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**COLLEGE: LAW**

**COURSE: USE OF ENGLISH**

**COURSE CODE: AFE 122**

AFE 122 GENERAL ASSIGNMENT

1. Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edobor’s Good Morning, Sodom, underscoring at least 5 underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.
2. Attempt detailed character analyses of any 3 characters in Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom.
3. What are the points of divergence between the published and the film versions of Good Morning, Sodom?

**QUESTION 1:**

**Incisive Interrogation into Thematic Thrusts in “Good Morning, Sodom”**

Solomon Edebor’s ‘Good Morning, Sodom’ is a concise look into the issues of moral decadence going on in Nigerian universities currently. Set in fictional Mayflower university, the play explores themes like the effects of peer pressure and bad company on the life of young ones; teenage pregnancy and the obstacles it creates for young girls to move on with life; lack of parental care and concern which is most often the leading cause for the rise in juvenile delinquents; the effects of cultism as has been seen rampant in Nigerian universities; and finally, the hope for a better future. For the sake of this essay, I will be expounding more on these themes to give more insight on the content of this play.

To begin, a brief plot overview shows that the story centers on Keziah, a new student in Mayflower university who is hell bent on facing her studies to do her parents proud but as a result of listening to friends, falls into the hand of Demola, a boy who has equally been pressured to get into vices he otherwise would not have taken up which eventually lead to his demise.

One of the most important and recurrent theme in this play is the theme of peer pressure. This can first be seen through the play in the life of Keziah. We see what good peer pressure did for her in the friendship she cultivated with Stella, helping her stay on course and pay attention to her studies. When she is seen hanging out more in the company of Ovie and Bunmi, they persuade her into letting her guards down, which is where Demola is able to get the chance to rape her. In Demola’s case, we see that he is a boy that is smart and has morals. But as a result of hanging out with KK and Bentol, he quickly slipped into moral decadence. It is on their advice that he charms and drugs Keziah and it is because of them he joins the secret cult which later ends his life.

Another prevalent theme in the play is the theme of teenage pregnancy and the obstacles it presents for young girls in the society. As can be seen from the play, Keziah was an exceptional and brilliant student who was set to go far in life’s exploits. However, the trauma that came with her being pregnant after the assault by Demola, hindered her progress significantly. She was first shunned by her father, who refused to speak to her or even look at her because according to him, she had soiled the family’s name. She also had to drop out of school and her studies were as a result, put on hold. This is the case for many young girls who get pregnant in today’s society. The burden of a young baby becomes too much to handle along with school and more often than not, especially when there is no assistance from family members or parents, these girls drop out and their futures are thrown away.

The theme of lack of parental care and concern is one which is also addressed in this play. This can be seen in the case of Demola, whose parents did not pay attention to his upbringing but rather left him to nannies and teachers to teach him about life. In their confession to Keziah and her parents, they admitted that they mostly cared for financial stability and Demola was able to get away with a lot because they never bothered to check up on him. This can also be seen with Stella’s parents, who did not press charges against the boys who raped her because they wanted to keep the integrity of the church and did not send her to therapy to help her work through the trauma that event brought on her. Keziah’s father is also complicit to this theme as he did not bother to find out what actually happened to his daughter but instead shunned and ignored her openly. This act almost led to her demise when she tried to kill herself. When children are not properly cared for by their parents, in all aspects of life (emotionally, physically, spiritually and financially), they will come out lacking some vital aspect of growth.

Cultism as a theme is also quite vital to the fabric of the play. The effects cultism has on youths was properly outlined and shown in the play. Demola was killed as a result of an infraction between two cultist groups. KK and Bentol were sent to prison where KK served time for manslaughter and the others served time for their various crimes. Demola’s life was cut short and the life of the other two were wasted in prison as a result of the evil acts of cultism. The play raises awareness to this problem by giving practical examples.

Lastly, the theme of hope and recovery after loss is prominent in this play. Keziah gets back on her feet after her failed attempt of suicide and gives birth to a baby girl who she names Mouritha. Mouritha represents hope. Keziah is able to take care of her and still continue with her schooling. Keziah’s parents are redeemed as they find a way to send their daughter to school. The trauma of having a teenage pregnancy is assuaged. The play shows that even after all of it, there is still hope for redemption.

**QUESTION 2:**

**Detailed Character Analyses of Three (3) Characters in “Good Morning, Sodom”**

**Keziah Richards:**

She is the main character in the play. Keziah is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richards. She is an undergraduate at Mayflower University, studying English. She is presented as a studious and diligent student who does not joke with her studies. She is also seen as someone who is private about her life. Demola, another character in this play, accuses her of not caring that her friends were concerned for her when she left for home in the middle of the semester and didn’t reach out to anyone. She stops him by saying that she went home because it was necessary and she does not owe an explanation to him.

It is shown that Keziah is her own person who plays by her morals. She is aware of what Demola wanted when he sought to be friends with her and made her decision known from the very beginning that she was not interested. Even when Demola persisted, she stood her ground. She believes hard work is the key to success and she puts in the work to attain academic excellence. This is part of her morals.

