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ASSIGNMENT

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?

ANSWER 1

Good Morning, Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor is a play that covers different thematic thrusts. Below are few that have been examined.

First of all, is the theme of negative peer influence. While one’s family influences them from birth, our peers especially those who we spend seven to earth hours with in school have more influence in our lives. This is evidently seen in the lifes of the two major characters- Keziah and Demola.

Keziah’s coursemate negatively influenced her by pressuring her to accept Demola’s proposal. It is important to note that Keziah was in her late teens and this is period that teens are pressured to partake in many vices. While at the beginning of the play Keziah made it clear that she was not ready for any relationship “…I’m not ready for such games” and that she knew what she came to school to do ‘…I am here for a purpose: to study.’ She had already planned out her life planned out and was not willing to allow Demola or anyone to distract her. However, her friends had other plans and convinced her to give him a chance. ‘All we are saying is that you give him a chance; get to know him…’ They did not regard her plans but rather made her change it. Any friend that convinces one to go against their plans and goals isn’t a friend.

Demola was also negatively influenced by K.K. In the 19th movement, K.K confessed to Engineer and Mrs. Diran that he was the one that caused the downfall of Demola. ‘I was responsible for all that happened to Demola.’ He reveled that it was him who convinced Demola to leave ‘the hostel for town’, introduced him to drugs and later ‘encouraged him to rape a female coursemate.’ It can be said that if Demola wouldn’t have committed such terrible things if he had not met K.K and was influenced by him.

Secondly, is the lack of parental care and monitoring of children in higher institutions. This has been and if care isn’t taken will always be an issue in our institutions. When children go to the university there are two types: the ones who always monitor their wards and those who leave their children to fend for themselves in school. Parents who fall in the second category either have a lot of trust in their children or they feel that they must learn to survive by themselves and therefore they don’t monitor their children.

Demola’s parents unfortunately fall in the second category. They failed to monitor him and keep up with all his activities. In the 21st movement, Engineer Diran confessed that he and his wife had failed Demola as parents. They were only concerned about his financial wellbeing while forgetting about his emotional, physical and psychological wellbeing. ‘…we drove Demola to his tragic end!’

K.K confessed that he was the one who told Demola to lie about the lack of accommodation on campus because he knew that Demola’s parents would never check on him. It seems that those whose parents don’t monitor and check on them regularly are the main victims of criminals on campus.

The ability/inability of constituted authorities to curb criminal tendencies in higher institutions is also a theme in the play. The vice mentioned in the play include but are not limited to: joining of cults, murder. All these are crimes committed by students of Mayflower University. The continuation of these acts by the students suggest that the school had failed to punish previous offenders and make an example out of them to other students.

However, that wasn’t the case now. The constituted authorities performed their tasks well. Firstly, the university senate rusticated all the students that were involved in the campus shooting. The police played an important role by apprehending the culprits responsible for the shooting. Finally, it all came down to the judiciary. The judge sentenced the charged all according to their crimes.

It is important to note that the school had a relationship with the police and this was a main factor that contributed to the arresting of the cult members.

Another, is the theme of rape. This is an unlawful sexual assault involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without their consent. It was mentioned in the play more than once in the play. Firstly, it was mentioned in the case of Keziah’s roommate- Stella. After being abused by Demola, Keziah returns to her hostel room and confides in Stella. Stella tries to console Keziah. When she see that it isn’t working, she then tells Keziah on how “I was once a victim-not of one but four boys.” She tells her on how they raped her by taking turns. The effect of the monstrous act was that she became traumatized, lost her faith in God and lived a life of promiscuity. Though the four boys were arrested, they were not charged because ‘…their parents, with some influential elders in our church appealed to my parents.’ It is also seen when Demola raped Keziah in the 6th movement.

A similar thing between the two assaults is that the girls were raped by people they knew and even trusted. If Stella’s father would have known that his pastor’s sons and friends were planning to rape his fourteen years old daughter, he would have never left her with them. And if Keziah knew Demola’s plans she would have never gone to his apartment and avoid him for the rest of her life.

Furthermore, is the theme of friendship. What is friendship? This is a state of enduring affection, esteem, intimacy and trust between two or more people. The friends one keeps most at time determines his\her future. The people we closely associate with play an important role in our lives either negatively or positively. There are two significant was in which friendship is portrayed in the play.

First obviously, are bad friends like K.K who only got close to Demola because “… he was from a wealthy home.” K.K is a prime example of a bad friend. He not only made Demola lie to his parents on multiple occasions, he also introduced him to drugs, cult and made him rape Keziah. While Demola was his own person and could make his own choices, he could not refuse K.K’s requests and ideas simply because he saw him as his friend who was only trying to help him; though he was wrong. Young adults need to understand the power friends can have over them and try to make good friends.

