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COLLEGE: LAW

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QUESTION: ATTEMPT AN INCISIVE INTERROGATION OF SOLOMON EDEBOR’S GOODMORNING,SODOM, UNDERSCORING AT LEAST FIVE UNDERLYING THEMATIC THRUSTS THE DRAMA ENGAGES AND ANALYZE ANY THREE CHARACTERS.

THEMATIC THRUST;

It is known of literature to be a mirror of life and the happenings in the society. As such, Good morning, Sodom is no exception as it examines themes of moral decadence, negative peer pressure, cultism, lack of parental care and teenage pregnancy.

The theme of moral decadence is a prominent theme in the play Good morning, Sodom. The writer uses the play to elucidate on how the society has failed to uphold sound morality especially in our higher institutions. We can see this unfold during the course of Keziah relationship with Demola who had being head over heels for her for quite a while until he resolved to drug and rape her to get his way. Movement 6, pg 30 and 31. It also tells us reasons why young girls shouldn’t visit a boy alone especially in the university. Another, event that throws light of moral decadence is the story behind k.k and Demola’s friendship. Here we are made to understand that k.k and Demola were best of friends which gave k.k the leverage to influence Demola’s behaviours.

In the same vein, the theme of peer pressure is not left behind as kk confesses to Demola’s parent after his death on how he influenced Demola into using drugs, extorting his parents, living off campus, raping Keziah and finally joining the cult group. movement 19 pg 70 & 71. Keziah’s friends also tries to influence Keziah into being friends with Demola.

Cultism is a social vice raiding our higher institution today and it is not left untouched in this play by Solomon Edebor. In movement 8, we are exposed to a a cult group having their meeting in the bushy section of mayflower university. We see how the new members are initiated one of which is Demola and later on in movement 9 we are made to know that there was an attack of which left some of the cult members dead and the rest in jail. Futher, into the play, we explore the consequences of these as the members are made to serve jail term and expelled with Demola’s life terminated movement 18 pg 63.

Also, teenage pregnancy is another theme that has been explored in this play along with rape. Not one but two characters tells us a tale of rape. Stella tells Keziah of how she was raped by her pastors son and his friends and Keziah is also raped by Demola. Sixth movement pg 28-33. In the theme of teenage pregnancy which is usually the outcome of rape or unprotected consensual sexual intercourse between opposite sex of a young age 15-19. In this play the outcome of Demola’s actions led to the attempt of suicide by Keziah and shame for the family so much so that Dr Richards contemplates abortion which is against his own beliefs. We see how parental support during teenage pregnancy is of immense help and how the teenager can find light at the end of the tunnel.

Lack of parental care is another theme that helps to unfold the events in the play. The ultimate end of Demola exposes us to the dangers of lack of parental care. We can see parents like Engineer and Mrs Diran who indirectly caused the child’s death by their nonchalant attitude towards the child’s psychological needs. Movement 19 pg 71. And we can see the outcome of parental care in the case of Keziah pregnancy.

Finally, we can see the consequences of all these as the culprits are made to serve jail term, expulsion and overall shame to their families. All these themes and more have been explored by Dr Solomon Edebor to produce to this significant play thereby using literature as a mirror of the ills in the society.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

The play, Good morning, Sodom has a number of characters whose actions helps the upfolding of the events in the play.

DEMOLA: Diran Demola is one of the major characters themes in the play. He is a 200 level English student of mayflower university. At the beginning of the play, we see him trying to capture the attention of Keziah who happens to be a girl he likes. Eventually, out of peer pressure from bad influence he rapes Keziah and joins the cult belonging to his friend k.k. On one of their operations, he is shot accidentally by his friend. At Demola’s dying moment he regrets his actions and gives kk a picture to give Engr. and Mrs Diran his parents. Demola’s end tells us what peer pressure and bad company can lead to.

Nkanga Nwoko; He is also known as kk. He is also a major character as he helps in the unfolding of events in the play. He takes interest in Demola, finds out he has rich parents and ultimately destroys his life to the point of death, introducing him to drugs, cultism and rape. At the end of the play, he admits to being very good friends with Demola and killing him being his worst mistake. He is sentenced to life imprisonment as well as a fine. At the trial, we find out that he is the only child of his widowed mother ‘who struggles daily, roasting plantain by roadside to finance his education’. KK is remorseful and regrets his actions in the end but the deed has already been done and the consequences is before him.

Prosecution counsel: This is a minor character in the play as he appears only at the trial of KK and other members of the cult. [Seventeenth movement]. He is the first to speak to the judges, stating the criminal code act to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the suspects are indeed guilty as charged. He quotes several authorities which he basis his conclusion. He replies the defense counsel’s defense which says temper justice with mercy by stating “ he who sinned should be punished to serve as a deterrent”. Over all he gave so a good argument and the judge gives a good judgement.

POINT OF DIVERGENCE

In the book, in movement eighteen while some cultissst were being initiated. it was said that the two cultist being initiated were Demola and guy but in the book Demola was already a member.

In the book, in the seventeenth movement, the prosecution counsel and defense counsel expressed themselves but, in the movie, the defense counsel only said ‘tamper justice with mercy’ and the prosecution counsel said ‘let justice prevail, my lord most obliged’.

Also, in this same movement, during the trial, in the book we were made to know that K.K. mother is a plantain seller whose son is her only hope. Whilst, the book doesn’t make mention of that.

In second movement, in the book Keziah and Demola are said to be walking while talking but in the movie they were in the library.

Finally, in the book, Demola’s mother was alive and even spoke in the twentieth movement, but in the movie she happen to be dead.