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***GST122..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.

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

3. What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good Morning, Sodom?

1. A) ***Theme of Negative peer influence***:

This Theme has been vividly painted in the Play. The negative peer influence of K.K and Bentol on Demola. From the start of the play, at the second movement trying to get his way with her, wee can clearly see that he is interested in her as a lady, but Keziah does not give him her attention. She is concerned more on her studies than she is about Demola as she even sees him as a distraction.

However, we figure out later on in the course of the Play that Demola is actually in love with Keziah and succumbs to his friend’s advice, K.K. KK is a cultist who is responsible for making Demola do “many terrible things” and is ultimately responsible for his death.

Bentol and KK’s negative influence on Demola begins as a result of Demola’s wealthy lifestyle. He notices his love for Keziah as sees her nonchalance as he advises Demola to rape Keziah, giving him a handkerchief that has been charmed, to enable Demola have his way with Keziah. KK is also responsible for encouraging Demola to take drugs and harmful substance, even when Demola insists otherwise. His influence on him was heightened when he introduces him to cultism, which later led to his untimely death.

The theme of negative peer pressure is vividly portrayed in the play. The characters of Keziah and Demola are used to show this effectively.

B) ***Theme of Parental responsibility, care and guidance***:

The responsibility of parents to guide and care is paramount in grooming well rounded children. Keziah’s father, Dr Aworayo Richards lost his sense of duty and responsibility towards her in his pool of anger. 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 created a hole in his daughter’s heart which led to attempt suicide, in trying to relief her father’s burden and Shame which she caused.

What she needed at the time was support care and love, which her mum showed her. It was difficult for Dr Richards, as he even criticises her mum for accepting such baby.

Dr Richards’ duty of responsibility, care and guidance was lost. This almost led to the death of his beloved daughter. This should be an eye opener to both current and aspiring 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. This is one of the factors responsible for him being easily swept off his feet by KK. If only they pay closer attention to their son, Demola, they wouldn’t have cried out wishing they had done better for him.

C) ***Theme of Love***:

The theme of love is not vividly portrayed as parental responsibility and negative influence. One who thoroughly goes through the play can see that the love that Demola had for Keziah was genuine, but with a fault. When advised by KK to use the charmed handkerchief on Keziah, he refuses saying he has tried on many occasions to invite her over to his house. But the influence of KK on him, we can say is stronger than the love he has for Keziah. This love can be seen as a romantic 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 reduce even after getting informed about Keziah’s pregnancy. Mrs Richards even tried to talk to her husband to try and show support to his daughter.

Without the love in Mrs. Richards eyes for his daughter, she couldn’t survive the hatred her father had for her. His repulsive attitude towards her lead her to become suicidal.

We can see that, it was the lack of her father’s love that dragged her to attempt committing suicide. Truly parental love is crystal clear in the Play.

D) ***Theme of measures towards social-vice***:

The tendencies of students to cause harm is vividly portrays by the playwright, together with appropriate measures to curb the social-vices in the society as a hole. 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 happens in the society as a whole.

The punishments given to KK and his fellow cultists was to show that whatever situation that culprits of any social vice is going through they should be punished equally for their crimes. There shouldn’t be any excuse why they shouldn’t be punished, like the defence counsel pleaded for from the Judge. There must be punishments meted out , so as to act as a measure to reduce the level of crime rate. If not no one would learn for the experience of such evil people.

Both designated authorities in higher 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.

E) ***Theme of hope***:

Stella is the centre of this theme. After Keziah had been raped by Demola, she was seen crying in her room when Stella tells her ‘Everything would be fine’, she carried inside herself hope, because she was in a worst situation than Keziah. She shares her story of been ganged raped by her pastor’s son and his friends.

Stella questions her self, asking “ when will they(men) realise that we are like flowers that radiate beauty but get marred once we are violently plucked? When?’. She believed that Keziah could go back to her normal lifestyle without becoming friends with Demola again. She is that voice that gives hope to Keziah that she could stand on her two feet once again, stronger and better.

If we notice properly Stella is present in times when Keziah has lost hope, we can simply say she is light in Keziah’s darkness.

1. A) ***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 who spends most of her time reading or engages in school activities.

She opens the play together with her mum, as her mum comes to visit her. In the absence of her dad, she becomes 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 approached her in regards to having a relationship. 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 her being raped by Demola. After the unfortunate events that she passes through, she once again loathes Demola.

In addition, after the death of Demola, we find out that Demola had impregnated Keziah. With the anger and pain showered on Keziah by her father, she attempts suicide. Luckily she and her baby survives. She later gives birth to a baby girl, Mouritha. Keziah later continues her studies in the University of Ibadan and moves out there to study with her baby and a care taker.

