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## Question 1

**Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's *Good Morning, Sodom*, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.**

### INTRODUCTION

“*Good Morning, Sodom*” is a play written by **Solomn Adedokun Edebor**, the current Acting Head of Department of Languages and Literacy Studies of Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti. It was **reprinted in 2023 by Patrick Edebor & associates located in Ibadan**. The play can be seen as **a tragicomedy** because it contains elements of both tragedy and comedy. The tragic parts of the play can be identified **when Keziah is deflowered without her consent, her unwanted pregnancy and attempt to commit suicide, and the death of Demola**. Despite it all, the play still ends on a light note with **the family of Richards and Diran being on good terms a safe delivery of her daughter, Mouritha and plans for Keziah to get back to school**. Although the play ends on a light note, it still leaves lingering questions such as: **Did Demola really like Keziah? Do Bunmi and Ovie have a part to play in what happened to Keziah? Was Dr. Richards reaction to Keziah's pregnancy justified? Why is cultism so rampant in Nigerian universities? What is the correlation between the title of the play and its content?**

### THEMES IN GOOD MORNING SODOM

1. Negative Peer influence
2. Moral decadence/Immorality
3. Unrequited love
4. Lack of adequate parental care
5. Cultism

#### *Negative Peer Influence*

This is the most dominant theme in the play for the reason that it creeps into every single youth in the university. **Peer pressure is the need to feel among with one's age grades**. This is what drives Demola into joining a cult. This is what drives Keziah to go to Demola's house. Originally, Keziah was not interested in anything more with Demola but when her roomates, Ovie and Bunmi, started cajoling her to give him a chance, she sadly did and fell into his trap.

#### *Moral decadence/Immorality*

This is one of the chief issues the play tries to address. **Moral decadence can be seen in the life of Nkanga Nwoko, popularly known as “K.K”** who by virtue of being in a secret cult already exhibits a lack of morals but to advise his junior to rape a girl, truly shows how low his moral standards are. Moral decadence can also be cited in Demola's life. The fact remains that Demola was only ***told*** to drug and rape Keziah but the onus was on him to not actualize it. If his moral standards were very high, he wouldn't have hesitated to reject K.K's idea. **The fact that he**

succumbed to drugging his friend and raping her afterwards is evidence of how much morals are reducing.

### ***Unrequited love***

There are different forms of love shown in the play ranging from platonic love between Keziah and Stella, romantic love between Dr. & Mrs. Richards and unrequited love between Demola and Keziah. The last type is the most evident of all. Demola had romantic feelings for Keziah but she didn't feel the same way for him this didn't stop him from trying to '*shoot his shot*'. Regardless of the numerous times she rejected him, he kept chasing after her until he forced himself on her.

### ***Lack of adequate parental care***

Emotional neglect is prevalent in the lives of Demola and Keziah although it is more obvious in the life of the former. Demola is adequately provided for financially; his parents do not fail to send him to a good university and helped him to get an apartment in town when they thought hostels in campus were filled and gave him the three basic needs of life: food, shelter and clothing. They succeeded in providing for him financially, physically, educationally but failed in supporting him emotionally. K.K became his parental figure in that aspect, teaching him his own standard of morals and ultimately leading him to his death. Keziah's father failed to be there for her emotionally when she needed his support. She was raped and impregnated yet her dad did not believe it was non-consensual. As if his lack of trust in her wasn't enough, he goes ahead to give her the cold shoulder for her 'wrongdoing'. This later drives Keziah to attempt suicide.

### ***Cultism***

A cult is secret society which is not open to everybody but only its members. Cultism is an act of belonging to a secret cult and is prevalent in many educational institutions in Nigeria. The play highlights this by showing that even the most sophisticated of universities is not exempted from this plague. In relation to the play, "Good Morning, Sodom", a secret cult known as "Red Shadows" was present in Mayflower University. Nkanga Nwoko, commonly known as K.K, was one of the active members of this group. He succeeded in influencing Demola to join the group which led to his untimely death.

## Question 2

### **Attempt detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom.**

#### ***Keziah Richards***

This is the female protagonist of the play whom the story revolves around. She is a 200 level English student of Mayflower University and is the only child of Dr. & Mrs. Richards. Her body stature is slightly rotund. She is of medium height and fair in complexion. According to the book, she is evidently in her late teens. Her roommates are Stella, Bunmi and Ovie but she resonates more with Stella than the other two. She was deeply loved by Demola but did not feel the same way for him. He later drugged her and had his way with her making her pregnant. Her parents did not take this lightly especially her father, Dr. Richard. He gave her the cold shoulder to the extent she is driven to commit suicide. Luckily, she survived the suicide attempt. Unfortunately, Demola dies in the course of the play, leaving her as a single parent. Months later, she had a safe delivery of a baby girl and named her, *Mouritha*. Keziah is a round but static character. Round in the sense that she is a multidimensional character but static in the sense that she doesn't change throughout the course of the story.

