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**AFE 122 ASSIGNMENT- GOOD MORNING, SODOM.**

**QUESTION 1**

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

**INTERROGATION:**

* QUESTION:

Do you think Demola would still have raped Keziah if she gave him the chance to become friends with her earlier?

* ANSWER:

Demola claimed that he loved Keziah so much. Love does not hurt others. If Demola truly loved Keziah, he wouldn’t have hurt her by raping her. His whole act only proves Keziah right when she said that the only thing men want from ladies is ‘the thing between their legs’. Despite the pressure Demola faced from his peers, he should/ would have let love prevail by simply respecting Keziah’s wishes of not being anything more than coursemates, even though that would have been a tough decision.
Although some would be of the opinion that Keziah accepting Demola’s friend’s request earlier would have prevented a lot of things, I believe that he would have asked her to gratify his sexual impulses sooner or later, and her disagreeing may have led him to make rash decisions.

* QUESTION:

If Demola’s Parents hadn’t been so busy pursuing financial success only, would Demola have escaped the prying minds of KK and Bentol?

* ANSWER:

Towards the end of the play, Demola’s parents made readers understand how they had failed in terms of bringing up a child that was disciplined in all areas. They had managed to secure his financial future while neglecting their primary duty of seeing to the well being of their child. Despite the love and efforts they made to give him a bright future, Demola couldn’t really find solace in his parents. Hence, he sought for that peace elsewhere. Unfortunately, he fell into the trap of a wrong peer group that led him to a disgraceful end. So, it is safe to say that if Demola’s parents had given him the attention a child would require, it would have been easier for him to escape trouble.

* QUESTION:

Keziah’s friends were able to convince her about how serious, intelligent and hardworking Demola was. If he really was all that, why couldn’t his intelligence save him from trouble?

* ANSWER:

Understanding that academic intelligence doesn’t validate social intelligence is very important in this play. Demola was academically intelligent, but his parents failed at bringing him up and teaching him the right values required to face the challenges of peer pressure and the evil society. Even though he was able to discern at times that some of the things his friends asked him to do were wrong, he didn’t have the assertiveness required to reject their opinions. Hence, his academic intelligence was not enough to save him from trouble.

* QUESTION

As supportive as Keziah’s parents were in the beginning of the play, which was depicted by them visiting her at regular intervals while she was in school, why did her father judge her, instead of supporting her when she became pregnant?

* ANSWER

One major theme which was played out was lack of trust. Kehiah’s parents had always been supportive, but the moment she made one wrong decision, her father decided to desert her. Does that mean there was never trust in the first place? I believe her father was just too distressed and cared about what his family and friends would have said instead of caring about his daughter’s emotional well being and the effect the pregnancy would have on her. He also did not believe her when she said she was raped which was wrong. He should have listened to her side of the story, then do some investigations, instead of disowning her completely.

* QUESTION

Would an abortion have been the best approach to Keziah’s situation as her father proposed?

* ANSWER

An abortion comes with so many risks involved. Just as Mrs Richards said, aborting Keziah’s child would be killing the child’s destiny before it even makes it to the world. No one’s life should be ended abruptly. Moreso, no matter how competent a medical specialist is, the risks and shame involved in an abortion would have been too much for Keziah to bear. Although her education was delayed for about a year, considering how young she was, catching up would not have been a problem for her. This was seen when she was able to secure an admission in another school using her 100l results. There are so many beter options than an abortion.

**THEMATIC THRUSTS IN THE PLAY**

* NEGATIVE PEER GROUP INFLUENCE:

A primary example of this theme is seen in the life of Demola. To his peers and his parents, Demola was seen as a hardworking, dilligent and intelligent young man who had a bright future. Keziah’s friend saw him as “serious, intelligent and hardworking”. Another student, Nonso, couldn’t believe the Demola who had died and been expelled for cultism was the same person they knew.

This leads to the conclusion that naturally, Demola was a good and honest person until he met his friends KK and Bentol.

KK says to Demola’s parents that he became Demola’s friend because he knew he was wealthy and that he “succeeded in making him do so many terrible things”.

It is even stated that Demola had been given the idea and the means to rape Keziah by KK and Bentol.

Demola joined a gang and was consequently murdered doing gang related activities as his friends were involved in the same gang.

Demola was the pride of his parents and his death greatly affected them. It is unfortunate that all of this could have been avoided if he had avoided the company of the friends who ruined his life.

Not only was Demola a victim of negative peer influence, so was Keziah. She didn’t want to be anything but acquaintances with Demola but after being coerced by her friends Ovie and Bunmi to give him a chance, she agreed and regretted it.

