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**PLAY; GOOD MORNING, SODOM**

**QUESTION 1;** Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning Sodom, underscoring at least 5 underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.

Solomon A. Edebor's *Good Morning Sodom* portrays the daily struggles of students in tertiary institutions and how these 'struggles' overall affect the lives of these students. The play enlightens its audience on the morally bankrupt acts which are slowly becoming the norms in tertiary institutions, their causes and subsequent consequences and most importantly; how to curb these vices before it's too late, through the following themes;

1) Irresponsible parenthood;

This involves all activities, deliberate or not, that could put your ward in potential danger including but not restricted to physical abuse, any form of neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and others. In the play, Dr Aworawo (Keziah's father) is portrayed as a neglectful father from the first movement as he prioritized an 'urgent call' over the visit of his only child

and tries to make amends with material things. The interactions between Keziah and her father from the fourteenth movement through the eighteenth movement implies negligence and ignorance of parents, especially when their wards need them the most as because of he couldn't see past the 'heinous crime' Keziah committed, she almost lost her life.

This kind of parenting is also visible in the household of the Dirans'. They gave Demola everything he wanted at his beck and call, instead of seeing to his physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing. This negligence on their part ultimately led to the demise of their beloved son.

2) Cultism;

This involves a group of people of common interest coming together to form a group whose practices are considered deviant and membership a secret. This play depicts how cultism and quest for power destroy the lives of many youths in our society today. Demola, a young promising college student, fell victim to the enticing 'promises' of Red shadows cult, despite the dangers involved. The irony of the situation is- he met his

demise during the first cult operation after his initiation at the hands of his friend, the person that initiated him, Nkanga Nwoko (KK)

3) Effect of negative peer influence;

It's by no means news that negative peer influence is one of the leading causes of crimes in our society, especially amongst youths today. The effect of negative peer influence is first depicted in the fifth movement, where Ovie and Bunmi, Keziah's friends, advised her to give Demola a chance and get to know him better despite knowing her values and that

the intentions of Demola wasn't aligning with that of someone who wants pure friendship. This advise made Keziah start to build a connection with Demola and enough trust to be able to visit him at his apartment where she got raped.

This effect is also seen in the life of Demola who, even though had pure intentions of love towards Keziah, became blinded by his desire and allowed his friend KK advise him to drug and charm Keziah as revealed in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> movements. This act backfired and led Keziah loathing him.

#### 4) Proselytization;

This can be defined as the policy of carrying out attempts to change people's beliefs, religion or way of living. In the play, the first act of proselytization (indirect) can be seen in the sixth movement while Stella is sharing her story with Keziah. She mentioned how she lost her faith in God after she was molested and how God healed her. In the same movement, it was shown that Emmanuella, Stella's roommate of the time acted as an agent of proselytization by preaching the gospel to Stella when she had lost all faith in God. Mrs Richard also tried to change the belief of her husband that their daughter was nothing more than a disgrace.

#### 5) Sexual harassment;

This is one of the main themes of the play. In the 6<sup>th</sup> movement, it was shown that Keziah got harassed by Demola when she visited him at his apartment for school work. She was drugged and taken advantage of. Later in the same movement, it was evident that she started blaming herself even though she had no control over what had happened to her. She felt guilty and used, a common feeling amongst victims of sexual assault even though they were helpless. Through the course of her conversation with Stella, the effect of sexual harassment on its victims was depicted perfectly, both physically and mentally. Stella misplaced her identity for years and disregarded her values, while Keziah got pregnant. The play instills hope for victims of sexual assault as Keziah and Stella still found their purpose in life after their respective ordeals.

#### 6) Prosecution of justice;

Whatever goes around comes around. Whatever power the cultists in the

play exercised was short lived as they were arrested and prosecuted for their crimes including manslaughter and possession of arms. Despite their pleas and repentance, they still had to pay the price for their actions which instills a sense of awareness in the audience that for every action, there will be a befitting consequence. The perpetrators were also rusticated from the school facility, which is another form of justice. Although short lived, Stella's rapists were also arrested and detained.

**QUESTION 2:** Attempt a detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's Good morning, Sodom.

### DEMOLA DIRAN

Demola Diran, a 200 level student in the department of English at mayflower University, is one of the characters in the play; Good morning, Sodom. His character was first portrayed in the second movement where he displayed his desire for Keziah. The movement showed how

determined and persuasive the character was as despite Keziah's harsh response and obvious lack of interest, he didn't give up. In the third movement, he was shown as a character who

cares about whom he loves as due to Keziah's absence he was distracted in class and couldn't help but ask her friends of her whereabouts. However, his desperation and his friend, kk, were

his downfall. He later succumbed to peer pressure as revealed in movement 5 and 6, where he assaulted Keziah. He was overall naïve as he also fell for peer pressure to take drugs and join

cultism. This action led to his untimely death. Later in the play, it was discovered that Demola's susceptibility to peer pressure was due to lack of parental care and guidance, hence why he was so easily influenced.