#### ***Demola Diran***

Demola Diran can be seen as the antagonist of this play because he stands in opposition to the protagonist's goals. Keziah did not want any distractions. Her goal was "to study and make something worthwhile" out of her life. This is why she rejected Demola's offer for friendship because of she knew that wasn't his true intentions. She knew that he wanted more than she was willing to give yet he still persuaded and stressed the issue. But this is not what makes him the true villain. It is the fact that she came to his house so he could help her with her assignments and he used that as an opportunity to drug and rape her. That's what makes him a villain. For the reason that he knew what Keziah's goals were (because she reiterated it times without number) and still decided to go against it, that is what makes him the antagonist of this play. Demola is also a 200 level English student of Mayflower University. He is a tall, dark, handsome, young man and very gullible. Demola leaves outside of the school campus and was easily manipulated by K.K. He also became a member of the "Red Shadows" cult group. He died an untimely death due to cultism and negative peer influence. He is a flat but dynamic character. He is flat in the sense that his role was very one dimensional but he is dynamic in the sense that he changes in the course of the story (for worse). From being a normal student who had deep feelings for one of his colleagues, he turned into a drug user, rapist and cult member in the span of some months.

### *Stella*

Stella is the friend and roommate of Keziah. She was gangraped by four of her childhood friends and acquaintances. She had a good relationship with God but the rape incident broke it. She later found her way back to Him. Stella consoled Keziah when she too got raped by telling her own experience and how she went about it. She gave her some advise on what to do and what not to do so that she wouldn't go through the same experience she did post-trauma. Stella is a supporting character because she is not the focus of the primary storyline, but is still important to the plot/protagonist. Without her, Keziah would not have had anyone to lean on during her time of need and might have gone down a slippery slope.

### Question 3

#### What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of GOOD MORNING, SODOM?

The film version of “Good morning, Sodom” is a carbon copy of the published book and this is understandable because it is an actualized version of the script. Yet, there are still certain differences, major and minor, one can identify between the two. The following are the points of divergence between the published and film version of the play, “Good morning, Sodom”:

##### **First movement**

In the published version, Keziah is described as a fair young lady but in the film version, Keziah is a dark young lady.

##### **Second movement**

In the published version, Demola and Keziah discuss on her way to the library but they never make it into the library while in the film version, Demola follows her into the library and continues his discussion there.

##### **Third movement**

I) In the published version, Dr. Yusuf explained the course without any interruption but in the film version, two students came late to his class while he was lecturing and Dr. Yusuf angrily sent them out before continuing his discussion.

II) Also, in the published version, Demola pulls Ovie aside from Bunmi to ask her about Keziah while in the film version Demola asks both Bunmi and Ovie about Keziah at the same time. (He pull neither of them aside).

##### **Sixth movement**

In the published version, When Stella woke up from the first dream she had, she was in her room when Emmanuella tells her a message from God for her but in the film, Stella is drying clothes when Emmanuella tells her the message from God for her.

##### **Eighth movement**

I) In the published version, there are three new converts to the “Red Shadows” cult group but in the film version, there are only two new converts to the cult group.

II) In the published version, Demola was one of the new converts being initiated into the “Red Shadows” cult while in the film version, Demola was already a member of the cult.

### **Ninth movement**

In the published version, the ninth movement is written but in the film version, the ninth movement is not enacted.

### **Twelfth movement**

In the published version, Keziah hugs Stella before she leaves while in the film version Stella assists Keziah into the car and goes with her.

### **Thirteenth movement**

In the published version, the D.P.O. is a woman but in the film version, the D.P.O. is a man.

### **Sixteenth movement**

In the published version, Keziah eavesdrops on her parents’ conversation before crying herself to sleep but in the movie, Keziah does not eavesdrop.

### **Seventeenth movement**

I) In the published version, the criminal procedure is written out all the way to the verdict of the judge but in the film version, the criminal procedure is not shown. Instead, the movement starts from the verdict of the judge.

II) In the published version, Mrs. Nkanga is present throughout the trial and collapses when she hears K’.K’s punishment but in the film version, Mrs. Nkanga is not present.

### **Nineteenth movement**

I) In the published version, Mrs. Diran is alive and visits K.K alongside Engineer Diran but in the film version, Mrs. Diran is dead and for that reason, did not visit K.K alongside her husband.

II) In the published version, K.K hands a picture to Engr. & Mrs. Diran as he was instructed by Demola but in the film version K.K did not give any picture to Engr. Diran.

### **Twenty-Third movement**

I) In the published version, Keziah's daughter is named “Mouritha” but in the film version, Keziah's daughter is named “Heritage Demola-Diran”.

II) In the published version, the twenty third movement is written but in the film version the twenty third movement is not enacted.