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ASSIGNMENT.

QUESTION 1: Attempt an inclusive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.

Dr. Solomon Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom is an insightful play that highlights many vices and interactions found in contemporary society, especially among young people. The play aptly portrays conversations and relationships that young people engage in, and showcases the butterfly effect, where our relationships determine the cause and effect of our lives and actions. The play deals on numerous problems and how they are intertwined through well-crafted storytelling. The negative influence of peer pressure and cultism is evident in the story, as is the possibility of redemption.

The play starts off with introducing Keziah Richards, a character that reflects the average student. She is a very studious student, focused, determined and ambitious. We also get to see Demola. Demola is a boy who repeatedly tries to woo Keziah. This is an interaction that is not unfamiliar to a lot of young students as they try to build romantic relationships for the first time and navigate adolescent emotions. However, it is seen that Demola follows the path of obsession rather than trying to start a genuine courtship. He does a lot of actions which are subtle but strange. He seems to know a lot of her whereabouts, he tries a lot to keep tabs with her in ways that are a bit strange because he does not know this information by interacting with her rather through unknown sources which is less than ideal. He pursues her despite knowing her disposition towards him and the fact that she does not want a romantic relationship with him.

The dynamic of the relationship changes when the author introduces the place of friendships and the effects of peer pressure, in this case negative peer pressure. It starts off with Keziah changing her mind about starting a friendship with Demola after her friends and course mates, Ovie and Bunmi persuade and cajole her to reconsider his requests in the 5th movement using emotionally manipulative statements like “…*Demola has earned our trust. He has proven that he really cares about you*” and “*You should have seen how emaciated he was for that one week you were away”* after she shot him down once again. This same negative peer pressure is revealed to be the instigator behind Demola’s heinous crimes against Keziah in the book when he(K.K.) recounts, in the form of a flashback, that he gave Demola’s advice on how to proceed with his friendship with Keziah in the 21st movement. He persuades a reluctant Demola saying he should “…*maximize the moment. Opportunity comes but once! “.*

The play does not shy away from dealing with sensitive themes such as rape. In movement 6, Demola rapes Keziah which is a major plot point as it triggers a ripple effect that changes the lives of both characters and everyone around them. The gravity could already be felt when she told Stella amidst her tears,

“*No Stella, Everything can never be fine with me again! Nothing can be right with me! Can’t you see? I sold myself cheaply, Stella! I gave my pride to the dogs! I opened my door to the thieves!”*

*In* the 6th movement, it shows how rape and sexual violence is very traumatic on its victims as it causes Stella, a friend of Keziah, to question one of her fundamental beliefs, live an unhealthy sexual lifestyle and at her worst, attempt suicide.

In the 7th and 8th movement, K.K.’s influence in Demola’s life is very evident. Demola has gone far down the rabbit hole and has joined a cult. He also uses hard drugs to escape his now bleak reality despite knowing the adverse effects it has on his body. This ultimately leads to his demise as he is ironically killed unintentionally by K.K. during a crossfire between The Red Shadows and a rival cult in the 9th movement.

Though Demola is dead, Keziah still lives to bear the consequences of the evil that took place in his room. In the 14th movement, she discovered she was over 9 weeks pregnant. This caused a huge rift in her relationship with her parents who were very disappointed at their only child losing her way.

Meanwhile, K.K. and other surviving cult members take the fall for his death, and get punished for involving themselves in illegal activities as they are expelled from the university and prosecuted in the court of law. K.K., the only surviving child of his poor, widowed mother, is sentenced to life imprisonment and is expected to pay a fine of hundred thousand naira for unlawful possession of firearms. Asides this, in prison, he deals with the guilt of being responsible for the death of Demola, who he considers his “very good friend”. This guilt forces him to reach out to Demola’s parents and he confesses to all the terrible things he made Demola do.

The play brings back the theme of suicide in the 19th movement, Keziah attempts suicide to escape her misery. The loss of the close relationship she had with her parents, especially her father, has taken a huge toll on her happiness and the feeling of being a disappointment to her parents is unbearable. This illustrates the societal stigma and blame victims of sexual violence often face and the psychological impact it has on the victims. Luckily due to quick intervention, she is saved and the life of her baby is spared as well.

There is light at the end of the tunnel for Keziah. The play shows how a person or a situation can still be redeemed no matter how bad things seem to be. She reconciles with her parents in the 20th movement and their family is once again at peace. This extends to Demola’s parents, Engr. and Mrs. Diran as it is seen that they make a connection with them so that they can be involved in the life of the baby. Keziah is giving a second chance to return to school after the pregnancy to start a new chapter in her life and finish her education. With this the book ends on a positive note with Dr. Richards telling his daughter “*Just take this opportunity to right your wrong, and make your dream come alive again”.*

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

**KEZIAH RICHARDS**

Keziah Richards is one of the two major characters in the play, Good Morning, Sodom. She is described as a “medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady”. Although, her exact age wasn’t specified, she is said to be in her late teens. She is a 200 level student of English department in Mayflower University. Keziah was a very intelligent girl, who takes her education seriously by studying often and regularly attending classes. She reiterates this when she tells Demola “*I am here for a purpose: to study and make something worthwhile out of my life.”* Despite being young, she is very assertive and does not fail to be direct and set boundaries with the people in her life including Bunmi and Ovie, as seen in the 3rd movement when Ovie tells Demola that he should know Keziah well enough to know that she only tells them what she wants them to know.

