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**Matric Number:** 22/LAW01/211

**Course Title:** Use of English

**Course Code:** AFE 122

THEMES IN GOOD MORNING SODOM

Solomon Adedokun Edebor’s Good Morning Sodom is a literary piece that presents various themes. The book analyses societal issue and adequately presents them. The playwright successfully portrays the message of moral decadence among youths in higher institution.

Firstly, peer pressure is a major theme in the play. The university students and environment is used to present this. Keziah who has been persistently declining Demola’s offer for a relationship finally gives in to peer pressure after her friends, Ovie and Bukunmi tell her to give Demola a shot. This advice however later leads her to her room as she is raped by Demola.

Demola is another character that the writer uses to project peer pressure. Demola as a university students dabbles with the wrong set of people. He is friends with K.K who is a member of a secret association. K.K wrongly counsels Demola when he tells him to rape Keziah. K.K also introduces him to drugs. Demola is distraught about raping Keziah and K.K tells him to use drugs to forget his sorrows. It is also K.K that introduces Demola to cultism which later cost Demola’s life.

Moreover, poor parental supervision is seen in the text. The parents of Demola, Engineer and Mrs. Diran, are used by the playwright to depict this theme. After the death of Demola, the couple lament on how they failed as parents. They realize how they allowed the desire to secure their child’s financial future becloud their sense of duty as parents who should see to the well being of their children. Through this epiphany, the writer tries to pass across the importance of parental supervision to the audience.

Also, the ills of cultism is captured in the play. Cultism is a major social vice in the Nigerian university. This, the author takes it as his responsibility to projects the negative effects of cultism. This is to deter people from participating in such. Demola who is a victim of cultism dies in a combat with a rival cult group. Lives were lost in the combat, those who were caught were sentences to jail and were expelled from school. All these demerits the writer projects shows the message he intends on passing across to the readers.

In addition, Redemption as a theme is depicted A character used to portray this is Stella. Stella is a friend of Keziah. At the age of fourteen, Stella is raped by four boys. This experience scars Stella. She becomes sexually active and loses her faith in God. However, she has an encounter with a man in her dream who promises to clothe her shame with new garments. Keziah also goes through the redemption process after she heals and forgives herself. The message the author aims to pass across is that of change and hope even after adversity.

Furthermore, the writer sheds light on the issue of rape and it’s effects. Keziah is a victim of rape. She is raped by Demola. She becomes pregnant at a unprepared time. This the writer tries to show how rape causes unwanted pregnancy. Apart from this, the societal stigma that is associated with rape victims is projected. Keziah’s parents become ashamed of her. They stigmatize her and this drives her to depression as she almost loses her life through suicide.

This play is of untmost relevance because it depicts the moral decadence in higher institutions of learning, shows the adverse effects of this decadence and admonishes the people to strive to achieve a better self.

CHARACTERS IN GOOD MORNING SODOM

Good Morning Sodom is notable because the playwright uses characters to effectively present the issue of moral decadence in higher institution. Though there is a long list of characters, this paper would contain analysis on three characters and how the writer uses them to pass across his message. Demola, Engineer Diran and Keziah are the characters this essay would be examining.

Diran Demola is a student of Mayflower University. He is a tall, young, dark handsome man. He is in his second year of the university and his major is English language. His parents are Engineer & Mrs. Deiran.

Demola is used to portray the theme of peer influence. Demola associates himself with the wrong set of people in the university. These people give him the wrong counsel that ruins his life. He is encouraged to rape a fellow students, introduced to drugs and also introduced to cultism which later cost him his life. Through him, the writer was able to successfully capture the negative decrease of peer pressure.

Also, Demola repents in the end after he realizes his errors. After Demola is shot and he is about to die, he realizes his faults and tells K.K to preach his repentance to his parents. Demola tells K.K to tell Engineer & Mrs. Diran how sorry he was for what he had done.

Keziah Richards is a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady. She is in her late teens. She is the daughter of Mr& Mrs Richards. She is a student of Mayflower university. She is generally a calm lady with good principles instilled in her by her parents.

Keziah is a victim of rape. The playwright uses her to portray the theme of rape. Keziah is raped by Demola and this causes a huge change in her life. First she has an unwanted pregnancy and then she also becomes suicidal. Through this the writer is able to pass across the negative effects of rape in the society.

Also, Keziah is used by the author to portray the social stigma associated with rape victims. Keziah’s parents were very disappointed in her. She is ignored by them. Her father in particular wants nothing to do with her anymore and this pushes her to the deep end and makes her attempt suicide. Through this, the writer raises awareness on the issue of stigma to rape victims.

Moreover, engineer Diran is a very relevant character in the play. He is the father of Diran Demola. He is an Engineer by profession and he is married to Mrs. Diran.

Engineer Diran being a parent is used to project poor parental supervision. He and his wife were very keen on their career so they could cater for the financial needs of Demola. But their priority is misplaced. They lacked in the area of supervision of their child and this in turns makes him an easy target for peer pressure. Through him, the playwright preaches a very important message to parents.

All the characters discussed in Good Morning Sodom have been effectively crafted by the playwright in other to pass across his themes to the readers.

POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED BOOK AND THE MOVIE.

The play, Good Morning Sodom is both a published work and a movie. Both share great similarities as the storyline in the book is followed to a large extent in the play. However, there are some areas of divergence between both.

Firstly, in the sixth movement when Stella narrates her story to Keziah, we see vast differences in the book and film. In the movie, after Stella narrates part of her story in her hostel room, the scene changes to them walking on the street while she is going on with her narration. However, in the book it wasn’t specified whether they left the room after narrating part of the story. In Stella’s narration, the book tells us that Emmanuella comes to deliver the revelation she got in her room but in the movie, the revelation is delivered to Stella while she is removing her clothes from the line.

Moreover, there are some areas of divergence between both works in the eight movement. The eight movement is the initiation of Demola into the cult group. In the book, it was noted that three men were blindfolded but in the film just two were blindfolded. Apart from this, Demola was not among the men being initiated into the cult in the book had portrayed. In the movie he was already a member of the cult group.

Besides, movement nine in the book where the cult group clash is completely removed in the movie. We are only shown the scene where Demola’s lifeless body is being mourned over.

In addition, the scene where Keziah is treated badly by her father has some points of differences. In the book, it states that Keziah and her mother where in the kitchen when they hear a knock and Keziah goes to open the door. However, the film does not show any scene of Keziah and her mother in the kitchen. All that was portrayed was Keziah getting the door for her father.

Also, in the court scene, it is necessary to note that the film did not make provision for the prosecution or the defense counsel to render any statements like the book did. All that we were shown in that movement was the final judgment of the judge. Also in the book, the name of the remaining culprits were not mentioned in court but their names were mentioned in the film. Their names were Torkuma Okorie, Abubakar Musa, Olupitan Steve, Sebiotimi Philips.

It is pertinent to note that the film did not make arrangements for the character of Mrs. Diran, Demola’s mother. Only Engineer Diran was present in the film.

Differences between the play and book are shown towards the end of both works. To begin with, the film shows a scene of Keziah in her room in labour with her mother but this wasn’t captured in the book. Also, the book exposes the reader to see Keziah in the labour room but the film just shows where the good news is delivered to her parents. The film cuts shorts a few scenes that the book includes. The film does not show when Keziah’s parents announce to her that she would return to school. It only gives a brief writing on it. The film tells us that Keziah’s child was named “Demola” but the book doesn’t give us the information.

From this exposition, we are able to see the areas of differences in both works. However, despite their differences, both works are greatly similar if not almost the same. The same storyline is followed and the same themes are depicted.