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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.

Incisive Summary

Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom is a satirical play which is centred around Keziah the main character of the play who was born into the family of Mr and Mrs. Richards. In movement one, Mrs. Richard visits Keziah in the university with some provisions alongside her driver Olumide. Keziah soon heads to the library to complete her assignment and read for an upcoming test; on her way she stumbles upon Demola who is in love with her but she turns him down because of she has more important things to worry about rather than being in a relationship.

Keziah skips a week from school which makes Demola worried, after the class Demola approaches Ovie and Bunmi who were on their way out of the class and asked for a word with Ovie. He is then excused as he raises his concern about why Keziah hasn’t been in class, Ovie insists that he should phone Keziah if he is that worried. Demola now says that he has done that already but it wasn’t going. Ovie then advised Demola not to worry that she received an urgent call that she thinks isn’t serious. The next week Demola approaches Keziah about not informing anyone before she left even if it was her close friends and not him. He then gets to learn that her phone was missing on her way home that was why she was unreachable. Demola is persistent and relentless as he continues to persuade Keziah into a relationship with him, she now insists that he should not raise the issue up again.

Demola is walking with Keziah who joins the company of Ovie and Bunmi who advised her to be friends with Demola, that she is being too harsh and rude to him. Keziah is defensive saying that all they want is the thing between their leg. Ovie and Bunmi in support of Demola says that he is different from other boys, that he is hard working, serious and intelligent, he deserves a chance at least.

In the sixth movement Keziah is seen in Demola’s room studying. Demola insists on giving her a 5alive juice he got from his refrigerator. She drinks it as they have a discussion. Gradually Keziah becomes dizzy and sleep only to be raped by Demola. She wakes up beside Demola who was fast asleep. It now dawned on her that Demola has slept with her and the juice she drank was drugged making her to fall asleep. She is now accompanied by Stella who encourages her and tell her not to worry, that it is not the end of the world. Stella now narrates to her a story of how she was raped by four boys when she was fourteen, two of which were her pastor’s sons. The next day Demola is seen trying to apologise to Keziah under the excuse that his actions were not intentional but Keziah wouldn’t give him a listening ear and regrets ever trying to befriend him. Demola goes to K.K who gives him a white substance to banish his sorrow and guilt. After some hesitations Demola collects the substance and inhales it which takes immediate effect on him. Demola is taken to the Red Shadows (a cult group) by K.K who is a member of the cult group, Demola is now initiated into the cult group by Spark the cult leader.

At the main gate of the university, gunshot was heard which led to the death of Demola who was found dead soaked in a pool of blood. This attracted people who gathered at the scene in which Stella was among, she quickly phoned Keziah to come to the scene. Lo and behold Keziah fainted at the sight of dead Demola, she was rushed to the hospital and Stella called Keziah’s mother and told her what had happened. When Keziah was discharged, later that night she was called by father who asked her to pick up a later and read it, to her utmost shock it was a pregnancy confirmation result, she was pregnant for nine weeks. She is then made to confess which she did leaving her parents disappointed.

Keziah’s father soon made the decision of denying his own daughter, Mrs. Richards tried all there is to convince her husband to reconsider and treat their daughter better but all to no avail.

A court hearing was held and judgment was distributed based on the gravity of the crimes committed by the cultists. Dr. Richards then went on a business trip in Abuja in which he forgot an important document which made him go back home. When he reached home, he called out Keziah but no response made, then he stumbled upon a suicidal letter from Keziah. After reading the letter he immediately ran to her room where he saw her lifeless in which he rushed her to the hospital.

Tension is in the air as both parents are praying that nothing happens to their daughter. Fortunately, the doctor came with good news, Keziah survived. Engineer Diran, Demola’s father together with his wife was informed that K.K wanted to see them in which he took his opportunity to confess to them on how he negatively influenced Demola. Meanwhile Keziah was discharged from the hospital and driven home by her parents. When she got home her father apologised to her for how he treated her. Keziah soon gave birth to girl and they lived happily as a family.

