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COLLEGE Law

COURSE CODE AFE 122

COURSE TITLE Use of English

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AFE 122 ASSIGNMENTS

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 analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom.

3. What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of GOOD MORNING, SODOM?

1. Good Morning Sodom is a play by Solomon A. Edebor that portrays the life of two University students Keziah and Demola. It brings into light the moral decadence that is now prevalent in higher institutions in Nigeria. A lot of themes can be pointed out from this play;

A. Peer Influence

Peer influence is a major theme in the play, Good Morning Sodom. Peer pressure is the direct or indirect influence on a person by other members of his peer group. Peer influence is seen in the book where K.K. and Bentol advise Demola to drug Keziah and have his way with her. He regrets this decision afterwards but the deal had been done. K.K. also convinces Demola to bury his sorrow and guilt of what he had done to Keziah by sniffing hard drugs. It is also through peer influence that Demola joins a cult which eventually leads to his death by the same friend, K.K. that had been leading him in the path of destruction. In higher institutions today, its easy to get influenced by one’s peers for reasons such as acceptance, popularity and greed, to mention but a few. It was Demola’s unhealthy obsession with Keziah that led him to accept advice from bad company like K.K. and Bentol. His parents found out too late and could not do anything by then.

B. Cultism

Cultism is a disease that has eaten its way through several higher institutions in Nigeria. Despite the warnings given to students on the dangers of cultism before they go to university, a lot of students still fall prey to this malignant disease. Demola is lured by K.K. to join the Red Shadows confraternity. This cult fights with an opposing cult The Sparrows because they were responsible for the death of two of their members: Dagren and Festula. In the course of their fight, Demola dies. The DPO and Inspector Dele work to root out the cultists and make them pay for their crimes. The Student Disciplinary Committee also gives immediate expulsion to students that were found out to be cultists. K.K. is eventually sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Demola.

C. Bad Parenting

When a set of parents fail to fulfill their parental responsibilities for their child's upbringing, this is referred to as bad parenting. The effects of this can continue a long time for the youngster. When the child starts to grow, this could have a major effect on him or her. This is because as a child, the child did not receive love and encouragement from his parents. The child then starts looking for these things from other sources. The easiest way to illustrate the play's theme of poor parenting is through Demola's life. Demola was easily lured into the Red Sparrows cult by KK because his parents were only interested in the material aspect of his life. At the play's conclusion, it is revealed that Eng. and Mrs. Diran are regretting their involvement in their son's life and how they could have done more.

D. Déception and Manipulation

Stella was a victim of rape through the manipulation of the pastors sons. They lied to her that her dad was calling through the telephone in their fathers room, she unknowingly followed them and they pounced on her. Demola was a pawn in KK’s hands throughout the play. KK made Demola do drugs, manipulated him into thinking raping Keziah was best, also successfully initiated him into a court and eventually pulled the trigger on Demola’s life. Keziah was also a victim of Demola’s deception. She went to his apartment unknowingly to her that he planned to take her virginity.

E. Death and Suicide

Cultism in Mayflower University brought about the death of Demola. During the cult clash between Red Shadows and Sparrows, KK mistakenly shot him. Keziah almost lost her life when she attempted suicide because she couldn’t deal with the disappointment and shame she had brought upon her family.

F. Redemption

Redemption is a theme that is portrayed strongly through Stella’s character. Stella was mercilessly raped by four boys at a young age. She was bitter from this experience and turned away from God. She said ‘I dabbled into all forms of immorality and became an expert’. Entering into university gave her leeway to live a more reckless life. She had two dreams and an encounter with another character, Emmanuella, that made her decide to turn a new leaf. She drew closer to God and preached to Keziah about it when Keziah had just got raped. When Keziah decided to end her life, luckily her father got home in time to take her to the hospital and get immediate medical attention. She didn’t lose her life nor her baby’s. She eventually gave birth to Mouritha. Her redemption came in the form of another chance at continuing her education in the University of Ibadan with the adequate help and resources she would need

2.

