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Course: AFE 122 [use of English]

Dept: MIS

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 analysis of any three characters in *Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning*.
3. What are the points of divergence between the written version and film version.

1.

Drug abuse/addiction: We see drug abuse in this play as specific to cult members. However, the playwright is likely not implying that drug abuse is exclusive to cults; it is a widely present epidemic in Nigerian higher institutions. While it is more common among those who already engage in dubious activities such as cultism, there are other factors that contribute to drug abuse among students, including external influences and mental health struggles. An example of this can be seen with K. K., a character who abuses drugs to cope with negative emotions and lives



in an environment of drug use due to being part of a cult. In addition to the lifestyle associated with such groups, the importance of considering the effects of substance abuse on the participants' morality should also not be overlooked. Drug abuse can create an atmosphere where those engaged in such activities have no sense of remorse; thus, while discussing nefarious activities, the influence of drugs should not be forgotten.

2. **Cultism:** Cultism is prevalent in Nigerian institutions of higher learning - both public and private. It is characterized by an authoritative leader and demands absolute loyalty to its deviant principles. This was manifested in the play 'Red Shadows Confraternity', where Demola and K. K. were both members. As well as requiring an absolute allegiance, cults often indulge in other destructive activities such as drug use and violence; this was evident in the shoot-out between the Red Shadows Confraternity and a rival gang that resulted in Demola's demise. The negative consequences of cultism were clear in the play: K. K. being sentenced to life imprisonment, Demola losing his life, and the other involved members being expelled from the university before completion of their studies, with Demola's loved ones bearing the brunt of it all. Through this play, it is implicitly suggested that students should avoid joining any cult group.

3. **parental indifference:** When parents are not hands-on in raising their children, it is an indication of parental indifference. This kind of parenting results in an excessive amount of freedom that leaves the child without guidance. This can make them susceptible to outside influences, as seen in the Diran household in *Good Morning Sodom*. Engr. and Mrs. Diran acknowledged they put too much emphasis on the financial aspect of parenting at the expense of other vital aspects such as spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical growth and well-being. They provided Demola with ample funds so that he could draw attention from K. K., but neglected to provide him with a strong moral background that would have enabled him to resist K. K.'s detrimental influence which eventually led him to criminal activity and an untimely death. The playwright is emphasizing how indifferent parenting can contribute to the negative outcomes that many youths experience in higher



institutions, outcomes which may have been avoided if Demola had received adequate parental guidance from his parents rather than from an outside source.

4. **Unwanted pregnancy:** An unwanted pregnancy can be said to be when the mother did not plan for it or feels negative emotions surrounding the pregnancy. This is certainly the case when Keziah gets pregnant during the course of the play. She is young, in university and has gone through an experience of rape, so she does not want this child nor plan for it. Along with that pain and trauma, she must decide what to do about her unwanted pregnancy. The playwright does not allow her to get an abortion, so I believe he is pro-life and against abortion for personal reasons. Ultimately, each person must make their own decision on what is best for mother and child but avoiding unwanted pregnancies altogether should be strived for. That way people can avoid difficult decisions and situations like what Keziah went through; we should endeavor to protect ourselves better from predators so as to prevent being sexually assaulted or abused again.

5. **Possibility:** I see the concept of possibility as an underlying theme in this play. The cult members were full of potential, with the possibility of graduating university and earning their bachelor degrees. Unfortunately, their negative behavior and decisions led to them losing out on such opportunities and possibilities. In particular, K. K. was sentenced to life imprisonment, preventing him from achieving anything outside the four walls of a prison and taking away all prospects he could have had if he had made different choices. However, it is also possible to be in a negative situation and still make something positive out of it. An example is Keziah who got pregnant under unfavorable circumstances which caused her parents to disown her, leading her to drop out of school and attempt suicide. Fortunately, she reconciled with her parents, kept the child, was offered an opportunity to go back to school and complete her education while also being able to be a good mother to her daughter. Even K. K., who is going to spend the remainder of his life in prison and be deprived of prospects for improvement, nonetheless showed moral growth when speaking with Engr. And Mrs Diran (Demola's parents). This demonstrates that no one is ever completely beyond help or done for and that anything is possible if one perseveres and tries hard enough despite circumstances being unfavorable or difficult.



