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**AFE 122 ASSIGNMENT:**

**THEMATIC THRUSTS IN “GOOD MORNING SODOM” BY SODOM ADEDOKUN EDEBOR.**

**A.THEME OF REGRET**

Dominant in the play “Good morning Sodom” by Solomon A. Edebor is the theme of Regret. This is seen in the life of the main character of the play Keziah, a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady in her late teens; she belongs to a Christian home whose parents have taught her morals and groomed her enough for the university life which she would be introduced to. It becomes evident of the kind of life she lives when she tells her mom MRS Richards about the kind of lifestyle her other roommates live.

Keziah has a level mate Demola who is in love with Keziah, although she has clearly stated that she is uninterested in having Demola as anything more than a friend, Demola still pushes forward trying his luck at all times. When Keziah goes home due to an emergency and no one could reach her because her phone was stolen, Demola was worried sick for her and even ask her course mates Ovie and Bunmi for her whereabouts. Keziah returns from home and her course mates advise her to give Demola a chance for he truly cares about her. After much persuasions,

Keziah finally pays Demola a visit in order to work on an assignment. What looked like a seemingly harmless visit as Keziah thought it to be unfortunately had a drastic outcome. Demola drugged and raped Keziah and she became pregnant. Keziah regrets ever giving Demola a chance at all and even goes as far as cursing the sun that shone the day she set her eyes on him. Keziah who has obviously brought shame to her family lives in regret. Her mother is understanding but her dad is still very disappointed and heart struck by this incident. Keziah even goes as far as attempting to kill herself leaving behind a heartfelt apology to her parents, her father returns on time to save her and rushes her to the hospital. Even after the birth of her daughter, she is still remorseful and apologetic to her parents, she still lives in regret and even wishes to turn back the hands of time.

Other characters in the play who have a reason to regret are Demola’s parents Engineer Diran and his wife. They realize after the ignominious death of their son Demola who dies long before his time. They realize how they have failed him as parents, they were workaholics who allowed the desire to get their son a stable financial life becloud their minds caring less about his mental and psychological health. Unforttunately for the parents, they realize this after their son’s death when K.K asks to see them while in prison. MRS Diran exclaims to her husband “we killed him” and they both live in regret and guilt towards their son.

Demola also regrets accepting the advice of K.K and Bentol to drug and rape the girl that he loves dearly as well as K.K who regrets unintentionally killing his very good friend Demola, during a war with their rival cult group he takes it as the greatest mistake of his life.

**THEME OF IRRESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.**

This theme is displayed in the lives of ENG. And MRS Diran Demola’s parents. They are too busy and cannot care less about their son’s personal life, they only care about his financial wellbeing. They allow the desire of the financial stability of their son to cloud their minds caring little about his physical and psychological needs. Demola’s friend and roommate becomes his mentor but unfortunately a bad one.

K.K advices Demola to engage in a lot of unlawful activities, he introduces him to hard drugs and even tells him to lie to his parents in order for him to live off campus and his parents do not even notice. K.K and Bentol also advice Demola to drug and rape Keziah whom he loves dearly in order to suppress his lustful desires. The highlight of it all is K.K introducing Demola to an anti-social society which leads to his inglorious and premature death.

His parents realize this later on when they visit K.K in the prison at his request and hands them their photo which was Demola’s last wish on his death ground. K.K also opens their eyes to all their wrongs as they discover deep ominous information about their son and how they failed him as parents and brought him to his tragic end by allowing him to find comfort in the arms of a fellow course mate who they refer to as his mentor. He often lied to them and got away with it because they failed to investigate it as they were too busy. On realizing this, MRS Diran and her husband are in tears as MRS Diran tells her husband that they killed their due to their irresponsible parenthood.

**THEME OF MORAL DECADENCE**

One issue addressed in the play “Good morning Sodom” is the deplorable moral decadence in the society, which has spread to higher institutions of learning. These moral evils shows up in the use of hard drugs, alcoholic drinks, cultism, brutish sexual drives and encounters and other anti-social vices.

