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QUESTION 1.

‘Good morning Sodom’, a play carefully crafted and well executed to open our eyes to so many contemporary menaces occurring at the higher institution levels, which contributes to the depreciating state of moral values in our society.

A detailed critique of the book would tell us about a quite naïve but brilliant young female, keziah, well pampered by her parents as introduced in the first movement and her association with a morally low-standing male; demola by name, first intoducec in the second movement of the play.

It is seen that keziah has often time rejected demola’s advances as she has her mind focused on one thing; education. ‘…I am here for a purpose, to study and make something worthwhile out of my life. The last thing I need for now is distraction from anyone-including you,’ she says.

But this rejection doesn’t seem to faze demola, instead seemed to fire his desire to pursue our main character of the play. Demola would even go to the extent of inquiring her wellbeing from her friends ( bunmi and ovie, first introduced to us in the third movement) after lectures, all to ensure keziah belongs to him in the end.

Progressing further into the play, we can admire demola’s tenacity and patience, as he waits for keziah’s consent concerning the relationship he desperately seeks, as proven by his attempt to further woo her in the cafeteria in movement four. It is clear that keziah wasn’t interested in what he had to offer; stating, ‘…demola, I thought we closed this book.’ And ‘…I’d appreciate it if you didn’t raise this issue again.’ Although, his rentless pursuit continues as seen in the fifth and sixth movement.

The sixth movement takas drastic turn uncovering one of the thematic twist of the masterpiece. Although our main character exhibits naivety appearing alone in a man’s lair, it is still no excuse for the grave action of the young man. He begins his deceitful tactic by bringing up small talk, luring the innocent prey into his bait, his prey completely oblivious

During the act of small talk, keziah was drugged and raped, to put it plainly. This brings out attention to one of the many vices that occur on campuses grounds all over the world. Statistics have it that over 33% of all women experience violent sexual contact and a lifetime cost of rape is $122,401 per victim. In addition to that, 22.9% of women were either asleep/passed out or 35.3% of all women were drugged. That’s about one-quarter of women that have encountered sexual violence. This has as an adverse effect on the victim’s psychological and physical health and takes years to recover from the trauma, leaving them with a nasty emotional scar. The playwright has done a beautiful job bringing one of the menace of the academic environment to light in this way.

Proceeding further into the play, keziah regrets deeply and leaves the scene of crime into the comforting arms of her roommate, Stella, where she(Stella) recounts her experience of gang rape and encourages the main character to take heart. There is also the addition of an element of divine intervention and message put across through this play.

Moving on, we see demola trying to ask for keziah’s forgiveness, but she’s still deep in the throes of bitterness. Further along will lead us straight to the second menace that this play has brought our attention to; consumption of hard drugs and its relations to peer influence.

According to the WHO, about 35 million people are estimated to be affected by the consumption of drugs, and about 284 million people worldwide consume hard drugs.

As in the play, we see a friend of demola. K.K. by name, had influenced him to drug keziah in order to have his way with her. This shows the consumption of hard drugs can be a trigger of other social vices, such as rape as seen in this play, either directly or all indirectly.

We see the powers of influence come to play as KK further influences him to take hard drugs to forget his pain, as an attempt to forget his sorrows and guilt, which demola succumbs to.

The eight movement introdues us to another menace; cultism. It shows us that a student was being initiated and the ninth movement shows a sort of violence which we later find out movement nine through thirteen is a as a result of cultism. This shows that cultism can result to violence, loss of properties and lives (like damola’s life, as seen in movement 14), academic truncation and truncation of a bright future amongst so many adverse effects. It proves that cultism is a vice that must be avoided at all costs.

Even as we approach the play’s synopsis, we see in the eleventh movement that keziah seems to suffer from a sort of medical ailment which was revealed to be pregnancy in the 14th movement. The disconsolateness of keziah’s parents cannot be hidden as they express their dismay concerning the pregnancy.

The topic of unwanted pregnancy reveals the fourth thematic twist of this play has brought upon us is expressed in movement sixteen. This can lead to stigma, as expressed by keziah’s dad, Mr. Richards. Mr. Richards expresses his disdain for the unborn child as he says’…is that kind of child worth keeping?’ and he brings the suggestion of abortion in order to take away the shame the pregnancy has brought upon his family. This shows that teenage/unwanted pregnancy can lead to academic disruption, depression, thoughts and attempt on suicide, health complications and many others.

In the play’s closing movements, we see that keziah attempts suicide but was later rescued just in time. This shows how teenagers are desperate to escape their dilemma, even if it means taking their own life. 25, 5% of youths have seriously considered suicide. We see that keziah has written a lot of apology for the shame she has brought and why she wants to take her life. This shows that parental support plays a crucial role is helping teenagers getting through a depressing phase in their lives, which keziah’s dad didn’t provide for her.

In synopsis,, we see Mr. Richards had a change of heart and repents, k.k confesses his crimes to demola’s parents, some of the cultists faced the court of law and was given a heavy sentence and keziah had a relatively easy birth and her parents were ready to send her back to university. This play, despite its pessimistic undertones, had an ending that shows a ray of hope for anyone who may have undergone any of the ordeal as a form of encouragement, every cloud has a silver lining giving the play a well-executed one.

QUESTION TWO.

MR RICHARDS

Mr. Richards; also known as keziah’s dad was first introduced in movement fourteen. He appears to not understand his daughter’s plight and is depicted as very shallow, caring only about his reputation. In the case of keziah’s pregnancy, he appears to be quite judgmental, rather than being empathetic as seen in movement 14. The shallowness is further depicted when he suggest abortion at the expense of keziah’s health and stigmatizes her.

But we notice the change in attitude after keziah’s attempted suicide proving him to be a dynamic character. We see he wasn’t forgotten his paternal love concerning his daughter and gives her a chance to start her life again after her childbirth.

DEMOLA

As first introduced in the second movement, his tenacity can be admired in his rentless pursuit of keziah. We also see his caring side even as asked after keziah’s wellbeing, although that attribute could be debated as whether or not it was genuine. We also can see his inhuman act of taking advantage of keziah, which depicts him as childish and immature, although he had a redemption arc where he tries to ask keziah for forgiveness, even though it didn’t last long. We can also see he is easily manipulated by friends like KK, Showing he has jelly for a spine. In the end, it’s such a pity he was a victim of circumstance and his life was taken from him because of the wrong association he kept and was even expelled from the university, a tragic ending for such promising young man.

STELLA

Although she was only presented in the play about two times, she left a lasting impact on the main character and in the mind of the readers. We admire the courage she possess to open up and speak about her past trauma to encourage keziah. She is also depicted as kind and comforting, as she consoles keziah after the ape incident and rushed her to the hospital after she fainted. She also took it upon herself to phone keziah’s parents, informing them that their daughter was in the hospital. She is depicted as a loyal friend and roommate.

QUESTION THREE

Some differences between the play and the movie includes;

1. Demola met keziah under the tree a day after her mother came to visit in the play, it was on the same day in the movie.
2. Her friends encouraged her to get it on with demola in the movie, but the pressure wasn’t that much in the play.
3. Demola drugged keziah with a drink in the movie, but she was apparently drugged with an handkerchief in the play
4. Demola’s mother was late in the movie, but wasn’t in the play.