Stella, however, unlike K.K is a prime example of a good friend. Her friendship with Keziah was pure and truthful unlike that of Demola and K.K. After Keziah confided in Stella, she did not ridicule, insult or stigmatize her rather, she tries to comfort her “…it is not your fault…” Stella then shares with Keziah her own experience with rape. Stella did not stop becoming friends with Keziah. No, she continued by being with her from when Keziah fainted to when she parents took her home. “A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world works out.” –Walter Winchell.

To conclude, these are few of the thematic thrust in the play Good Mornig, Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor. It can be noted that the themes mainly focus on the university lifes of students and how some they all strive to survive and accomplish their dreams, while others unfortunately fail to survive and prefer to turn to vices to help them.

ANSWER 2

Character analysis is an in-depth interpretation of the characters within a literary work and their relation to each other and the plot. Some characters of Good Morning, Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor are analysed below

The first, is the main character of the play- Keziah. Keziah Richards is a “…medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady…” who is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richards. She was a two hundred level student at Mayflower University. She is a dynamic character who experienced severe change.

Keziah was a diligent and hardworking student. In the first part of the play, the playwright presented Keziah as a hardworking girl who had already planned out her life. “I am here for a purpose: to study and make something worthwhile out of my life” It was obvious that she was one of the no nonsense students. She was disciplined and at first ignored Demola’s constant proposals because she knew that being in relationship was just game and that Demola was just interested in her body. Keziah displayed the characteristics of a good student but unfortunately, she wasn’t able to survive to the end.

She was a victim of negative peer pressure\influence. This is when one does something because they want to feel valued and accepted by their friends or changes the way they act because of their friends. Peer pressure can either be positive or negative. As stated earlier, Keziah had no interest in having any sort of relationship with Demola. However, her coursemates Ovie and Bunmi made her change her mind, they influenced Keziah to give Demola a chance even though they knew that she was not ready for a relationship. They polished the image of Demola before Keziah while ignoring the fact that he might have ulterior motives. ‘…you are too hard on him…’ ‘…Demola has earned our trust/ All we are saying is that you give him chance; get to know him…’ Unfortunately, Keziah fell for it just like many teenagers and young adults. The influence of her coursemates led to her downfall.

The result of her being negatively influenced was, she raped. Rape is an unlawful sexual assault involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without their consent. Keziah visited Demola’s apartment because of an assignment, how Demola was able to convince her to leave the campus grounds with libraries is unknown to me. However, she fell victim to this; no matter how much a female trust a male, she should always be careful around him. It seems as though Demola discovered her mumu button, she was completely comfortable alone with boy in his house. This, unfortunately had severe consequences “…Jesus! What is happening to me? ... Oh God! I’m ruined…” This was Keziah’s reaction when she became conscious. Her being a victim of this heinous act can be said to be the climax of this play because from this point, everything came crashing down for the main characters.

It is important to note that Keziah is the only child of her parents. Being the only child, other than her close friend Stella, she had no one she was close with to inform them of what had happened to her. She had no siblings to turn to. Having siblings with whom you share a close relationship is important. It can be said that is Keziah had an older sibling, she could have turned to them for advice before or even after the assault.

The next character to be analysed is Demola. Demola is also a two hundred level student at Mayflower University. His physical appearance and age aren’t mentioned but since he is in the same level as Keziah it won’t be farfetched to say he is also in his late teens possible 18 or 19. He is the child of Engineer and Mrs. Diran. Demola can be said to be the antagonist simply because he is the reason for the main character’s downfall.

Demola was a victim of negative peer /influence. It is important to note that while Keziah was a victim of peer influence, Demola was also a victim and it can be said that the effects it had on him was worse than that of Keziah since it led to his death. Demola was highly influenced by those he regarded as his friends, and this led to the many struggles he would face as the play continued. The main person responsible for influencing him was Nkanga Nwoko (a.k.a K.K). K.K was a four hundred level student who also attended Mayflower University. He was probably a young adult. He introduced Demola to all sorts of vices ‘…I succeeded in making him do so many terrible things…’ and became friends with him simply because Demola was from a rich family.

Due to being negatively influenced by K.K, Demola joined a cult. The influenced that both K.K and Bentol was stronger than that which Keziah’s coursemates had on her. They were able to convince him to join a secret society named ‘Red Shadows.’ If Demola did not know K.K, he would have never joined the Red Shadows. The action of killing and fighting by this cult on the campus grounds led to the untimely death of Demola.

Demola was, at some point actually in love with Keziah. There are only two reasons a man will still chase after a girl even though he has been rejected many times. It is either because: he really loves the girl or he just wants to use her body. The former was the case for Demola. ‘I can’t do this… I love that girl.’ His love for Keziah was real, but his feelings were not as pure since at the end he raped her.

Demola raped Keziah. Rape should be an unforgiveable offence and all the rapists should be brought to justice. Yes, it was because of K.K that Demola did what he did ‘You know, none of these would have happened if not for you and Bentol’ but, it still does not change the fact that he did such an act to the girl he claimed to be in love with. Because of what he did, he was cursed or rather the day he and Keziah met was cursed by her. Those who believe may say that the curse was the cause of Demola’s death.

