

# A FE 122

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## Assignment 01

Question:

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.

### Solution

#### **1. An incisive interrogation of Good morning Sodom underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.**

##### **A. Peer pressure**

The story highlights how peer pressure can be a powerful force that can lead to dangerous and life-threatening situations. In the case of Demola, he was initially hesitant to join the cult group but gave in when his friends constantly pressured him and romanticized the idea of being part of the group. The pressure from his friends was so great that he lost sight of his own values and beliefs, eventually leading to his demise. This shows how peer pressure can have a powerful and dangerous hold on individuals, leading them to make decisions that are not in their best interest,

On the other hand, Keziah's story also highlights the negative impact of peer pressure. She was aware of the risks involved in going into Demola's room but succumbed to the pressure from her friends who kept insisting that it was harmless fun. She almost paid for this decision with her life.

The stories of Demola and Keziah demonstrate the need for individuals to be aware of the influence of peer pressure and to learn to resist it. It's important to have the courage to stand up for oneself and make the right decisions, even when it may not be the most popular choice among friends. By doing this, individuals are able to maintain their integrity and prevent negative consequences.

In conclusion, the play-novella portrays the negative impact of peer pressure on individuals and the Importance of standing up for oneself. It is a reminder for individuals, especially younger ones, to be aware of the influence of peer pressure and choose their actions wisely.

##### **B. Poor parenting**

Demola's parents failed to instil discipline in him and left him to make his own choices, which later led to his downfall. He got involved in bad company and indulged in vices that led him down a destructive path. His parents were too consumed with their own lives to pay attention to their son, failing to provide him with the guidance and support he needed.

Demola's story is a cautionary tale of the lasting impact of poor parenting even into adulthood. As he struggled with addiction and criminal activity, his parents were absent and distant. Their neglect allowed for Demola to be easily swayed by the wrong crowd such as K.K who influenced him into joining a cult group called "Red shadows", leading to a lifetime of missed opportunities and a bleak future

The story serves as a reminder that parenting is not just about providing for the material needs of a child, but also about being emotionally present and supportive. The absence of such support can lead to a child choosing the wrong path, blindly following those who offer guidance and acceptance, even if it leads to destruction.

It's a stark reminder to all parents to prioritize their children and give them the attention they need. Because in the end, the consequences of neglect can be devastating and far-reaching.

C. **Ineptitude**

Dr. Richard's inept attitude towards parenting was evident in how he dealt with Keziah's pregnancy. Instead of being supportive and understanding, he blamed her and made her feel like she was a burden to the family. His reaction to the situation was insensitive, and his inability to handle the situation in a responsible and empathetic manner led to tragic consequences.

Dr Richard's ineptitude and lack of emotional intelligence exacerbated the situation, making Keziah feel like she had no other option but to end her life. He failed to offer her support and guidance in a time of crisis and instead added to her stress and anxiety.

It's important for individuals in positions of authority, such as doctors, to possess the necessary skills to effectively handle difficult situations. Dr Richard's inability to communicate effectively, understand another person's point of view, and handle sensitive information in a compassionate way highlights the dangers of ineptitude in such roles.

The story serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy and emotional intelligence, especially in professions where individuals are responsible for the well-being of others. Incompetence and a lack of empathy can lead to tragic consequences and should not be taken lightly.

D. **Cultism**

The play-novella talked about the negative effect that come along with joining a cult group. This was portrayed in the role played by Demola and K.K which lead to Demola's death and K.K's sentenced to life imprisonment which not only sabotaged their educational journey but also lead to the death of Mrs. Diran as portrayed in the film.

Additionally, cultism promotes violence and criminal activities which affects both the members of the cult and non-members. Cult members engage in all sorts of criminal activities such as stealing, vandalism, extortion, kidnapping, and even murder, all in the name of protecting the interest of their group.

