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**GST 122 ASSIGNMENT**

**GOOD MORNING SODOM** (A play)

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

(A) Theme of Negative peer influence:

Peer pressure is evidently portrayed in the play as both main characters, Keziah Richards and Demola Diran are victims of negative peer influence. From the second movement, it is obvious Keziah wants no relationship with Demola, however, her friends Ovie and Bunmi lure her right into Demola’s trap, by encouraging her to get to know him and let down her guards which leaves her pregnant and her child fatherless.

In Demola’s case, the effect of peer influence cost him his life. His friends K.K and Bentol are responsible for every bad decision Demola makes. Demola clearly likes Keziah but Keziah being focused on her education is not of any sort interested in Demola’s feelings towards her. He later succumbs to Bentol and K.K's advice.

Bentol and KK’s negative influence on Demola starts as a result of Demola’s wealthy lifestyle. K.K notices Demola’s love for Keziah and Keziah's nonchalance so he advises Demola to rape Keziah, giving him a hankie that has been charmed, to enable Demola have his way with Keziah. KK is also responsible for encouraging Demola to take drugs and other harmful substances even when Demola refuses. His influence on him is heightened when he introduces him to cultism, which later leads to his death instigated and executed by KK himself.

(B) Theme of hope:

Stella, Keziah’s roommate is the center of this theme. After Keziah was raped by Demola, Stella is seen comforting her and tells her "Everything would be fine", she provides hope and support, because she has been in a worse situation than Keziah. She shares her story of been ganged raped by her pastor’s son and his friends when she was much younger and how her story was silenced.

Stella questions herself, asking “When will they (men) realize that we are like flowers that radiate beauty but get marred once we are violently plucked? When?” She advised Keziah to go back to her normal lifestyle without becoming friends with Demola again. She is responsible for giving hope to Keziah that she could stand on her two feet once again, stronger and better no matter the situation.

Taking accounts, Stella was always present in times when Keziah had lost hope, we can say she is light at the end of Keziah’s tunnel, a true friend.

(C) Theme of Parental responsibility, care and guidance:

The responsibility of Keziah’s father, Dr Aworayo Richards lost his sense of duty and responsibility in his pool of anger towards Keziah. He could barely look at her as his own daughter, without having knowledge of the situation surrounding how she was raped and impregnated. Unknowingly, he creates a hole in his daughter’s heart which leads to her intake of drugs with the intention to kill herself and the baby, she tries to relief her father’s burden and the shame she is causing. What she needs at the time is support, care and love, which her mum shows her throughout. It was difficult for Dr Richards, as he even criticizes her mum for accepting such baby. Dr Richards’ duty of responsibility, care and guidance is lost. This almost leads to the death of his beloved daughter. This should act as an eye opener to parents. Parental love and care should not be situational. They must carry out their duty even in pain, so as not to cause more pain or loss to themselves. They must learn to find a way to be happy and show love to their children.

In the case of Demola’s family, his parents totally failed to do their duty as parents in checking up on him and ensuring his safety and this is one of the factors responsible for him being easily swept off his feet by KK. If only they paid closer attention to their son, Demola maybe situations would have been different and they wouldn’t have cried out wishing they had done better for him.

(D) Theme of inability of constituted authorities to take measures towards social-vice:

The tendencies of students causing harm is vividly portrayed by the playwright, together with appropriate measures to curb the social-vices in the society as a whole. The danger, misfortune, harm and loss that the ‘Red Shadows’ caused in their fight with ‘the sparrows’, is a portrayal of the harm and loss that cultism causes. It causes fear in the heart of citizens, grief to families, disruption of school activities and a bad outlook on the community.

The punishments given to KK and his fellow cultists was to show that culprits of any social vice should be punished equally for their crimes. There shouldn’t be any excuse for not being punished, like the defense counsel pleaded for from the Judge. There must be punishments metered out, so as to act as a measure to reduce the level of crime rate. If not others would not learn from the experience of such evil people.

Both designated authorities in higher institutions, religious institutions and constituted authorities should have punishments for crimes and they must ensure they are properly laid in order to curb the crime rates in the society as a hole and in the lives of vulnerable students like Demola.

We also how Stella's case was silenced because her parents did not want to go against the church. Influential elders in the church appealed them to not press charges. It is extremely wrong the harm they caused Stella is irredeemable and therefore they should be punished.

(E) Theme of Love:

One who thoroughly goes through the play can see that Demola genuinely loves Keziah, but with a fault, when he was advised to use the charmed hankie on Keziah, he refused but KK's influence on him, we can say is stronger than the love he has for Keziah. This love can be seen as an obsessive love or rather, infatuation. But the love Keziah had for Demola at this point was likeness as a friend.

Also, love is portrayed in Keziah’s relationship with her parents, from the first movement. Keziah is filled with so much joy and happiness just from seeing her mum, when she notices the absence of her father she becomes pensive. Her mother’s love for her doesn’t flinch even after getting informed about Keziah’s pregnancy. Mrs Richards even coerced her husband to try and show support to his daughter.