Unfortunately, nothing is mentioned about Bunmi and Ovie after this incident which is strange and she claimed they were her friends. Whether she cut them off after the incident or if they left of their own volition is unclear.

* LACK OF TRUST

This is exhibited in the case of Keziah. After her parents discovered she was pregnant, she tried to explain to them that she had been raped but her parents refused to believe her.

All they cared about was that she had brought shame unto the family by her acts but refused to take her words, her pain into account. At such a crucial and tough time for keziah, her family was meant to believe her and stand by her and be as supportive as possible, instead, she was shunned, insulted and constantly reproached by those who were supposed to love her unconditionally.

Although her mother tried to accept the unfortunate situation, her father refused constantly telling her she had shamed her family. He cared more about his reputation than the words of his own child even going as far as to claim she was no longer his child.

All these events led to Keziah attempting to end her life. She was traumatized by her rape and now shunned by her family. Only after this event did her father try to accept her and believe in what she had said.

Parents need to learn not to constantly believe the worst of their children whenever the situation turns sour.

* LACK OF PARENTAL CARE AND MONITORING

This is properly explored in the cases of KK and Demola.

Demola was the child of a wealthy family and probably was used to having freedom. It was obvious that his parents believed him to be independent and because of this, they didn’t keep as close an eye on him as they should have.

This can be seen in the instance that Demola asked his parents to give him a room off campus. On a normal basis, it would have raised some questions as to why he’d rather stay off campus than on the campus but his parents readily agreed, because he told them there was no space on campus, instead of doing their investigation. If his parents had kept closer tabs on him, he might not even have ended up being mixed up with KK and the entire situation would have been avoided.

KK also, may never have ended up in a cult had he been properly monitored by his mother. Understandably, she tried her hardest working for him to have a better life and in this absense of his mother’s monitoring, he had the opportunity to go into illegal and dangerous activities.

The truth is, most parents believe that in university their children are independent and can handle themselves without their montoring. Unfortunately, they fail to realize that university is the time when most children want to explore their new found freedom and that at this point, they are highly susceptible to all forms of bad influences.

* CULTISM

This is an important theme in this play. There are 2 mentioned cults: Red Shadows and The Sparrows but more light is given to the Red Shadows cult.

During the play, there is an initiation of new members into the cult. This initiation involves the new recruits drinking from a “calabash stained all over with blood” which leaves the readers to assume that the calabash is full of blood.

This process of the initiation begs the question ‘where did they get the blood from?’ or rather ‘who did they get the blood from and what did they do to get it?’. Despite the questions going through your head, the first answer that appears in your head is murder.

After this initiation, Red Shadows go to war with The Sparrows over the murder of 2 of their members in which Demola is killed.

This goes to show how dangerous and deadly cultism is. Not only does it affect its members but also the general public.

* EFFECTS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

In the play, we see the effects of engaging in illegal activities. Two of the issues I will address are cultism and substance abuse.

As I have talked about cultism above, I will now talk about its effects.

In the novel, Demola was murdered because of cultism and the other members who were caught were taken to prison and expelled from their university. Because of this situation, their lives will subsequently be ruined.

As stated in the play, their actions “will always have ripple effects, even for those from rich homes”.

Not only does these actions affect them, but their families also. Demola’s parents lost their son, Mrs. Kanaga -KK’s mother- who spent her life roasting plantain by the roadside to finance her son so he could make a better life for both of them had lost all she had. Her son and future was gone in one swoop to cultism.

Not only are the effects of cultism seen but also the effects of illegal drug abuse. In the novel, it is obvious that KK is an avid drug user and he introduces drugs to Demola.

It is seen that due to a past experience, Demola refuses to indulge in drugs as the last time he nearly had an accident but at the end, he agrees and “becomes wild as the substance takes effect”.

From this, you can tell the use of drugs is dangerous but people indulge in it despite knowing the dangers.

Also, Demola drugs Keziah so he has the opportunity to rape her. Because of this, not only does she lose her virginity, she feels degraded, humiliated, traumatized and ends up being pregnant for her rapist.

This changes the course of her life as she has to drop out from school and put her education on hold and her mental health is damaged.

**QUESTION 2**

**Attempt a detailed character analysis of any 3 characters in Solomon. A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom**

***KEZIAH RICHARDS***

Keziah is a main character that goes through a series of changes throughout the entire play.she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richards and a student of Mayflower University. In the opening scene, Keziah is described as a medium height, slightly rotund, fair, young lady who is obviously in her late teens. It is evident that she and her parents have a very good parent-child relationship, considering how happy she was when her mother came to visit and the sudden change in her mood when she learnt her father could not make it to the visit due to an impromptu trip.