In conclusion, joining a cult group can have several negative effects on individuals and the society at large. It is, therefore, imperative for individuals to shun such groups and embrace positive values that promote social cohesiveness, moral uprightness, and personal fulfilment.

E. **The triumph of life over death**

Mrs Richards made it clear that advocating against abortion is not enough, one has to provide solutions and support to those who are faced with such difficult decisions. Mrs Richards believed that it was important to empathize with women facing unwanted pregnancies rather than lecturing or judging them. She argued that women who choose to have an abortion often do so because they feel trapped, scared, and alone. She suggested that instead of trying to criminalize or shame them, society should focus on addressing the root causes of unintended pregnancies, providing comprehensive sex education, and ensuring access to healthcare and family planning services.

Furthermore, Mrs Richards pointed out that Mr Richard's stance on abortion was hypocritical because he was not practicing what he preached. She emphasized that it was not enough to simply talk about the negative consequences of abortion, but one must also be willing to support and help those in need. In their case, Mrs Richards argued that it was more important to prioritize their daughter's health and well-being, rather than imposing their beliefs on her.

The play-novella portrays a complex and controversial issue that continues to generate heated debates and controversies in many parts of the world. While some argue that abortion is a fundamental right that should be protected, others consider it a grave sin and a violation of the sanctity of life. Nonetheless, the importance of listening to diverse perspectives, showing compassion and respect, and seeking common ground cannot be overstated, as it may help reduce stigma, promote dialogue, and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their bodies and lives.

## 2. Detailed character analyses of characters in Good Morning, Sodom.

### a) Keziah

However, Keziah is also a bit naive or inexperienced when it comes to relationships and the opposite sex. She seems to have been caught off guard by Demola's advances, and although she did not consent to any sexual activity, she seemed uncertain and hesitant about how to handle the situation.

Overall, Keziah is portrayed as a complex character with a mix of strengths and weaknesses. Her ability to keep to herself and maintain boundaries is admirable, but her emotional vulnerability can also make her an easy target for manipulation or mistreatment. Her rational thinking is a positive trait, but can also be overcome by fear or insecurity.

Throughout the play-novella, Keziah learns to trust her instincts and stand up for herself, demonstrating growth and resilience. Despite the challenges she faces, she remains true to herself, refusing to compromise her values or beliefs. In the end, Keziah emerges as a relatable and sympathetic character, a young woman struggling to find her place in the world and navigate the complexities of relationships and self-discovery.

### b) Dr Richard

Instead of him being a caring father, he immediately jumped to conclusions and accused Keziah of being promiscuous. This lack of empathy and understanding towards his own daughter shows his shortcomings as a father and as a medical professional. His behaviour towards Keziah also highlights his patriarchal mind-set, where he sees himself as the sole authority figure in the family and disregards his daughter's feelings and opinions.

Additionally, Dr Richard's insistence that Keziah have an abortion shows a lack of empathy and understanding towards his daughter's situation, which is particularly ironic since he is a medical professional who is supposed to prioritize patient care and wellbeing. He seems to be more concerned with preserving his family's reputation and avoiding scandal than with supporting his own daughter

Overall, Dr Richard is portrayed as a flawed character who embodies many of the negative aspects of patriarchal society. His lack of empathy, hypocrisy, and inability to listen demonstrate the harmful effects of a society that values societal reputation over individual wellbeing.

c) **Mrs Richard**

Mrs Richards is portrayed in the play-novella to be a caring and loving mother who puts her family first before her business. This can be seen in the play-novella when she alone comes to visit her daughter in the university but her husband, Mr Richards is seen to be in a meeting at that time but promises to make it up to Keziah.

She is seen to be a very considerate and understanding person that can relate with the emotional standing of her pregnant daughter "keziah"

## **Assignment 02**

### **Questions:**

1. What are the points of divergence between the written and the film version of Good Morning Sodom.

### **SOLUTION**

1. **1<sup>ST</sup> movement**

#### **Excluded text**

Line 2: Mrs Richards: You can say that again, and again

Between Line 9 & 10: Mrs Richards: How are you doing.

