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DEPARTMENT: MBBS

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AFE 122 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 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?

ANSWERS

**Thematic Thrusts**

1. Cultism: In this book, Dr. Solomon A. Edebor skillfully portrays cultism as it is in the Nigerian university setting today. Cultism is one of the major horrors of university life. Uncultured youth form fraternities to single themselves out from the crowd. They usually believe that creating or joining a cult makes them the "big boys" on campus. They perpetrate all manner of social vices and wrongs because they feel like they are invincible. An example of this kind of behavior cited in the book is when K.K, a member of the "Red Shadows" cult encouraged his friend, Demola to rape a course mate. He did this with no fear of retribution; he felt like no one would be able to question him or Demola because of their affiliation with the cult. Cultism is very dangerous. It encourages social vices, bizarre practices and inhumane behavior. The initiation of new members into the "Red Shadows" cult for instance entailed of the young boys drinking blood and chanting in a strange language. In the seventh movement of the book, K.K gives Demola hard drugs to take to "banish his sorrow and guilt". There are no benefits to cultism. It only jeopardizes the future of youths and can even cause loss of life as was the case for K.K and Demola respectively.
2. Rape and Unplanned pregnancy: This is another theme that was touched in this book. It showed that some cases of rape do not have to be forceful and that if one is not careful one might end up walking into one's own demise. The sixth movement of the book shows Keziah in Demola's house after she had begun to see him as a friend. She went to his house for an assignment and was drugged and raped by him. This resulted in her getting pregnant and having to stop school for a while.
3. Peer pressure: This is another prevalent theme in the book. It was shown first when Ovie and Bunmi convinced Keziah to open up to Demola and let him into her life. It was because of them that she decided to become friends with him. Then in the seventh movement, K.K convinced Demola to take a hard drug. He did not want to at first but after some persuasion from K.K, he took it. Other things that K.K pressured Demola to do was to rape Keziah and to join his cult. It is important to note that peer pressure does not necessarily have to be forceful. Some friends just keep trying to persuade you and make you see reason with their absurd mentality. Other times, one just tends to feel pressured because everyone around them is doing something so succumb to their way of life.
4. Bad parenting: This was shown by Demola's parents in their laissez-faire attitude in raising him. Being a wealthy family they thought that by providing all his financial needs they had done enough as parents. Parents need to be there for their children emotionally and psychologically and because of Demola's parents were there for neither, K.K stepped in for them and drove their son off the cliff. Another example of bad parenting cited in the book was of Dr. Aworawo Richards, Keziah's father when he found out that she was pregnant. He lashed out at her and behaved coldly towards her. He didn't even consider the physical and mental implications that the pregnancy would have on his daughter coupled with the fact that she was raped. His behaviour and actions almost drove his daughter to commit suicide but she was rushed to the hospital before it was too late.
5. Repentance: This theme is portrayed by both Demola and K.K. Demola was remorseful for all his actions; lying to his parents, joining a cult, using hard drugs and raping Keziah. It is especially apparent in a scene that is later revealed in movement nineteen; which shows Demola on his deathbed handing a picture of his parents over to K.K to tell him to ask them for forgiveness. K.K also showed remorse by pleading guilty in court and asking to meet with Demola's parents to beg for their forgiveness personally.

**Character Analyses**

1. Keziah Richards: Keziah is a female undergraduate student at Mayflower University in her late teenage years. She is the daughter of Mrs. Joke Richards and Dr. Aworawo Richards. She is of average height with a slightly rotund figure and fair complexion. She is an independent, strong minded, confident and resilient character who knows what she wants. She is a very studious girl with her head always in her books which was portrayed in the second movement which showed her going to the library. She is strong-minded because she stood her ground on her decision not to entertain Demola's advances despite his many attempts. She showed resilience when she got raped and impregnated; she had her low moments but pulled through in the end.
2. Dr. Aworawo Richards: Dr. Richards is a strict disciplinarian and no-nonsense type of father. He is a very busy man as shown in movement one where he could not make the visit to Keziah's school and eighteen where he is seen leaving for Abuja for work. His workload however did not mean a lack of love for his daughter, it was in fact the opposite. Keziah's pregnancy came as a shock to him and he reacted in a very harsh way. Though he loved her, his strict ways and the shame he felt overpowered him. It took Keziah almost taking her own life for him to come back to his senses. He matured tremendously as a character; from the strict harsh father to being more considerate and compassionate.
3. Demola Diran: Demola is tall, dark handsome young man who was interested in Keziah. He wanted a romantic relationship with her but she was not interested. He was very gullible and easy to persuade. He was a victim of peer pressure which led to his downfall. Demola could not make decisions on his own and was not able to stand on his own two feet because his parents did not give him the emotional support he needed.

**Points Of Divergence Between The Book And The Film**

There were many occurrences that differentiated the film version of Dr. Edebor's Good Morning Sodom from the published one though the storyline was generally the same. A few have been stated below.

1. The first difference I noticed was the library scene in the film. In the book, there was only mention of Keziah walking to the library when Demola approached her. The film showed Keziah and Demola in the library with him trying to persuade here to date him.
2. Another difference I noticed was the students that came late to class. In the book, there were no late comers, the class went on smoothly.
3. In the cult scene in the book, Demola was one of the three news members that were freshly being initiated into the "Red Shadows" cult. In the film however, he was already a member and only two new members were initiated.
4. In the film, Keziah's mum comforted her and wiped her tears because of what she was facing for being pregnant. The pregnancy was a source of great shame and embarrassment to her family. Due to this father treated her very harshly. In the book her mother was not as harsh and empathized with her but there was never a separate scene where she comforted her and asked her to clean her tears.
5. In the film, Demola's mother was dead which was not the case in the book.
6. In the book, Keziah's daughter's name was Mouritha but it was Heritage in the film.