Keziah couldn’t bare the hatred her father had for her. His repulsive attitude towards her lead her to become suicidal, it was the lack of her father’s love that dragged her to attempt committing suicide.

Truly parental love and care is essential in the life of every child as evidently portrayed in the Play.

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

(A) Mrs. Richards:

Mrs Joke Richards is the mother of Keziah. She is a major character in the theme of Parental responsibility. At the first movement, we were made to understand that she made sure to come to visit her daughter, bringing along provisions and money for her upkeep.

She embraces, encourages, praised and advices her. She genuinely cared about her well-being and education, she depicted true parental care. Even when she heard about her pregnancy she wasn't distracted from carrying out her parental responsibility.

She embraces her and makes sure she was there for her and her upcoming child. She even tries to talk to Mr. Richards about his disdainful attitude towards his child and completely rules out the option of abortion brought up by Mr Richards. She is hopeful and supportive throughout the pregnancy process. She is always by Keziah’s side in all situations, a true mother.

(B) Keziah:

Keziah is the daughter or Dr and Mrs Richards. She is an undergraduate of Mayflower University. She is the protagonist of the play, Good Morning, Sodom. She is a very brilliant student is spends most of her time reading or engages in school activities.

She introduces the play together with her mum, as her mum comes to visit her in the absence of her dad, which cause her to be pensive but immediately becomes cheerful after she was told that her dad would gift her for his absence. In the next movement she is approached by a handsome guy, Demola. From their conversation, we can see that it was not the first time he had tried to approach her to talk with her, in regards to dating her. As always, she turned deaf ears to him as she makes her way to the library.

Furthermore, we are surprised by the turn of events in movement six, where we can see Keziah in Demola’s House. This turn of events later leads to being raped by Demola. After the unfortunate events that she passes through, she once again Loathes Demola is hard to experience such dreadful event while trying to be his friend.

In addition, after the death of Demola by KK his friend, in an unfortunate even. We find out that Demola had impregnated Keziah. With the anger and pain showered on Keziah by her father, she attempts suicide be intake of drugs. Luckily she and her baby survives. She later gives birth to a baby girl, Mouritha. Keziah later completes her studies in the University of Ibadan and moves out there to study with her baby.

(C) KK:

Nkanga Nwoko popularly known as K.K was Demola's 'friend' and a member of the Red Shadows Confraternity. He plays the role of an instigator in the play.

He influences Demola to make bad moves towards Keziah, by giving him the drugged handkerchief and telling him to rape her. He also coerces Demola to join the cult.

He mistakenly shoots at Demola instead of a rival cultist, shooting Demola he said was the biggest mistake of his life. However, at the end of the play he seems to be sober carrying out the dying wish of his friend. He was burdened by guilt and even contemplated taking his life. He admits to all his crimes, using Demola for his wealth, introducing him to drugs, making Demola’s parents realize their own fault in raising him. At the end of the day he was also a student, just chose the wrong path and suffered the consequences.

3. What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good morning Sodom

The notable differences between the film version and the published version are as follows;

In the movie, Stella was telling Keziah her story of how four boys raped her while they went outside to stroll, however, in the book Stella was telling Keziah of how she was raped and her encounter with God while they were sitting on her bed. Also, 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. Also, from the description in the book, I understand that Keziah on seeing Demola’s dead body, raised to her palms to her temples after that, pulled away from the crowd and fainted. The writer also said she was found bleeding, as Stella in tears carried to her to the car .But in the movie, her palms were not on her temples and there was no scene where bled and was rushed to the hospital.

In the second movement, Keziah was illustrated to be on her way to the library when she got a phone call so she stopped to pick the call, but in the movie the scene began with her on her phone. Just like in the third movement, when Dr. Yusuf was lecturing in the class he mentioned some Nigerian scholars but in the film he didn't mention any Nigerian scholars. In the book he was said to have cleared his throat but nothing like that occurred in the movie, he was interrupted by students who came late to class so he sent them out. Also, in the book Demola spoke to Ovie alone about Keziah’s absence from school but in the movie, he spoke to both of them.

In the fourth movement, it was described that only Dr. Richard that was seated in his living room while Keziah was standing in the absence of her mother while her father was rebuking her, asking her why she brought shame to the family, contrary to what was scripted in the book Mrs. Richards later joined them then sat.

In movement six, according to the book Stella woke up and was still contemplating on the meaning of the dream she had while a girl named Emmanuella came knocking on the door to preach the Gospel to her, while in the film Emmanuella came to preach to Stella when she was spreading her clothes outside.

In the thirteenth movement, the DPO was a man so he addressed as (sir) but in the book, the DPO was addressed as (Ma) which shows the difference in gender of cast in the book and in the movie.