Keziah: I'm fine.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Movement**

#### **Excluded text**

Line 11: Keziah: As you can see, I am running late [for my lecture]

In the background, we can see a lady slightly paying attention to Keziah and Demola's conversation. At the end a man looks at them as Keziah leaves and shows a sign of disgust. All of this wasn't detailed in the play-novella

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Movement**

Dr. Yusuf skipped the other names of the Nigerian Scholars like Isidore Okpewho, J. A. Adedeji, Emmanuel Obiechina, Ademola Dasylva, P. A. O gundeji, Iyorwuese Hagner and Ossie Enekwe. He excluded story telling. It was excluded from the book that some students came late to Dr. Yusuf's class and he tells them to get out. He referred to them as intruders while getting back into the class. He asks if there was any question (i.e "is there any question, I'll take your silence to mean that there is no question"). The students relied with "thank you" and not "good morning".

Ovie and Bunmi are seen to be studying after the class, they weren't on their way out of the class. Ovie never said she was all ears instead she wasn't paying Demola much of her attention. It was Bunmi that said "you should know Keziah".

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Demola tried been more polite by using the word please when he was requesting for a seat which was excluded in the literature. Keziah tells Demola that it is not as if she has to report her every move to him which was excluded in the play-novella.

A young man is seen looking at Kesiah and Demola as they talk when Demola chips in "a damsel like you?".

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Bunmi and Ovie didn't give Keziah a quick look as the light faded.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Keziah didn't say thank you all same after Demola commented that that was how he was able to get her to get into his room which was written in the play-novella. Demola did call Keziah a big girl which was excluded in the play-novella. Keziah didn't say "ah mo gbe" when they she woke up to find her self on Demola's bed. Stella didn't tell Keziah all of her story about her experience with the pastor's children in the room but kept un telling Keziah her story as they walked on the roadway and finally ended her story while they were under a tree. Keziah wasn't seen to be crying at the end of the story as was stated in the play-novella.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Demola wasn't among those cultists that were just being initiated into the cult group called "Red shadows" while on their knees. He was seen to be beside K.K who was ordered by Spark to bring the calabash.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Movement**

This movement was skipped in the film where there was meant to be a shooting scene at the school main gate.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Movement**

They excluded in the film the part revealing the nurses, students and other hospital attendants carrying out different activities.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Stella didn't wave away the car of Mrs Richards but she entered it and sat at the front seat.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Movement**

It wasn't 3 cultists that were apprehended by the police men but 4 of them including the cult group head "Spark". The DPO told the IPO to hasten up on his investigations, duplicate the case file, a copy should go to the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) approval while he ensures to round up their investigations as soon as possible in order to commence the persecution which was all excluded in the play-novella.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Dr Richards didn't talk further after Mrs Richards said "Ah! Keziah" but he did talk further in the play-novella.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Movement**

They skipped the argument of the Persecution counsel and the Defence counsel. The judge also skipped stating the names of the other accused persons which were "Torkuma Okerie, Musa Aubakar, Olupitan Steve, Sebietimo Phillips".

### **19<sup>th</sup> Movement**

The 19<sup>th</sup> movement was skipped but was later shown in the 21<sup>st</sup> movement as Engineer Diran narrated his conversation with K.K to Dr Aworawo Richards and Mrs. Joke Richards.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Movement**

It was only Engineer Diran that went to see Keziah's parents, narrating how K.K brought it to his understanding that Demola had impregnated Keziah. It was later revealed that Mrs. Diran was dead but she was said to have gone along with Dr. Diran to visit the Richards family.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Movement**

In the film, they skipped the part showing Keziah in the labour room. The labour room was not visualised in the film.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Movement**

It wasn't shown in the play, instead a summary was written to explain the rest of the story. In the play-novella, they said that the name of Keziah's daughter was Mouritha but in the film, they said that her name was Heritage Demola-Diran.