Keziah is seen as very responsible and hardworking as her main aim in the university is to get good grades and make her parents proud. Her dreams are quickly cut short when she becomes the object of affection of her coursemate; Demola. Keziah clearly wanted nothing more than to be Demola’s coursemate, but he wanted something beyond the four walls of their classroom. Her decision to be nothing more than friends with Demola was not restricted to him alone. It was to be applied to every other male that would show interest in her, because she believes that boys are only interested in the thing between a girl’s legs (Fifth movement; page 26). Her friends/ coursemates, Bunmi and Ovie, successfully convince her to befriend Demola because of his admirable qualities. She has no other option than to give in to their persuasion, and Demola’s constant begging; this leads to terrible consequences in the end.

Keziah ends up accepting an off-campus invitation from Demola. While at his private apartment, Demola siezes the opportunity and goes ahead to drug, then rape her. This changes her life for the worse. The once jovial Keziah, becomes a shadow of herself. We see her have breakdowns throughout the rest of the play whenever she remembers the horrible things she went through. Stella, her roommate, notices her dismaying behaviour and decides to check up on her. She is able to confide in Stella and give a recount of how her worst nightmare played out. Stella was very helpful and made Keziah feel a lot better by telling her her own sexual assualt experience.

Not long after this, Demola dies during a cult attack. This takes a toll on Keziah as he died a somewhat shameful and unexpected death. On seeing his dead body on campus, Keziah faints from shock and is immediately rushed to the hospital where it is discovered that she is pregnant.

Her parents, especially her father, are not having any of the explanations she is giving and refuse to believe that she was drugged and raped. Things got more extreme when her biological father disowned her. He said,’she ceased to be my daughter that very day she brought shame on this family with that evil thing in her womb’. This truly hurt Keziah’s feelings and even when her mother tried to stand up for her, her father became hard hearted, considering the shame she had brought upon their family.

The insensitivity of her father led her to make a rash decision. She decided to commit suicide. Luckily, both she and her unborn child were saved in time, when her father had to return home to get an important document. Her father, seeing her lying unconscious, immediately had a change of heart and treated her like his daughter once she recovered. She gave birth to a healthy baby girl and was also given the opportunity to continue her education in the University of Ibadan. Her parents made provisions for her needs to be met while she schools. This gives the sense of a fresh start for Keziah.

Keziah symbolizes a lot of girls in university, who, despite knowing their goals and striving to achieve them, end up being influenced by the wrong people and have their lives veer off track. She is also a beacon of hope to those who have strayed that you can get a second chance at life, a new opportunity to right your mistakes as although you can’t change the past, you can make for yourself a better future.

***DEMOLA DIRAN***

Demola is a tall, dark, handsome, young man, who comes from a wealthy family. He is the son of Eng. and Mrs. Diran and also Keziah’s coursemate. At the start of the play, it is seen that Demola is infatuated with Keziah and tries countless times to get her attention. He is seen as overly caring even when Keziah makes it clear to him that she is not interested in his friendship. Demola is also described as serious, intelligent and hardworking by Ovie.

Throughout the play, we see the effects of Demola’s negative peer group and how it made the whole play unfold. Due to poor parental care and neglect from his parents, we see Demola fall into the hands of negative peers, who later coerce him into making terrible decisions. With the influence of KK and Bentol, Demola is encouraged to rape his female coursemate, Keziah, who had managed to reject his extended arm of friendship for a while. Demola eventually gets Keziah to come over to his house for an assignment, where he drugs and rapes her with the help of some instruments given to him by KK.

It is evident that Keziah is very displeased with the incident and hates Demola thereafter. This makes Demola very sad and frustrated. To ease the feeling of frustration and guilt, KK offers Demola hard drugs which he accepts. He was also liaised to join a cult; The Red Shadows, where members were initiated through a blood covenant.

Unfortuantely, his life was cut short, when he was mistakenly shot by one of his cult members, KK, during a fight with the rival cult group, The Sparrows. His death is a sad ending to an otherwise bright and meaningful life. He died a useless death that could have been avoided easily had he chosen the right set of people to hang around.

He was manipulated, negatively influenced, coerced and eventually murdered by the very people he called his friends. Even after his death, his misdeeds followed him; this is shown in the fifteenth movement where his name is put on the expulsion list though he is long gone.

In death, he had nothing to show for but a wasteful life which is eye opening as this case could apply to anyone. By believing his friends wanted the best for him, he chose his own demise.

He is a picture of just how badly a person can stray and just how much the monitoring and intervention of parents is greatly needed in the life of a child.

