bad luck to befall her, she stopped worshipping him and even though she changed environments and still went to church with her parents her heart was still hardened towards God, she began doing immoral things and her entry into the university even let her spread her wings more as she became an expert, but God wasn't happy and tried to call her back to him with a dream showing her, her disgraceful end if she doesn't turn to him soon, he also uses a student to send his word to her but she lashes at the student and even though the words of the student dawned on her after she left, she forgot them after a few days later but then she has the same dream again, this time it is scarier and then she finally decided that it was time to turn back to God. She is also a supportive friend to Keziah as Keziah even mentions her to her mother as a good girl, she also encourages and advice Keziah when she finds out about the horrible things Demola did to her. In all it can be seen and noted that Stella is a God fearing, strong spirited, caring, supportive and loving person.

3. **MRS RICHARDS** ~ Mrs Richards is Keziah's mother and Mr Richards wife, her actions in the first movement of the play already show that she is a caring woman and mother, she showers Keziah with love, time and affection, she makes sure she has time for Keziah between her schedules she also brings her a lot of goodies and extra provisions so she would not lack anything in school, she gives Keziah some advice regarding the people and friends she keeps around her, she encourages her to focus on school and remember the reason she is there. She is also seen as a supportive mother when agrees to keep Keziah's baby even though her husband insisted otherwise, she also continues to shower Keziah with affection because she knows it is not an easy phase. She even tries to encourage her husband to be more affectionate towards Keziah as she sees his actions are taking a toll on her health. Mrs Richards supportiveness is also seen when makes plans with Mr Richards to put Keziah back in school, but also a different one to ensure that Keziah has a change of environment, and her past is put behind her. She also makes plans with her husband, and they secure an off-campus accommodation for Keziah and to accompany her Chinenye who will serve as a babysitter and house help to Keziah, her selflessness is shown here as she gives up her house help just for Keziah to be comfortable and to be with someone she trusts. From all her actions it is fair to say that she really owns the title of a mother, she is also a caring, selfless, compassionate, understanding, and supportive person, mother, and wife.

POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE MOVIE AND THE PUBLISHED BOOK

There are a lot of differences between the movie and the published book, when reading the book, we use our imaginations to picture the events as we read while the movie already shows us the events in real time. In the book it is said that Mrs Richards alights from the car to embrace Keziah but in the movie, she is seen standing outside the car waiting for Keziah before embracing her, Keziah is also said to have a newly plaited hair in the book meanwhile she is wearing a wig. In the second movement Keziah is said to have stopped to answer her phone when it rang but, in the movie, she appears already on the call, Demola is also said to be sitting under a tree in the book but in the movie, Demola just appears from the trees. In the third movement, when Dr. Yusuf was lecturing in the class, he mentioned some Nigerian scholars but, in the film, he didn't. In the part where he cleared his throat in the book, in the film, he was interrupted by students who came late to class, so he sent them out. And, in the book, Demola spoke to Ovie alone about Keziah's absence from school. But in the movie, he spoke to Ovie and Bunmi. In the fourth movement, which took place in the cafeteria, it was written in the book that Demola got rice for himself and drink but in the film, he took a drink. The sixth movement took place three weeks later according to the film but in the book, it was not indicated. Also, according to the movie, when Keziah got a message from Ovie, the phone was not in her bag but in the book, it was. In the book, when Stella told Keziah about her ugly past, they were in the room, and she ended the story as both were in the room too. But in the film, she started to tell her story from the room but as she went on, they took a stroll outside, and she completed it under a tree the book. Still in the sixth movement, when Stella was telling her story, she said four young men were seen bringing clothes from the house, but in the movie, only two men brought and burnt the clothes. In the book, when Emmanuella came to tell her a message from God she was

on her bed in her room but in the movie she(Stella) was hanging clothes on the line. In the tenth movement, the scene and spotlight started with Demola's dead body, but in the book, it started with Stella. Also, from the description in the book, I understand that Keziah, on seeing Demola's dead body, her palms were raised to her temples, she pulled away from the crowd and fainted. The writer also said she was found bleeding, as Stella in tears carried her to the car. But in the movie, her palms were not on her temples and the scene where she bled and was rushed to the hospital was not shown.