Youths and university undergraduates engaging in all forms of anti-social activities, joining cult groups, using hard drugs, becoming alcohol addicts and lots more. Demola who was influenced by K.K and Bentol his roommates started engaging in various anti-social activities. Some of which were using of hard drugs in order to feel high, he also drugged and raped a fellow level mate whom he loved following the advice of K.K and Bentol which eventually got the girl pregnant and resulted in her hatred for him who she at least considered a friend . She expresses this hatred when Demola tries begging her after the incident calling it an accident, she then emotionally vociferates “I hate you, Demola! I curse the sun that shone the day I set my eyes on you; I curse the feeling of friendship that drew me to this altar of ridicule”. She then makes her intentions clear to never set eyes on Demola again when she says “never again, never again must our paths cross or else…” Demola joins a cult group called “black shadow” shortly after the incident following the advice of his roommates. Shortly after his initiation, Demola is shot dead by his roommate K.K accidentally; this brings him to his tragic, ignominious and premature death as a result of his bad company.

Keziah also talks about her two roommates in the first movement with her mom. She explains to her mom who inquires on her welfare and that of her roommates that her roommate Stella has been of tremendous help but the rest lead wayward lives.

**THEME OF BAD INFLUENCE AND COMPANY**

The theme of bad influence is also very dominant in Solomon Edebor’s “Good morning Sodom”. The protagonist of the play Keziah is influenced by bad company in the characters of Ovie and Bumi which eventually lead to a regrettable disaster. Also, Demola is influenced by his bad company who are also his roommates and this has an adverse effect on his life causing him to lie often to his parents, engage in anti-social activities which eventually leads to his tragic end and rustication from May-flower University.

Keziah and Demola are 200l students in May-flower University. Demola cares greatly for Keziah but Keziah who is a fair, beautiful and rotund lady does not reciprocate the feelings Demola has for her. Keziah has clearly made this known to her friends Ovie and Bunmi that she is not interested in being more than a friend to Demola but they keep pushing her and telling her to give him just one chance that he trult cares about her. When Keziah goes home without informing anyone and she cannot reach them as a result of her stolen phone, Demola is worried sick for her; he asks her friends and they fill him in on what happened to her and why she could not reach out to them. When she returns, her friends pressure her again to give Demola a chance that his intentions are pure, although she still refuses in their presence, she later reconsiders and decides to pay Demola a visit in his house which is off campus to do their language assignment together. The tragic encounter at Demola’s house leaves a scar on Keziah’s once perfect life, she saw herself going against all that she stood for, the morals taught her by her parents and worst of all bringing shame and humiliation to her parents when the result of the incident is pregnancy.

Demola who is the male lead of the play also falls victim to bad influence in the hands of K.K and Bentol his roommates. His roommates influence him badly, advicing him to do the things he has never done before, they make him lie to his parents that campus was full and had to stay off campus, they also led him to drugging and raping Keziah whom he loved dearly, they introduced him to hard drugs and at the end, he was initiated into Red shadow confraternity. Things did not go well for Demola as fate caught up with him earlier than it should have and he died a premature death when he was mistakenly shot dead by K.K who actually aimed for a member of a rival cult group during their war. Demola places a photo of his parents into K.K’s hands and makes K.K promise to give it to them before he gives up the ghost.

The Playwright uses this play to serve as a warning to higher institution students to be careful on the company of friends they keep as the bible says “show me your friend and I would tell you who you are”.

**THEME OF JUSTICE.**

It is often said that the court is the “temple of justice” meaning anyone who has breached the law must face the wrath of the law and it is the duty of the court to uphold the law and ensure that anyone found wanting would be punished accordingly.