Thematic thrusts engaged in the drama

1. Peer pressure (influence): Peer pressure is one of the main themes in ‘Good Morning Sodom’ as it centres mainly on Demola. All Demola’s actions were greatly influenced by K.K who led him towards his downfall. K.K was the mind behind the pregnancy of Keziah as he advised Demola to sleep with her. After that he consoled him by drugging him, giving Demola a white substance to sniff. K.K takes Demola to a secrete cult (Red Shadows) which led to his demise as he was hit by a stray bullet from him. All this shows that Demola was under a huge kind of peer pressure. Keziah the protagonist of the novel was also under pressure as she was influenced by Ovie and Bunmi who advised her to befriend Demola, they told her that he is not like other boys but at the end got impregnated by him.
2. Rape/ Sexual Assault: The theme of sexual assault is also an important theme in the play because it was experienced by the protagonist and her friend Stella. In the sixth movement, Keziah is seen in Demola’s room studying and trying to understand her book more as Demola assist her in it. Demola now served her a fruit juice he got from his refrigerator only for her to drink it and fall asleep. Unfortunately for her it was drugged so Demola took advantage of it and slept with her. On waking up Keziah realized that Demola has slept with her and there was nothing she could do but to cry out in regret of ever befriending Demola. After that she called Stella who accompanied and comforted her. Stella now told her a story of how she too was sexually assaulted by her pastors two sons and two other boys. She was told to stay with them for a little while because the pastor’s wife was involved in an accident in which her father and other elders of the church including the pastor had to go, so while staying with them they took advantage of her and raped her.
3. Betrayal/ Disappointment: The theme of betrayal/disappointment is largely noticed in the play because many of the characters were betrayed by the ones, they didn’t expect that from. Firstly, Keziah was betrayed by Demola who she trusted and never expected anything bad from him but was later drugged and raped by him. Demola too is a victim of betrayal as he is betrayed by his friend who advised him wrongly, introduced him to a cult group and even killed him even though it was unintentional, it can be seen as betrayal as it all led to Demola’s end.
4. Poor Parenting/ negligence: This theme mostly centres on Demola’s parents, Engineer & Mrs. Diran. This is due to the fact that Demola’s parents did not put an effort to understand their son and check up on how he was faring, even where he stayed in the school. This theme also stretches its hands to the parents of the other cultist. This theme also centres on Keziah’s father, Mr. Richards who disowned her because of her pregnancy and which made her almost commit suicide. Keziah’s father failed to understand that she was going through traumatic experiences but all he cared about was the shame she would bring to the family.
5. Lust: This theme centres on Demola as it is obvious that he was not actually in love with Keziah but rather lusting over her. If he was actually in true love with Keziah, he wouldn’t give in to the pressure of sleeping with her. Not only did he not sleep with her but he drugged her in other to do the act. He proved Keziah right when her friends advised her to befriend Demola because of the way it seemed like he loved her due to the disturbances and approaches he made, telling them that the only thing these men are after is what is in between your legs. So, Demola fulfilled the theme of lust in the play.

Character Analysis/Characterization

1. Keziah Richards: Keziah Richards the protagonist of the play is an undergraduate, fair skinned and medium in height. She is the daughter of Dr & Mrs. Richards. Keziah being the only child was brought up rightly and treated with utter care. She is a hardworking and studious girl who wanted the best for herself and good grades hence, stayed away from distractions of any sought. She is constantly disturbed by Demola who ‘loved’ her and wanted to be in a relationship with her but equally rejected his offers because she didn’t want anything to take away her time and mind from her studies. As the play evolved it is seen that she later gave in to Demola who drugged her and slept with her following the fact that she came to study in his room. Keziah is soon to become a mother to be as Demola, the father to be is shot in a rival fight between his cult group and another. Keziah is treated with negligence and soon disowned by her father who was angry at her for her pregnancy. This soon leads to her attempt of suicide as she is rescued just in time. She soon reunites with her family as she gives birth to a baby girl.
2. Diran Demola: Demola is the antagonist of the play. He is an intelligent undergraduate and the course mates of Keziah, Ovie and Bunmi. He was weighed down by peer pressure as his actions in the play can be testified. He was madly in love with Keziah as he disturbed her countless of times for her love and to be in a relationship with him, though he was rejected countlessly he didn’t mind going for another chance until she finally gave in which he took advantage of. He drugged her and slept with her in his room when he invited her over for a study. He is hated by Keziah which makes him regret his actions of sleeping with her. He is now then initiated into a cultist group (Red Shadows) which leads to his demise as he is shot unintentionally by his teammate K.K in a clash between their rival. He is also the father to Keziah’s child.
3. Stella: Stella is the roommate, friend and course mate to Keziah. She accompanied and comforted Keziah when she was sexually abused by Demola. She too was a victim of rape as she tells her story to Keziah. it was when she was fourteen, she was told to live with her pastor’s two sons because the pastor’s wife was involved in an accident, which made the elders of the church (her father) and the pastor to go visit her. To feel at home, she went to watch musicals with them as Daniel one of the pastor’s sons tricked her into coming to their father’s room where she was overpowered by the two of them and two other boys. Stella also took Keziah to the hospital because she fainted at the dead scene of Demola, she also called her parents. Throughout the novel Stella was more supportive of Keziah than any of her friends.

The Points of Divergence between the Published and the Film Version

1. The film version is more explanatory than the published version: the film version brings down actions to a layman’s understanding bearing in mind that not all viewers are learned unlike the book version.
2. The Published version created a kind of visual imagery: When reading the published version, we could imagine what happened in scenarios and instances in the play unlike the film version which the actions were physically visible.
3. The film was more or like a summary of the Published version: In the Published version, Scenarios were explained one at a time whereas in the film version the scenarios were acted all at once.
4. The film is more understandable: The film is more understandable because the actions of the characters were visually seen unlike the published version in which was read in other to understand it.