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**Afe 122**

- 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 diversion between the published and film version of Good Morning' Sodom.**

**Careless parenting**

One example thematic thrust subtly written on in the play is the issue of the reckless parenting that was established especially by Demola's parents. In the Twenty-first movement we see the conversation between the Diran and Richards family, after the death of Demola. A remorseful and regretting Engineer Diran with his wife are in the sitting room. Demola's father starts to talk about all the things that KK had earlier explained to him in Agobi prison. The parents realise how they have failed as parents, stating that they allowed their desire to secure

Demola's financial future to cloud the things they were supposed to do as parents. Their parenting was focused on providing what they deemed necessary for their child. As a result, basic things that parent should do like giving love or supporting general wellness of the child were neglected.

The consequences were shown as Demola got into various things like lying, cultism, rape and even drugs. He couldn't confide in his parents as there was no strong relationship as the basis for him to approach them. All these things led to him being a cult member and eventually his death.

### **Effects of rape**

The effects of rape is another notable part in this play. The event of being raped goes a long way on the victim as seen in the play. Keziah goes through a lot as she suffers mentally and emotionally and even her father who stops to see her as his beloved daughter.

Another victim of rape in this drama is Stella who was Keziah's friend. She also suffered a lot of emotional and mental pain which was way too damaging. It had so much effect on her that she became wayward and lost her way. The drama brings out the agony that rape victims face which helps to understand how they feel and be able to approach them carefully to help them.

### **Negative influence by peers**

This is another very strong thematic thrust that is seen in Solomon Edebor's Good morning Sodom. An example of a character that suffered the effect of negative influence is Demola.

In the twenty-first movement, there is a flash back conversation including Demola, KK and Bentol. Demola has developed feelings for Keziah and the issue is being discussed among his "friends". He is being advised by his friends to drug then rape her so as to feel satisfied. initially he is reluctant but then starts to give in. If not for the pressure on him by his friends he probably would not have done such a terrible act.

The pleasure is however not long lasting as he feels bad and starts to beg for forgiveness from Keziah. He obviously gets rejected and once again he yields to peer influence. KK brings out a white substance and gives it to Demola to sniff. In this play the dangers of yielding to peer pressure are really extreme. A couple of other bad things that Demola did as a result of Kk's influence on him were explained to Mr and Mrs Diran. This play shows the significance of the influence that even one friend can have on another. It shows that even the most honest and upright individual is not above corruption once they begin to mingle with the wrong crowd

### Cultism

Another example of an alluring thematic thrusts in this play-Solomon Edebor's Good morning Sodom-is the issue of the act of cultism that was potrayed in the book. The author attempted to give a clear picture of the processes, initiations, actions and even dangers of cultism in a typical Nigerian university setting.

In the eighth movement of the play a scene is painted. It is nighttime and three blindfolded students are on their knees being circled by a group of students dressed in uniform clothing-red T-shirt with a black beret-A person known as "Spark" addresses the group as "Red shadows" and they all chant back their "catchphrase".This scene merely explains the initiations of new members into cults and the rituals that follow'. As the play goes on, another cult is introduced known as the "Sparrows" and clearly the two cult groups are rivals as they both have killed members from their cult.

It is not advisable for anyone to join a cult or practice cultism as we see a tragic event that befalls a student of mayflower university. Demola one of the three students that were initiated into the cult was caught up in the fight between the rival cults and lost his life(tenth movement). Cultism never ends well for anyone involved in it. Not only does unnecessary loss of lives occur but also, shame to the family relatives as was the case of Nkango Nwoko(Kk) when he was facing his judgement in the seventeenth movement.

## **Hope and redemption**

The last thematic thrust that I want to point out is the fact that someone's story does not have to end in tragedy or regret like the rape victims we see in this play. The first example is Stella who was raped by four people, even after the event she was still facing humiliation from people and she ventured into a wayward life. But she had a spiritual intervention and was able to come out of the pain and learnt from her mistake. This is a solid example of how hope prevails. This goes on to show that redemption is possible no matter how dire the situation may seem

The second example is Keziah who was also raped. She also went through a lot and she fell into deep despair so much that she had attempted suicide, but thankfully, she was quickly rushed to the hospital. Because of this accident her parents felt bad and started to accept her. She was able to recover and even keep her baby. Though she was raped she was even able to go back to university. These characters should be an encouragement to rape victims and help them to know that they don't become useless after rape.