2. The characters are Nkanga Nwoko (a.k.a. K. K.), Stella, and Demola.

i). KK

At K. K.'s trial, we learned that he is fatherless and his mother is a widow, potentially causing him to lack discipline and guidance or even become resentful due to grief or loss. Further, we discovered that his family is impoverished, as K. K.'s mother sell plantains on the roadside in order to pay for his schooling. It is possible that their financial situation declined after K. K.'s father's passing, leading from wealth to poverty. One might assume that because of this financial stress placed upon his mother, K. K. acted out of cruelty at school; yet it could be argued that he felt envious or greedy seeing other students with more means and privileges than him due to his own poverty. This may have been a contributing factor in why K. K. joined the Red Shadows confraternity gang, as they are known for having money and power - two things he likely felt were lacking in himself. Furthermore, his strong craving for money was evident when admiring Demola due to his richer background in front of Demola's parents (Engr and Mrs Diran). We also know that K. K. has been using drugs since joining the cult or even beforehand, as drugs act as ointment on negative emotions like loss or inequality felt due to coming from a poor home which likely triggered envy and greed leading up to being part of the cult life. However, regardless how much temporary joy bad actions bring us, we will always face consequences for our wrongdoings - something which became apparent after K. K. accidentally killed his best friend Demola and was thus brought back into reality by the repercussions of these actions - regretting influencing Demola wrongly and ultimately leading him down a destructive path thus bringing about an early death for Demola.

ii). STELLA

Stella, like Keziah, experienced sexual assault in her lifetime, however, the impacts were distinct. In Stella's case, it didn't cause an unplanned pregnancy, but rather a disconnection from the divine. There are a few lessons we can take away from her story. Primarily, her parents had such an immense trust in those around them that even when leaving their daughter with their sons unsupervised, they felt no fear. As Nigerians and Africans particularly, we tend to trust anything related to religion without proper



discretion; it is essential that we stay religious while being aware of our environment and the people in it. Additionally, we can see the emotional pain inflicted on someone after being raped; it took Stella years to surmount and heal from what occurred to her. She found herself doing things she didn't desire out of anguish and consequently endured a long period of time before ending this behavior.

iii) DEMOLA

This certain character is an illustrative example of the effects of inadequate parenting and peer pressure on a young university student, as evidenced by Demola's background. His parents prioritized financial aspects of parenting above all else while neglecting other aspects, leaving him with a weak moral foundation that could be easily influenced. Additionally, Demola had the economic means to provide himself with many luxuries, such as a nice off-campus place, and to aid the cult financially. It can be assumed that he was seeking a sense of belonging which K. K. provided him since his own parents didn't fill that gap; however, his actions had dire consequences. This serves as an indication that all aspects involved in parenting are important as they are all necessary to ensure that children grow up with a steady moral foundation and can make sound choices without influence from external sources. Demola claims he was persuaded by K. K., his 'parental figure', to rape Keziah and use drugs; however, these were still decisions he ultimately made himself and for which he paid dearly with his own life when K. K., ironically enough, took his away. This emphasizes how significant it is for parents not to just prioritize financial stability but also other areas of their children's growth in order for them to make robust decisions on their own in the future - lessons we can learn from Demola's unfortunate story.

3. *points of divergence between the written version and the film version*

1. In the third movement, the film version had a scene where Dr. Yusuf was interrupted by some late students before continuing his lecture, while in the book, the lecture was uninterrupted.
2. In the book, when Stella was about to share her story with Keziah it was written that she moved over to the window side and looks to the distance whereas in the film, she was sitting on a bed beside Keziah while narrating her story.



3. In the third movement, the film version shows Demola asking Ovie about Keziah while sitting in the class, while in the book version, it was written that Ovie follows him to a corner to ask about Keziah.
4. In the book version, Demola was one of the three new members initiated into the Red Shadows cult group, but in the film version, it was seen that there were only two new members being initiated and Demola was already part of the cult group.
5. In the book, it was written that Stella woke up from a dream then Emmanuella enters, but in the film version, Emmanuella coming to meet Stella was another scene.
6. In the film version, the twenty third movement was not shown but rather, it was written that Keziah transferred to University of Ibadan.
7. In the book version, the seventeenth movement showed a detailed court session between the Prosecution Counsel and Defence Counsel, while in the movie, the court session was brief then skipped to the judgement by the judge on the case.
8. In the film version, it was said that Demola's mum was dead while in the book version, Demola's mum was alive.
9. In the book version, it depicted the DPO as a female while in the film version, the DPO was seen to be a male.
10. In the fifteenth movement, the film version had a scene where Mrs. Richards was consoling her daughter Keziah in her bedroom, but in the book version, there is no scene of such.