She is also caring. This can be seen in how she listens to Ovie and Bunmi and befriends Demola. This also leads to her downfall as Demola takes advantage of her. She is downtrodden as a result but her tenacity still shows as she continues on with her school work. She was sad that Demola died even after all he had done to her. She almost took her life because she thought it will make her parents’ lives better. She does not abort Mouritha but gives birth to her and subsequently takes care of and loves her. She does not hold the child responsible for her misfortunes.

Her personality is rewarded when at the end of the play, she is given a chance to go back to school and still take care of her daughter.

**Stella:**

Stella is a minor character in the play and is Keziah’s roommate and close confidante. In the beginning of the play, their friendship is cemented when Keziah tells her mother that Stella has been of a tremendous help to her. Stella cares for Keziah and always tries to point her in the right direction as she is a level ahead of her in their undergraduate studies.

When Keziah falls into the hands of Demola, Stella is there to offer a helping hand. She held Keziah while she cried and shared her own story of rape and abuse and how she came out of the trauma it caused through the help of her religion to show Keziah that things do in fact get better.

She stayed with Keziah in the hospital when she fainted after seeing Demola’s dead body and even phoned her parents. She is a very reliable character who although she does not show up much in the play, is vital to the main character’s growth.

**Mrs. Joke Richards:**

She is Keziah’s mother. She is seen to be a very caring parent. She visits Keziah while she is in the university and brings provisions and cash for her. She is shown to be very attentive as she knows the struggles Keziah faces in the university and even asks about her friends. She encourages and advises Keziah before she leaves and is very proud of her daughter.

When Keziah gets pregnant, she is he first parent to reach out to her and forgive her and show her love. She urges Keziah’s father to do the same and even fights with him about it. She is very physical in her love for her daughter and was devastated when Keziah almost ended her life.

She is at the hospital with her husband when Keziah is about to give birth and has faith that her daughter and the baby she births would be fine. She is elated when Keziah gives birth and helps her care for the child. She is in support of Keziah going back to school and is perfectly fine with Chinenye, the maid who has been with her to follow Keziah back to school so she can help care for Mouritha.

She is a loving and caring mother.

**QUESTION 3:**

**POINTS OF DIVERGENCE**

There are quite a number of differences that exist between the published version of the play and the version that was filmed. This is because when converting a written work to a filmed version, there are some challenges in verbatim translations that the team would face. This essay would outline some of the differences between the filmed version and the written, published version.

Starting from the very beginning of the play, the written version sees Keziah stepping out of her hostel and seeing her parents’ car pull up. Upon seeing her, her mother alights to greet her. In the filmed version Keziah’s mother is already by the side of the car, waiting for Keziah to come out.

Moving on to the library scene, the published version had Keziah receiving a phone call while on a walk, upon which she sees Demola and they have a conversation where she informs him she was going to the library and she leaves him there. The filmed version showed Keziah already on a phone call when she sees Demola coming towards her and they have a short conversation and she then informs him she was on her way to the library. The next scene then opens with both of them in the library continuing their conversation.

As pertaining to the differences in the third movement, the written version has Demola meeting Ovie and Bunmi after the class to ask them if they had heard from their friend, Keziah and Ovie being the only one with an answer for him. The film version however contains an additional scene of a disruption by two students who came late for the class after which the lecturer exits and Demola who is seated behind Ovie and Bunmi, asks them about Keziah and both Ovie and Bunmi give him answers.

In the scene where Demola rapes Keziah, the sixth movement, the written version has Keziah reaching into her bag after her phone rings and Demola admiring the phone before he claims to find a dirt on her face and cleans it with his handkerchief. Keziah begins to feel dizzy while talking about an assignment she needs Demola to help her with, after which she wakes up to Demola beside her and her clothes askew and she begins to ask Demola about what happened where it is hen found that he raped her. In the film however, Keziah’s phone is already on the table and she retrieves it from Demola when he takes it to admire it after which he begins to look at her intensely and when she asks what’s wrong, he claims there’s dirt on her face and uses his handkerchief to clean it. The next scene opens with Keziah’s cloth on the foot of the bed with Demola beside her.

In the published version, Demola’s mother is alive and as such when they visit KK in prison, he speaks to both Engr. and Mrs. Diran and Mrs. Diran even speaks. In the film version however, Demola’s mother is dead and it is only Engr. Diran who is seen at the prison speaking to KK.

In the scene where Keziah’s parents are speaking to Demola’s, the published version had Engr. And Mrs. Diran speaking to Keziah’s parents while the film version had the death of Mrs. Diran being explained alongside the confession of Demola’s atrocities

The last scene of the written version is where Keziah is given an admission letter to University of Ibadan where she can go and still take care of Mouritha, her daughter, with the help of her parents’ maid. The film version however ends with Dr. Hanson informing Keziah’s parents that they have a granddaughter while the rest of parts which occurred in the book was written in the post credit screen.