Character Analysis:

1. Keziah Richards

Keziah Richards is the only child to her parents, Dr Aworawo Richards and Mrs Joke Richards. She is a diligent 200 level English student at Mayflower University with a bright future ahead of her. Dedicated to her studies, she rejects Demola’s advances, her course mate whom is in love with her. Her friends Ovie and Bunmi advise her to give him a chance. However, Demola's true intentions are revealed when he rapes her when she goes to his apartment to work on an assignment. She felt dejected afterwards. Her dear friend Stella acts as a source of comfort to her. Few days later she learns of Demola’s death which causes her to lose consciousness. Shes rushed to the hospital and soon learns that shes pregnant. Her father doesn’t take this news well as he rejects her which leads her to commit suicide. Luckily, she doesn’t die nor lose the baby. She eventually gives birth to a daughter named Mouritha and is presented with another chance to start afresh at the University of Ibadan.

1. Demola Diran

Demola Diran is the son of Engineer Diran and Mrs Diran. He is a brilliant 200 level English student at Mayflower University with an unhealthy obsession with Keziah. He befriended Nkanga Nwoko (K.K), a 400-level English student who eventually led him down a terrible path. His genuine love for Keziah turns corrupt when K.K advises him to use devious methods to gain access to her by raping her. He regrets this decision afterwards. Keziah thinks the worst of him and wishes not to see him again. He drowns his guilt in hard drugs and is eventually led down a dark path by Nkanga who initiates him into a cult and mistakenly pulled a trigger on his life during a cult clash. His parents eventually learn the truth about their son and decide to help care for his child with Keziah, Mouritha.

1. Stella

Stella is Keziah's roommate and the first person to find out about the tragic incident in her life. She tries to uplift Keziah by sharing her tale as a fellow rape survivor while using gentle and consoling words. She was sexually assaulted by the two sons of her pastor, Daniel and Tosin and their friends seven years ago. Her shame and humiliation drive her to a life of immorality and disbelief. Her summons to repentance is symbolized by a recurring dream she has. Coincidentally a floormate of hers, Emmanuella knocks on her door to share the good news but she turns it down rudely. She is left to ponder about Emmanuella’s message. She makes the decision to present herself at the altar and beg for salvation. She starts living a new life after that. A few days later, she is at the scene of Damola's murder and phones Keziah right away to attend. She brings Keziah to the hospital after what happened causes her to pass out and start bleeding between her thighs. After Keziah is stable at the Centre, she excuses herself to inform Keziah’s mother about the unfortunate event. She is seen as a good friend all around.

3

Having watched Good Morning Sodom, I came across several differences between the published version and the film version.

In the second movement of the play, Keziah and Demola converse outside the library. In the film, they converse in the library.

In the third movement of the play, while Dr Yusuf was lecturing the undergraduate students, no student interrupted his class. But in the film, two students interrupt his lecture and he sends them out for lateness.

In the sixth movement, Emmanuella preaches to Stella in her room in the published version. In the film version, she preaches to her while she was spreading her clothes outside.

In the eight movement of the play, Demola was a convert newly initiated into the Red Shadows cult but in the film, Demola was already a member of the cult.

In the thirteenth movement, the DPO is a woman in the published version but a man acted the role in the film version.

In the eighteenth movement of the play, Keziah was found lifeless on the floor of her bedroom while in the film, she was found lifeless close to the sitting room.

In the film version of Good Morning Sodom, Demola’s mother was deceased while in the published version, she was very much alive and was present for K.K’s confessions and the confrontation with Keziah’s parents.

Some movements in the play were cut short in the film like the seventeenth movement. The long speeches by the prosecution and the defense counsel were not said in the film. Only the judgement of the judge was said in the film. This is likely due to the length of the timeframe allocated to each scene. The ninth movement was not acted at all in the film likely due to lack of resources to portray it well.

All in all, the published and the film version of good morning Sodom, despite their differences, are still very similar. The film version followed the same plot of the play. The play was brought to life beautifully.