***DR AWORAWO RICHARDS***

Dr Richards plays the role of Keziah’s father in the play. He is depicted as a supportive father as well as a disciplinarian. He is someone who takes a lot of pride in his family name and image. This is why he became really ashamed when Keziah came home pregnant. Dr Aworawo always provided everything his family needed. He was also a very successful businessman who frequently had to go on business trips.

When it was discovered that Keziah was pregnant, Dr Aworawo cared more about the embarrassment that would befall his family than his own daughter’s welfare. This was not the most supportive thing to have done at a time like that. He failed to show the trust he had for his daughter and went ahead to believe that her stories of being drugged and raped were fallacies. He often expressed how disappointed and ashamed he was and his words affected Kehiah negatively.

He went ahead to openly disown Keziah one evening after work; this hurt her terribly and led her to think of committing suicide.

Dr Aworawo was eventually seen as the hero in this play, after a sudden call made him turn back home to get a document. He found Keziah’s lifeless body and rushed her to the hospital, saving both her life and her baby’s. This was a turning point in the play as it reunited the once disbanded family.

Dr Aworawo ended up securing admission for Keziah in the University of Ibadan, so that her education would not just end due to an unwanted pregnancy.

**QUESTION 3.**

What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good Morning, Sodom?

* There were no points of divergence in the first and second movements.

*THIRD MOVEMENT*

 In the film version of Good Morning, Sodom, two students were seen walking in late during the lecture being taken by Dr Yusuf. He stops them as they were headed to their seats and cautioned them. He asked them their reason for coming late and when they could not provide a reasonable excuse, he sent them out of the class. Dr Yusufs also asked the students if they had any questions when the class was over. They did not have any questions.

This was not stated in the book.

Skipped lines.

There was no introductory conversion among Demola, Bunmi and Ovie in the play. Instead, that scene started with Demola and the girls already seated, with Demola stating that he noticed Keziah's absence in their recent classes.

* There were no points of divergence in the fourth and fifth movements.

*SIXTH MOVEMENT.*

In the film version, it was stated that Keziah went to visit Demola in his private apartment 3 weeks after the last scene. This wasn't stated in the published book. Contrary to the description of Demola's position as depicted in the book, Demola was seated on his reading table, right across Kehiah. He wasn't lying on his bed.

Also, when Keziah wakes up after the rape incident, she did not question her whereabouts as shown in the book. Instead, she frantically taps Demola and eventually slaps him in anger, while asking him why he polluted her innocence.

In addition, when Stella noticed how despondent Keziah was and decided to find out what was bothering her, Stella ends up having a similar story to tell. In the published book, it was stated that Stella moved over to the window side and looked to the vacant distance to recount her story, whereas, in the movie, Stella’s story was told through a flashback until the point where she talked about how her perpetrators were arrested.

After the calabash scene, where she was seen fetching water from a stream, we see just two men; Adeyoju and one other man bringing out her clothes to burn. The published version tells us that there were four men in total.

Furthermore, the man in Stella’s dream who tried to stop her from drowning herself was dressed in an ankara shirt and a pair of black trousers and not in khaki shirt, shorts and a cap, as the book stated. After the echoing of ‘come, come’, to Stella, the movie did not show her waking up horror struck in her room, on her bed. Rather, the scene immediately shifts to spreading her clothes. While she was spreading her clothes, Emmanuella; the girl who evangelises to Stella, walks up to her to give her a message which she claims was impressed on her heart by God. Hence, the conversation between Stella and Emmanuella was held outdoors and not in Stella’s room.

* There were no points of divergence in the seventh movement.

*EIGHTH MOVEMENT.*

In the eighth movement, we see members of The Red Shadow cult having a meeting. They are singing a song that is completely different from what is mentioned in the published book. During the initiation of the new cult members, we see only **TWO** new members which is a point of divergence from the book. Demola was already a member of the cult and did not undergo the initiation process.

* There were no points of divergence in the ninth movement.

*TENTH MOVEMENT,*

The movie does not show any car being stopped hurriedly by the students to rush Keziah to the hospital. After Keziah faints and some students rush to pick her up, lights peter out and the next scene, where we see Stella talking to Keziah's mother begins. The conversation between Stella and Keziah’s mother occurs in the **eleventh movement.**

* There were no points of divergence in the eleventh and twelfth movements.

*THIRTEENTH MOVEMENT.*

Four criminals/ cult members were seen in the DPO’s office, rather than three as mentioned in the book.

Skipped lines.

The DPO tells Inspector Dele to tell the IPO to hasten up on his investigations, duplicate the case file, giving a copy to the DPP for advice, while they round off their investigation as soon as possible so that prosecution can commence. These lines were omitted in the published book, but were said by the DPO after he said that the criminals should all be put in the same cell.

