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DEPARTMENT: LAW

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AFE 122 ASSIGNMENT

QUESTION 1

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

QUESTION 2

Attempt detailed character analysis on any three characters in Solomon Edebor's *Good Morning, Sodom*

QUESTION 3

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

ANSWER:

Solomon Edebor's *Good Morning, Sodom* is a drama that depicts the discrepancy's that happen especially within the tertiary institutions of Nigerian Universities, more specifically the Public universities and the effects that these discrepancies have on the society as a whole. As the play progresses we see the emersion of different thematic thrusts and how they are being portrayed in the book. The themes in this drama mainly focus on the predominant issues which Universities and youths have been battling and are still battling to this day. The play does also bring to light the repercussions that go along with committing such immoral acts and the effect that these acts have on the people who were victim of them.

One of the major themes that could be highlighted from this drama is the theme of ***Peer Influence or Peer Pressure***. An instance of this can be seen when we shed light on the character of Demola who in the beginning of the play was portrayed as a character with good intentions, but as the play progresses we see how he was negatively influenced by his so called friends to rape Keziah (the girl he "loved") and be inducted into a cult fraternity. The play sheds light on how easy it is for people to be influenced negatively by the wrong people no matter how good they think they are themselves. Peer pressure can be said to be the most influential thing in the lives of youths and plays a great role in the formation of how a child transitions to a teenager, a teenager to a youth and then a youth into an adult. This play helps us to understand this and also helps us to understand the effect that this influence has on the individual and the people affected.

Another theme that can be brought out of the play is the theme of ***The Effects of Cultism***. Cultism being the number one cause for societal disruption in Nigerian Universities is foreshadowed in this play.

The act of cultism is one that is at the forefront for most of the negativity happening throughout the play and its effects pose to be one of great problem. In the character of Demola we see the degree of how much Cultism can affect someone's life. Demola who was influenced by his friends to join the Red Sparrows, lost his life when he was involved in a shooting with a rival cult group and was mistakenly shot by one of his friends. Demola who at the beginning of the play is portrayed as a hardworking student coming from a wealthy background would soon suffer the consequences of his actions and pay dearly with his life. Demola was also influenced by his friend, K.K to drug, charm and rape Keziah. The effects of his actions caused Keziah's life to be turned upside down, she became pregnant and had to drop out of school thereby bringing her life and dreams to a standstill. Another instance where we can see the effects of cultism is in the character of K.K (Nkanga Nwoko) a 400 level English Language student of Mayflower University and a member of the Red Sparrows Confraternity whose university education was brought to an end after he was involved in a crossfire with a rival cult which led to the accidental murder of his friend Demola. He was thereby sentenced to life imprisonment for manslaughter. We see the magnitude of how cultism has affected him when a student who is about to round off 4 years of tertiary education's life is brought to an abrupt end. The sacrifices of his mother to fund him through the university would prove fruitless as he would have to spend the rest of his life behind bars regretting the life he chose for himself. The playwright uses this theme to bring to light how gravely the engagement in such activities can negatively impact the lives of not only those who participate in it but the people around them and the society as a whole. Demola's parents lost their one and only son, K.K's mother's sacrifices were fruitless and Keziah's life was greatly overturned.

Another theme found in the play is the theme of **Justice**. The theme of justice is permeable throughout the duration of the play. Justice is first served when Stella's abusers are taken to jail and spend some days behind bars. Stella's parents especially her mother were determined to press charges and get justice for their daughter, but because of the persuasion and appeal by the elders of the Church the charges were dropped. It can be safe to assume that full justice would have prevailed if they had gone ahead with their charges. Justice can also be seen to prevail when the cultist who were involved with the shooting against their rival cult members were punished for their crimes by getting expelled and being sentenced to 2 years imprisonment for illegal possession of firearms. The major instance where we see justice prevail is in the case of K.K., K.K. who was found guilty for the accidental murder of Demola was sentenced to life imprisonment on the charges of manslaughter. The playwright makes us to understand that justice no matter what will always prevail and that the consequences of your actions will always catch up with you. Boys who were almost done with their education and who thought would go scot free would see firsthand that you cannot escape justice and that is the message that the playwright is trying to pass across.

Another theme that can be seen in the poem is the theme of **Deception**. There are many instances where we can see deception being illustrated. First we see an instance of this when the pastor's son tells Stella to come into the room with him under the guise of watching TV but instead he and his friends take advantage of her. Also when Demola asks Keziah to come to his accommodation under the guise of studying but instead takes it as an opportunity to take advantage of her. And lastly we see deception being illustrated when Demola lies to his parents about how there are no more on-campus accommodation so he would be able to get one off-campus at the request of his friend K.K. The playwright is trying to pass across that whenever deception is being used, that its repercussions are

always negative in nature and that lies will never bring about anything of good nature but only bring about destruction and sorrow.