### KEZIAH RICHARDS

Keziah is the main character (protagonist) of the play; Good morning, Sodom. Throughout the course of the play, she was portrayed as a disciplined and focused student with good morals. From the first movement, it was inferred that she didn't want to get influenced

negatively as shown in the course of her conversation with her mother about her other roommates aside Stella. The irony of this act is that those roommates didn't end up influencing her negatively, her own friends- Ovie and Bunmi did. Succumbing to the pressure and

persuasion of Demola and her friends was the beginning of her downfall. She, as naïve as she

was, took as drink offered by Demola without knowing it was drugged and got assaulted. Due to her good moral upbringing, she considered herself impure even though she had no control over what happened. She felt embarrassed and due to her father's lack of understanding, attempted suicide to rid her family of the

embarrassment. This singular act shows she acknowledges the severity of her condition and showed remorse by attempted to fix it, albeit through the wrong way.

### DR AROWARO RICHARDS

Dr Richards was portrayed as an absentee parent from the start of the play. From the beginning, he prioritized work and his reputation over his child- the first sign of irresponsible parenthood. He was also observed to be ignorant as although Keziah could have avoided her predicament by steering clear of Demola's apartment, the deed had already been done and he was supposed to be a source of emotional support for her. Instead, he became her own

personal nightmare. He obviously did not trust his daughter enough to believe her when she confessed she indeed visited Demola's apartment, but with pure intentions. He was too

engrossed in the ridicule Keziah's pregnancy would cause the family that he totally neglected her. Thankfully, his character was dynamic. Even though it almost cost him the life of his only

child, he changed his outlook on the situation and spent the time after Keziah's suicide attempt trying to make up for his wrongdoings and apologizing for his irresponsible parenthood. This was a great character development on his part.

## QUESTION 3;

### Points of divergence between the published and the film version of the play; Good Morning, Sodom.

Although the film version of the play was beautifully performed and could be likened to the published version, there are still some minor differences and points of divergence in between.

1. According to the book, in the third movement, Dr Yusuf- the middle aged oral literature lecturer doesn't pause to send students who came in late out of his class but this happened during the film version of the play and he continued his lecture afterward
2. still in the third movement, it was stated that Demola approached Ovie and Bunmi as they left the class but according to the film version, he approached them after the lecture, while they were still sitting and explaining some things to each other to inquire about Keziah's whereabouts.
3. In the 6th movement of the published version, Demola was said to be lying on the bed while he was talking to Keziah before he drugged her but in the film version, they were both sitting- giving a more realistic perspective of Keziah as a disciplined woman. Keziah also sipped her drink after she was charmed with the handkerchief according to the film version but vice-versa happens in the published version.
4. Furthermore, in the 6th movement, Demola was slapped by Keziah after she woke up and realized he had defiled her in the film version but she only lamented and wailed in

the published version. some parts of the conversation between Stella and Keziah described in the published version was omitted in the film version. Some parts were also changed I.e instead of 4 young men to bring out clothes from Stella's house as described in the book, only 1 young man performed this action in the film.

5. According to the book, Emmanuella came to meet Stella in her room to deliver God's message but in the film version, this scene occurred while Stella was packing her clothes outside. The setting of the conversation between Stella and Keziah was different too in both versions while in the film version the setting was outside, in the published version it was in a room,
6. In the eighth Movement, according to the published version, there were 3 blindfolded young men kneeling at the centre, including Demola and 6 students circling the fire. This, however, is not the case in the film version as there are 7 student members circling the fire, including Demola and only 2 students were kneeling and about to be initiated.
7. In the thirteenth movement of the published version, it was inferred that the DPO was a female but in the film version, the DPO was a male.
8. Dr Richards also handled the issue of Keziah's pregnancy better in movement 14 of the film version than the published version as in the former, he didn't call her a disgrace and source of humiliation.
9. In the 16th movement of the published version, the scene ends with Keziah crying after eavesdropping her parents' conversation but in the film version, it ends in Mrs Richards comforting her daughter and reassuring her that her father still loves her.
10. A large part of the seventeenth movement according to the published version was omitted in the film version. Only the court's final verdict and few words from the prosecution and defence counsel were mentioned as opposed to the full speech of both counsels in the published version.
11. Some parts of the eighteenth movement according to the published version were also omitted in the film version ie Dr Hanson telling Mrs Richards that Keziah needs to be placed under observation for 2 days
12. The 20th movement according to the book became the 19th movement according to the film version and the 19th movement in the book version became the 20th movement in the film version.
13. During the visit of Mr Niran to KK in the film version, Mrs Niran was absent and was later found out to be dead (the opposite happened in the published version), hence Mr Doran had to perform some of her roles in the film as described in the published version.