Keziah has a wonderful relationship with her parents which is noticed even from the first movement. The strain in this relationship would later lead to her near demise. They also seem to live in comfort probably due to the nature of their jobs with her father being a doctor and her mother with an unnamed occupation. They are able to provide quality education for their daughter as well as cater to her needs, including replacing her old phone with a new iPhone when she lost the old one on her way back home and providing her with a lot of provisions.

After her ill-fated encounter with Demola, she slowly becomes a shell of her former self, looking pensive in the seventh movement and not attending classes, which does not go unnoticed by Demola . Her pregnancy and the cold shoulder from her parents drive her further into misery and she nearly takes her own life. However, she is happy at the end of the play when her parents tell her about the plans they’ve arranged for her education to continue.

**DEMOLA**

Demola Diran is a tall, dark, handsome young man in 200level English department at Mayflower university. He’s the second major character in the play. Despite starting off great in university, he makes friends with the infamous KK and Bento. Damola was influenced into drug abuse and also into cultism by his friends. He was also poorly advised to drug, charm and rape Keziah. Demola also suffers a tragic death long before his time and was also suspended from the university posthumously.

Like Keziah, he also comes from wealthy family. This was hinted in the 6th movement when his off-campus residence was described to have certain items which are considerably luxury items for a young student including; a medium sized fridge and mattress, a 21’ plasma television with stand and a home theatre among others. This is later confirmed in the 19th movement when KK admitted to Demola’s parents that he discovered he was from a wealthy home which made him decide to get closer to Demola.

Unlike Keziah, he does not have that close bind with his parents and they do not check up on him often. Engineer Diran, Demola’s father, highlighted this regretfully during the conversation in the 21st movement, as the reason for Demola’s waywardness. He went further to state that they had let the pursuit of financial security get in the way of their other parental obligations which is taking care of other aspects of the wellbeing of their child.

He is survived by the child Keziah bore, Mouritha.

**K.K.**

Nkanga Nwoko, referred to by his alias K.K., is a supporting character in the play. He plays a sort of antagonist role in the play because he played a key role as a driving force behind the atrocities committed in the play.

He is a 400 level student of English Department in Mayflower University.

He is the only surviving child of his poor, widowed mother who struggles daily to make ends meet and finance his education by selling roasted plantain by the road side. Although, his backstory is not mentioned in the play, it is possible that the financial hardships of his family led him to turn to anti-social vices.

Unfortunately, he crosses paths with Demola and influences him to do bad things after succeeding in getting closer to him and becoming his friend. First of all, he makes Demola lie to his parents in order to move out of the hostel to an off-campus residence, even helping him come up with the false news that the campus could not accommodate all the students to convince his parents. This movement and isolation, coupled with his parents absence, made it easier to push him down the path to his destruction.

He comes to regret all of this when he accidentally kills Demola during a crossfire with a rival cult. He is expelled from school close to the end of the duration of the course and arrested. In court, he was given a life sentence for manslaughter, two years imprisonment for membership of an lawful society and mandated to pay a fine of hundred thousand naira for unlawful possession of firearms.

In prison, he requests to see Demola’s parents to fulfill Demola’s dying wish of handing over a picture to them and apologizing to them on his behalf. He pleads for their forgiveness and admit to them that he was responsible for leading their son to an early grave.

This is the last movement where K.K. is seen in present day.

He suffers a terrible fate of spending the rest of his life behind bars in the company of his thoughts and guilt of letting his friend and mother down.

QUESTION 3: In the drama ‘Good Morning, Sodom’ by Solomon A. Edebor, there were some slight differences between the published and the film version and they are as stated;

* In the published book, there were three new members recruited into the Red Sparrows cult group and they were kneeling down blindfolded and kneeling at the center was Demola. While in the film version there were only two newly recruited members.
* In the published version, the Doctor Hanson who treated Keziah of poisoning and helped in her delivery gave his reply of “I am just doing my job” to Dr. and Mrs. Richards after his aid, whereas in the movie this wasn’t mentioned.
* Mrs. Diran did not die in the published book, she was well and alive but in the film version we were told she died.
* In the published version, after the judge passed his judgement, we were told that Mrs. Nkanga collapsed while in the film version this wasn’t shown.
* The Defense counsel and the Prosecution counsel said a lot and even went as far as stating the laws in the constitution whereas in the film version, both the counsels did not say much or state the laws.
* In the published book, when Demola wanted to ask about the whereabouts of Keziah we were told he called Ovie to the side to inquire but in the film version he was seen asking Ovie and Bunmi when they were discussing in the classroom.