An interesting relation between Demola and Keziah is that they both seemed to be their parents only child. The same thing that was said for the case of Keziah can also be applied here. If Demola had an older sibling he was close to, he would have gone to them for advice when K.K first started interacting with him. And if his parents had paid more attention to him, all these could have been avoided.

Finally, the last character is Stella. Stella is a twenty-one years old student at Mayflower University and is the roommate of Keziah. Stella is a side character but she has an important role in the play. She is Keziah’s friend and can also be seen as her guardian angel.

Stella was a helpful person to Keziah. In the first movement of the play where Mrs. Richards and Keziah are discussing and she asks keziah how her roommates have been, keziah replied her by saying “Stella has been of tremendous help to me.” From her age, it can be said that Stella was in a higher level. When one is fortunate to meet kind roommates with experience, they are lucky. Keziah was lucky to have met Stella because she helped her.

She comforted Keziah. When Keziah came back to her room, she immediately confided in Stella. Stella did not insult or ridicule her rather, she tried to comfort her. ‘It’s alright, Keziah. Everything will be fine.’ If it were her other roommates, we cannot tell if they would have done the same thing as Stella did or if they would have mocked her. When Demola was found dead, it was Stella who called Keziah to come and look at it and also, when Keziah feel down and lost consciousness, it was Stella who took her to the health center and she was the one who also phoned her mother.

Stella is a rape victim. At the young age of fourteen, Stella was raped by two of her pastor’s sons with their two friends. This act made her loss her faith in Christ because according to her, ‘if, indeed, He is God Almighty as claimed by people, why couldn’t He have saved me?’ For a long period of time she refused to serve God and her faith was lost. But due to an incident, she found her way back to the presence of God.

Friend like Stella are very difficult to find especially in today’s generation.

In conclusion, this is the analysis of three character from the play Good Morning, Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor the play and I hope that justice has been done successfully to them.

ANSWER 3

Solomon A. Edebor has released both a published and fil version of Good Morning, Sodom. Though both have many similarities, there are some major points of divergence between the two that is analyzed below.

The difference between the published and the film starts to show in the second movement. The beginning of the movement is the same, but what differentiates them is simply that while in the published version Demola and Keziah talked on the way that leads to the university library to talk, the filmed version talked in the library. This may not be of importance to many, but to me it shows that while the book’s Keziah wasn’t willing to give Demola any opportunity to talk to her, the film’s version showed that she even allowed him to follow and still talk to her.

While Demola was described as a ‘tall, dark, handsome young man by the author, the actor who played the part unfortunately did not live up to the expectations many had for Demola.

The next difference is seen in the third movement. The first thing, noticeable in the movement, is that co/ntrary to the published version that says that Demola was ‘Looking distracted’ during the lecture, the film shows that Demola was quite focused on what Dr. Yusuf was saying and that he was even jotting.

While the book does not make mention of the late comers, the film does with Dr. Yusuf calling them “Intruders” and telling them to leave his class. While Demola only speaks to Ovie in the book, it is shown that he spoke to both Ovie and Bunmi in the film. His worry for keziah is however quite the same.

Thirdly, the fifth and sixth movement of the play had differences in both versions. In the fifth movement, while the book states that “Keziah is seen in the company of Demola, walking away from a lecture hall” with Bunmi and Ovie walking ahead of them, the film shows Demola and Keziah standing at a point with Ovie and Bunmi ahead of them, waiting for Keziah. The conversation between both Demola and Keziah and Keziah with her friends is still the same in both versions.

In the sixth movement, the film version of Keziah’s reaction when she woke up is Demola’s bed is quite different from reaction in the book. It can be said that her reaction was quite anticlimactic from that in the book. The published says that she ‘violently rouses Demola’, but unfortunately, the film was not able to capture this perfectly.

Furthermore, the eight and seventeenth movements also show differences between the film and published version. In the eight movement, the difference is that, in the book, Demola is among the new comrades kneeling and getting initiated into the Red Shadows while in the film, he is already a part of the cult and is among those standing. It can be said that Demola had been a member of the Red Shadows from the beginning in the film.

In the seventeenth movement, half of the dialogue in the court that happened in the published version, is cut off in the film version. The only part that is similar between the two versions is the judgment given by the judge to K.K and his fellow members.

Finally, the major divergence is seen towards the ending of the play. The person that causes this is Mrs. Diran; she is in the published version but not the filmed version. So, it was only Engineer Diran that went to the prison when K.K requested for his presence, and he also saw the Richards alone. It was from Dr. that the audience got to know about the whereabouts of Mrs. Diran because he said “We are sorry about the death of your wife.”

In conclusion, these are some divergence point between the film and published GOOD MORNING, SODOM by Solomon A. Edebor.