## **2). Nkanga Nwoko**

Nkanga Nwoko a student of Mayflower university and supposedly the "antagonist". He went by the moniker "kk". He was a 400 level student of the department of English.

Kk was just a student that met Demola and changed his life. He did a great deal of negative influence on Demola that led two of them to bad, even tragic outcomes. The character shows the effects of hanging out with bad friends or people who can not help develop you positively. He plays the role of a typical Nigerian student whose purpose of coming to the university is not primarily to

gain knowledge and get a degree. He was involved in anti-social vices some of which are cultism, hard drug intake and rape. Kk arguably exerts the most negative influence in this play.

Even though justice caught up with him, a lot of damage was still done to people he had influenced and was acquainted with. He invites Engineer DiranDemola's father-while he is in Agobi prison and starts to confess all the things he had made Demola do and how Demola was not supposed to die.

Kk is a poster boy for a bad example. He simply an epitome of all the bad characters which our parents tell us to avoid picking up from individuals we meet. He shows an example of what it is like to deviate from socially acceptable behaviours to begin to influence other

### **Stella**

Stella was a student of Mayflower university and one of the roommate's of Keziah. She was one of the rape victims portrayed in this story. At the age of fourteen she was already exposed to something like that. On a fateful day, she followed her father to their pastor who was their fellowship leader in the area. Her father and the pastor had to quickly leave due to an urgency that happened, so she had to stay with the pastor's sons-Daniel and Tosin. Their two friends later came and they all seemingly went to discuss without Stella. She somehow managed to be lured into the pastor's bedroom and was then overpowered and raped turn by turn by the four boys. This happened to the point of her being unconscious. She woke up in the hospital with the damage already done and the boys temporarily behind bars. After much influence and persuasion Stella's parents did not press any charges and relocated, thinking that would help her to recover.

The effects of rape on Stella was so much that she hated God and stopped to pray to him, which was not so before the incident. She became so hardened and started to go into immoral practices. She continued her practices even in the university. She had two spiritual encounters in forms of dreams and finally gave her life back to christ and was able to recover from the event happened to her.

Stella in this play is a rape victim that went through a hard time but got out of it and was even able to sympathize with Keziah after she too was raped. She represents real life victims of rape and what they go through, the neglect they feel and hardened "monsters" they become. But also she is proof that a rape victim does not have to stay in their pain as they can come out of it.

### Demola

Demola Diran was also a student of Mayflower university whose father was an Engineer. He was a 200 level student in the department of english. Demola in this play is someone that came from a rich home and this is one of the reasons that Nkanga Nwoko a.k.a Kk who was a 400 level student in the same department get closer to him. He was influenced into doing so much terrible things. He lied to his parents that the campus could not accommodate all students making his parents to get a place for him outside the campus. He was also introduced to drugs and even joining a cult. After much pressure, he was encouraged to rape a female student(Keziah). All these influences led him to his accidental death as a cult member of the Red Shadows.

Demola is a character in this play that shows the extent of the damage that can be caused when surrounded with bad friends and questionable parental upbringing. His parents desire to make sure that he does not end up poor was not a bad idea, but they sidelined other responsibilities they had over him like love and care and even wanting to know even the smallest details about their son. All these things made him get answers not from his parents but people closer to him- his peers. He is a lesson to be learned from parents, children and even students.

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

- The part that Keziah realized that she had been de- flowered wasn't as dramatic as explained in the book. She appeared rather calm than in a panicking state.

- Demola was supposed to be amongst the new cult members to be initiated into the Red Shadows.
- Though unnecessary, the scene of Keziah and Demola at the cafeteria as a recurrent denial of Demola's plea for a relationship was intrigued by an awkward scene of a stranger staring at Keziah which gradually faded off.
- The cult showdown the battle between the rival cult group, the Sparrows, which was a major section of the play was surprisingly omitted in the film version.