Finally we can see the illustration of the theme of *Selective Principles*. In the 16th movement we see how Keziah father displays this. His view on abortion seemed to change when he was the one that was directly affected and we see his wife call him out on it. Him being someone that was fully against abortion was now open to it because his life would have been easier if he follow along with it, even disregarding the high rate of casualties associated with the procedure. The playwright is trying to pass across that lot of people will support something when they are not the ones that have been directly affected by said thing but their views change once they are the ones experiencing it. As human beings we cannot really judge someone else for their decisions especially when we ourselves have never been in that position, to make that choice, to experience that thing. And it also shows how a lot of people are quick to pick the side that is “easier” for them and not really analyzing it from a general standpoint

QUESTION 2

KEZIAH: Keziah Richards is the main protagonist in the play Good Morning, Sodom. She is the daughter of Dr. Aworowo Richards and Mrs. Joke Richards. She is a 200lvl undergraduate student studying English Language at Mayflower University. She is described to be a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady in her late teens. The character of keziah goes through a rollercoaster of events throughout the duration of the play. We see how in the beginning of the play she is a cheerful young woman with good values who is set out on focusing on her studies and making her parents proud aware of the sacrifices they have made for her. She displays characteristics of a responsible, determined, goal driven individual and assertive in the sense that she does not want to succumb to the advances of her fellow course mate Demola, being very persistent on the fact that the reason she was in school was not to be involved in men especially since they are only interested in the things “in-between their legs”. Then we see how all this changes when she decided to heed to the advice of her friends Bunmi and Ovie, who tell her to give Demola a chance, a chance she would later on regret. As the play progresses we watch her character transform from her once cheerful self to a depressed one as a result of the rape she experienced at the hands of Demola. After this traumatic incident she finds out she is pregnant after being rushed to the hospital, upon her return home she faces the harshness, wrath and disappointment of her father who is repulsed at the shame she has brought on his family. These incidents cause her to attempt to take her own life but she is luckily found by her father and rushed to the hospital. After all this we see her gradually return back to the girl she once was because of the support of her parents who decide to forgive her after her near death experience and fund her education to the University of Ibadan providing her with a caretaker called chinnye to care for her baby and also provide her with off campus accommodation so as to get her a “change of environment”.

DEMOLA: Diran Demola is another major character in the play Good Morning, Sodom. He is a 200 level undergraduate studying English Language at Mayflower University. He is the only child of Engineer Diran and Mrs. Diran. He is described in the play as a tall, dark, handsome young man. And is also member of the Red Shadows Confraternity. A lot of his actions throughout the play influence a lot of what happens in the play. His character can be seen as one that is very persistent in the sense that he does not give up

in his pursuit for Keziah, his fellow course mate. He keeps pestering her even after being clearly told that she was not interested, this did not diminish his pursuits. It can be seen at the beginning of the play that his feelings towards Keziah are genuine and of good intent but negative influence from his “friends” causes him to commit actions that he would later on regret and pay for severely. The character of Demola can be seen as one that is easily influenced. We see instances of this in the seventh movement when K.K convinces him to take drugs and the nineteenth movement when K.K narrates to his parents that he was the one that told him to leave the hostel for town and also to lure Keziah to his off campus accommodation and have his way with her. We also see how he was influenced to become a member of the The Red Sparrows, which would ultimately lead to his death as he is mistakenly shot by one of his friends during a shooting with a rival cult. Demola being from a wealthy, well respected home would let the influence of others be the cause of his downfall.

K.K.: Nkanga Nwoko (K.K) is a 400level undergraduate student studying English at Mayflower University. He is the only son of his widowed mother, Mrs. Nkanga who roasts plantain by the roadside as a means of providing for her family and funding her son’s education. He is also a member of the Red Sparrow Fraternity. K.K.’s character is one that revolves mainly around the theme of peer pressure. His main role in the play was to influence his friend Demola to commit atrocious acts. His character can be seen playing a role in every negative thing that happens in the play. His influence on his friend Demola to take drugs, charm, drug and then rape his fellow course mate and even makes him join his cult group. He is also responsible for the death of that same Demola as he mistakenly shoots him during a confrontation with a rival cult. We see how his actions in the play come back to haunt him as his life is basically put to an end as he is expelled when he has almost completed his tertiary education and is then found guilty on the charge of manslaughter for the murder of Demola and then sentenced to life imprisonment. K.K. who was supposed to be the last hope of his mother would prove to be a disappointment and a failure. Although at the end of the day it can be seen that he regrets his actions the damage has already been done. The only way he seeks to remedy his mistakes is when he confesses all that he did to Demola’s parents and asks for their forgiveness

QUESTION 3

Upon reading Solomon Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom and then after watching the movie certain differences can be pointed out throughout both.

Firstly, in **movement three** in the play during Dr. Yusuf’s class there were no interruptions, however, in the movie we see two students coming to the class late and causing a disruption in the middle of the class and then being sent out. Another instance in this movement is, in the play Demola approaches Ovie and Bunmi whilst they were on their way out of class, but it is shown in the movie that they are still in the class studying when he approaches them

Secondly, in **movement six** it is said that Stella and her father are in the pastor’s house waiting for other members of the church to arrive before hearing of the emergency, but in the movie they had just reached the pastor’s house when her father and the pastor left for the emergency and Stella entered the house by herself

Thereafter, in **movement eight** it is said that Demola and 2 other boys were getting initiated into The Red Sparrows confraternity but in the movie Demola was already a member and it was only 2 boys being initiated.

Also in the **Ninth Movement** it is said that there was a shooting scene between the members of The Red Sparrows and a rival cult but in the movie the scene was never shown only the place where Demola's body was found

Also in the **Thirteenth movement** the DPO was a woman while in the movie the DPO was a man

In the seventeen movement during the trial, the prosecution and the defense were able to plead their cases while in the movie it was only the judgment of the judge that was seen. Also in that same movement K.K's mother was shown in the court crying and also fainting while in the movie she was not in attendance while K.K. was being sentenced

In the **Eighteenth movement** also Dr. Richards finds Keziah's body in her room while in the movie her body if found close to the sitting room

Also in the **Nineteenth movement** of the book Engineer Diran's wife (Demola's mother) was there when they went to see K.K while in the movie it is said that she has passed away and only Eng. Diran was alive

Lastly in **the Twenty Third Movement**, Keziah's daughter was named Mouritha. While in the movie she was named Heritage Demola Diran