*FOURTEENTH MOVEMENT.*

In the book, it was stated that Mrs. Richards and Dr. Richards are seated on the sofa in the lounge, while Keziah walks in to answer her dad. Meanwhile, Mrs. Richards did not appear in this movement until when Dr. Richards is aggressively interrogating Keziah about where her rape incident occured. She also doesn’t speak till when Dr Richards says, ‘Oh! Can you see the level our daughter is now operating at?’ in which she says, ‘This girl has killed me…’

Skipped lines.

The play never shows Dr. Richards saying that keziah is a disgrace to the family and that they will be objects of ridicule in this movement, the movement ended with Mrs. Richards talking about how Keziah could end up having an affair with a rumoured cult member.

*FIFTEENTH MOVEMENT.*

Unlike the book, the conversation between Zuwaira and Nonso does not begin until the second scene in this movement, where Nonso says, ‘This is Unfortunate…’ to Zuwaira. We do not actually see Nonso and Zuwaira discussing before deciding to walk up to the board to have a better look at the list of expelled students. Their conversation also ends with Zuwaira saying that the incident will rob the expelled students of getting to certain places in life. Then lights peter out.

*SIXTEENTH MOVEMENT.*

This movenement opens with Keziah walking towards the front door of her house to usher her father in, in the film.Keziah and her mom were never cooking any food. Mrs Richards is seen already seated and begins to converse with her husband, beginning by saying,’Dear, don’t you think you are taking this matter too hard on Keziah?’

In the book, we are told that the movement opens with Keziah and her mother preparing food in the kitchen.

At the end of the last scene in this movement, we see lights shift to Keziah already lying on her bed and sobbing. There was also an additional scene, where her mother comes in to console her. This was not mentioned in the book.

*SEVENTEETH MOVEMENT.*

In the published book, there is a very detailed dialogue among the jury. All this was skipped in the movie. The movie just shows the Defence council rounding off his defence of the criminals. The judge then begings to pass out his judgement on the criminals one after the other. The judge also calls out the names of the other criminals, which was never mentioned in the book. Once he passes out his judgement to them, he dismisses the court and the movement ends. The lines that follow in the book were all skipped in the film.

* There were no points of divergence in the eighteenth movement.

*NINTEENTH MOVEMENT.*

The ninteenth movement didn’t happen until after the twentieth movement, and a part of it was also incorporated in the twenty-first movement.

*TWENTIETH MOVEMENT.*

In this movement, lights immediately shift to Dr Richards having a conversation with Keziah on the sitting room couch. We never see him drive his car into his compound or carry Keziah to her room as said in the book.

*TWENTY-FIRST MOVEMENT.*

We see Dr Richards drive into ENG. Diran’s compound. He and his family alight from the car and walk towards Eng. Diran’s house. The scene continues with them in his living room, with Eng. Diran narrating how he got more details about Demola’s murder case and Keziah’s rape incident from KK. This was where the nineteenth movement was incorporated. At this point, the narration was depicted as a flashback of the meeting between KK and Eng. Diran, both already seated, as opposed to the description of how KK was led into the room by a warder in the book. The book also stated that both Eng. Diran and his wife, Mrs. Diran were at the prison. But in the movie, Mrs Diran never shows up, becuase she is dead. Hence, all of Mrs. Diran’s lines were actually said by Eng. Diran. KK never showed Eng. Diran any picture of Eng. Diran and his wife as stated in the book. Some lines delivered by Eng. Diran and Mrs Diran in the booka were also skipped in the movie, while Eng. Diran recited some or most of Mrs Diran’s lines towards the end of the nineteenth movement.

Kk proceeds to talk about how he and Bentol coerced Demola to rape Keziah( this was depicted as a flashback also) In the flashback, Demola was sitting down while having a discussion with Bentol and KK, he wasn’t frantically pacing up and down like the book described.

*TWENTY-SECOND MOVEMENT.*

Lights reveal Keziah going into labour in her bedroom in the movie. Her mother then walks in to assist her, and console her because of the labour pains she was feeling. Mrs Richards calls her husband and informs him about the recent development. This never happened in the published book.

At the hospital, the only conversation that was held between the parents and the Doctor Hanson was when Kdeziah had put to bed and the doctor came to congratulate the parents. All other lines after this in the book were not mentioned in the film.

*TWENTY-THIRD MOVEMENT.*

This movement was not acted out in the film. It was represented as the epilogue of the play. Keziah’s daughter was named Heritage Demola-Diran. This was not mentioned in the book.