B) ***Mr Richards***:

Mr Richards is the father of Keziah. He has a major part to play in the theme of Parental responsibility. At the first movement, we are made to understand that he wasn’t able to come visit his daughter because of an unforeseen trip.

He allowed anger towards Keziah to distract him from carrying out his parental responsibility. After finding out that Keziah had been raped on her visit to Demola's house, and he blames her. He even opines to Mrs Richards that the baby should be aborted at an early stage of pregnancy as he doesn’t support the birth of such baby.

He later regrets his actions when his loath towards his daughter pushes her to attempt suicide. He is the one who sees her suicide note, rushing to her room to see her unconscious on the floor.

Mr Richards makes up to Keziah after being discharged from the hospital. Both the father and the daughter apologise for the actions and misconduct. He even helps her get admission into the University of Ibadan, to allow her change her location and continue her education.

C) ***Doctor Hanson***:

Doctor Hanson is not a major character in the Play. He is the chief Medical Director of Emamuzo Specialist Hospital. He is seen in movement eighteen and twenty-two.

He was responsible for flushing Keziah’s system of the drugs she took to kill her self and also the delivery of her baby.

1. ***Points of Divergence between published work and film:***

There are lot of points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good Morning, Sodom. There are differences in settings, costumes and even movements which were acted out differently, and even some omitted.

At the first movement in the book, it is introduced with different scenes of the female hostel but in the film version we see students at different parts of the school. Also, Keziah is described as fair, which is unlike what we watch in the film version. It is said that Mrs Richards alight from the car to give Keziah a warm embrace but in the film version she is resting on the side of the car.

A difference between the film and the published version in movement two is seen when Demola and Keziah are walking to the library as he tells her” But seriously Keziah, you have not critically considered what I have been trying to make you understand”. In the film version they are already at the library when Demola says this and Keziah excuses herself, leaving Demola at the library. In movement three, as Dr Yusuf start to advice the students two students entered the class then he send them out cause they came late buy this is not seen when reading the book. As Demola approached Ovie and Bunmi they are seated in class in the film but are walking out of class in the book.

In the sixth movement, after Demola raped Keziah light momentarily focuses in her clothes roughly hanging on the chair she formally sat on but it is not acted out in the film. Also, the man who brings clothes for Stella in her dream was described to have been dressed in khaki shirt and shorts with a cap, but in the film the man is not seen wearing a cap. As the man that looked like a hunter was dragging her and another hand taps on shoulder. She wakes up to a head peeping into her eyeballs as she shouts please don’t kill me but in the course of the film the man dressed as an hunter dragged her to the heart then she suddenly wakes up.

The song that the cultists sing at the first scene of the eight movement in the book and the movie is different and they initiate three people in the book but just two in the movie. Demola is seen as members of the cult already and not at the centre to be initiated as made mention in the book. The name of the people that the sparrows were responsible for their death were Dragon and Fesula in the film, but in the book it is Dagren and Festula. The whole of movement nine was not acted out and in movement ten, no moving car is stopped to carry Keziah to the hospital as made mention of in the book. In the eleventh movement, after the light fades, but comes on shortly after the main road is revealed but in the book nurses, students and other hospital attendants engaging in different activities are revealed and Mrs Richards who is meant to be crying as stated in the book is looking pitifully at her daughter, Keziah. In the twelfth movement when Keziah is being discharged to go home with her family, only her mum is seem going home with her in the film.

After Keziah had been discharged at home, her dad tells her to pick up the book with a letter at the centre on the centre table in the fourteenth movement but in the film, he tells her to pick the letter from the centre table. As Keziah pleads with her dad she is said to have turned sharply to Mrs Richards, implying that she was present at the scene but in the Play she is absent till Dr Richards tells Mrs Richards “can you see what you daughter has turned into?” Dr Richards was also seen to have been seated when he questions Keziah for her reason, but he us said raise o. His feet and is pacing while he asked her for her reason.

The seventeenth movement is said to be a scene at the court but in the book, but in the film this scene seen is Keziah in labour with her mother pacifying her and calling Dr Richard to arrive as soon as possible and informing him that Keziah was in Labour. Also, the whole court persecution process was stated out in the book but in the film it wasn’t acted out and we didn’t see KK’s mither crying as said in the book. In the eighteenth movement, Patrick is not seen and Dr Richards informs the other person at the end of the line that he would be at Abuja in an hour bur in the film he says he would be there in an hour and thirty minutes.

The whole of movement nineteen is acted as a flashback in the twentieth movement and KK does not bring out any picture from his pocket to show Demola’s parents and Mrs Diran was not seen at this scene but we are made to understand when Keziah and her parents come to visit Engr. Diran for the loss of his wife which was not stated in the book. The name of the baby that Keziah gives birth to is Mouritha in the book, but in the Play it is said that her name is Heritage Demola-Diran.