The theme of Justice comes to play shortly after Demola’s death, K.K and some members of red shadow fraternity are apprehended by the police and are tried to court. In the court, the prosecution counsel is the first to speak and he accuses the apprehended of the following claims; he accuses them of membership of an unlawful society, murder (in the case of the first accused, Nkanga Nwoko) and illegal possession of firearms – all in clear contravention of section 64 of the Criminal Code Act CAP C28 LFN 2004, section 319 (1) of Criminal Code Act CAP C28 LFN 2004 and section 27 of the Firearms Act CAP C28 LFN 2004, respectively. He goes ahead to specifically state that section 319 (1) of the Criminal Code Act CAP C28 LFN 2004 particularly states that “subject to the provision of this section, any person who commits the offence of murder shall be sentenced to death. To strongly back up his accusations even further, he goes ahead to cite cases which have been past judged and the rulings of the court on those cases. Cases such as The Nigerian cases of Ogundipe v. Queen, Okoko and ors v. StateMaye Nungu v. S., and DPP v. Smith whvih all clearly defined murder.

The Defense counsel comes up after the Prosecution council and begins pleading for the accused claiming that they have admitted their faults and are remorseful and that the court should temper justice with mercy even if they would not be acquitted. He goes ahead to point out that one of the accused Nkanga Nwoko is the only hope of his widowed mother who struggles everyday roasting plantain by the roadside in order to provide for her son and he is like the light at the end of a dark tunnel to her. With a weak defense and zero backing from the law, he makes his plea, bows to honor the judge and then takes his seat. The hot blooded prosecution counsel is not taking it likely as he comes up again to satirize and mimic the defense counsel who calls the accused the only hope of his mother, “everyone here is the only hope of their parents” he says, “I am the only hope of my parents” he adds. He goes on remind the judge that the court is a temple of justice and if the accused were set free just because they realized their wrongs and are remorseful, then more youths will keep breaking the law and then feign remorse and be set free.

After much deliberations, the judge passes a ruling, before that, he quotes as said in the legal system, “Fiat justitia ruat caelum”; being interpreted as “let justice prevail though the heavens fall”. He then passes a fair judgment in favor of the Prosecution counsel, he sentences Nkanga Nwoko to life imprisonment for the breach of section 319(1) Criminal Code Act CAP C28 LFN 2004 (murder), two years imprisonment for membership of unlawful society and a fine of 100000 for illegal possession of firearms. He is led away by the police, the Judge leaves and his already distraught mother passes out.

**NO 2**

**ANALYZE THREE CHARACTERS IN GOOD MORNING SODOM BY SOLOMON A. EDEBOR.**

**KEZIAH RICHARDS**

Keziah is the lead female character in the play, she is a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady in her late teens. She is a 200l student of May-flower University in the language department and the only daughter of MR and MRS Richards, her parents. Keziah is a bright student and a highly principled young lady, she firmly abide by these principles which results in her lack of interest for parties, the opposite gender and any other thing that goes against her morals.

In the opening movement, Keziah meets with her mother MRS Richards who comes to visit her in the University with some provisions. She relates with her mom about the kind of lives her roommates live and her mom advices her not to be influenced by them. Keziah has a male friend Demola who is also in her department and takes the same course as her. Demola is a tall, dark dreamy young man and he loves Keziah. Demola has countlessly made this known to Keziah but each time he brings up the matter she looks for a way to end it quickly. When Keziah goes home for an emergency and no one in school can reach her, Demola is worried sick for her and asks her friends Ovie and Bunmi about it, they inform him that her phone was stolen and she has gone home for an emergency. When she returns, her friends tell her al about it and encourage her to give Demola a chance for he truly cares about her.

Keziah pays a harmless visit to Demola who stays off campus in order to work on an assignment together. He offers her a drink but unfortunately he drugged the drink and when she falls asleep, he rapes her and she eventually gets pregnant. This results in her hatred for Demola and she warns him that their paths should never cross again. Demola is truly sorry but the deed has been done. Keziah brings shame to hr family, her mother is being calm due to her pregnancy and she refuses an abortion for her daughter against her father who is furious about the situation. Keziah attempts suicide but she is caught just in time by her father who rushes her to the hospital, she give sbirth to her baby girl Mauritha safely but still constantly lives in regret.

Keziah is offered another chance to right her wrongs by her parents who send her back to complete her higher education in a completely different University with her child, reason being that she needs a new environment in order to heal completely from her past.

**DEMOLA DIRAN**

Demola Diran is the only son of ENGR and MRS Diran, he is an undergraduate student of May-flower University, a 200l student and Keziah’s level mate. Demola loves Keziah dearly and keeps asking her out, Keziah keeps rejecting him and always try to change the topic of discussion whenever Demola brings it up.

ENGR and MRS Diran unknowingly neglect their son by obsessing more about his financial stability than his psychological and physical health. They give him whatsoever he desires, he even lied to them about the campus being full and they allowed him stay off campus without even caring to investigate the matter, he often lies to them and goes free. His parents feel that the best way of showing their love for their son is by making him financially stable and providing him whatever he demands, little did they know that their son will seek the affection which he could not find at home somewhere else.

Demola begins to find refuge in the hands of his roommate and friend K.K and Bentol. Unfortunately Demola finds himself among the company of bad friends, they influence him negatively and even make him lie to his parents concerning so many things to their own benefit, K.K not only becomes Demola’s friend but also his mentor. K.K introduces Demola to hard drugs saying it will make him feel high when he is down. When Demola tells K.K about Keziah, he advices him to drug and rape her since she has proven hard to get, that way, his feelings for her may die off. They hatch a plan and Demola even has to lie to his Parents in order to stay off campus. After the deed is done, Demola gains himself a new sworn enemy Keziah, she now hates his guts and regrets even seeing him as a friend. Demola eventually joins a cult group known as Black Shadow fraternity, he soon meets his waterloo and dies an ignominious and premature death when he is shot mistakenly by K.K during a clash with the rival group. He dies an untimely death and is rusticated from the university while K.K and the other members of Black Shadow fraternity are arrested.

**MRS RICHARDS**

MRS Richards is the mother of Keziah Richards. She is married to MR Richards, Keziah’s dad. She is a very caring and supportive mom. She visits Keziah in her university with provisions for her, she advises her daughter not to follow bad friends and not to live a wayward life.

When Keziah gets pregnant prematurely, she is very supportive despite the shame and reproach her daughter brought to her family, she refuses her daughter from aborting the child as her father imposed. She often fought with him because of this and this led Keziah to attempt suicide. She helps Keziah during the pregnancy period and suggests to her dad that she goes back to school after her safe delivery to Mauritha.

**NO 3**

**WHAT ARE THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING SODOM?**

Having watched the film version and the published version of Good Morning Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor, I will be able to show the points of divergence between the two of them.

The following are the points of divergence between the published play and the film version of Good morning Sodom;

1. According to the film version, Demola Diran was already a member of Red shadow fraternity and just two new members were initiated. However, the play indicates that he was initiated shortly after he raped Keziah alongside two others making the new initiates three in number.

2. In the published play, in the sixteenth movement, after Keziah’s dad treated her meanly, she cries back to the kitchen and her mom tells her to continue cutting the vegetables while she goes to talk to her father; but that was excluded in the film production, after her father came left, she continued weeping and lights faded.

3. In the film version, Keziah’s mom was seen consoling her daughter in the night but that was not included in the published version.

4. In the film version, only ENGR. Diran was the only parent who visited K.K at his request in the prison. While in the published play, his both parents went to the prison to visit K.K.

5. In the published play, Demola’s mom MRS Diran was alive while in the film version, she was late.

6. In the film version, the court hearings were excluded and only the judge’s ruling was showed. However, in the published play, both the prosecution and the defence council both gave their please before the judge gave his ruling.

7. In the published version, K.K’s mother was referred to at different times including when she fainted after the judge gave his rulings but she was not referred to at all in the film veersion.

8. In the published version, Keziah’s mom came to join her dad in the hospital during the emergency but in the film, they were both present at the hospital already during the emergency.

9. Keziah’s daughter was named Mauritha in the published play but was named Heritage Demola-Diran in the film version.

These are the points of divergence between the published play and the film version of Good morning Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor.