AFE 122: USE OF ENGLISH

22/MHS02/060

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**THEMATIC THRUSTS OF “GOOD MORNING SODOM”**

1. **PEER PRESSURE**

The theme of peer pressure is dominant in the play as it is without doubt, the major theme of the play. Kids and teens of today have fallen victim of negative peer pressure or influence and as such been a disgrace to family as a result or consequence of the decisions they make and actions they take.

Bunmi and Ovie are friends of Keziah and they insist that Keziah give Demola a chance with her. They go ahead to convince her on how he had gained their trust. “… but Demola has earned our trust, he has proved that he cares always”. (p. 26)

Demola himself is an accessory to this. He is influenced by Nkanga Nwoko (k.k), a higher level student who in traduces him to drugs and initiates him into the Red Shadows Confraternity.

2. **INDIFFERENT PARENTING**

In the current world we live in, the problems of irresponsible parenting is an everyday story. This problem is portrayed in this play by the playwright.

Mr. and Mrs. Diran, the parents of Demola, did not live up to their expectations of raising their son in the right way with proper care and attention. Mrs. Diran eventually blames herself and her husband for the inglorious death of their son. “…we killed him, dear, we killed Demola.” (p. 71)

On the other hand, Keziah’s father, begin to develop signs of indifference, lack of concern towards his daughter after she had become ‘…a disgrace to the family, his name and everything they stand for…”. Mrs. Richards talks to her husband about his present behavior towards Keziah, reminding him that she is still his child.

3. **ANTISOCIAL VICES AND CRIMINAL TENDENCIES**

This is also a dominant theme in the play, Good morning Sodom. It is a main theme of the play as it portrays the destructive vices of the society. In the play, these vices are carried out by the students of Mayflower University.

Cultism, being a dangerous crime was practiced by “k.k” and his fellow cult members which Demola was initiated to be a part of. The intake of drugs by Demola also serves as moral decadence and deterioration to the society.

Keziah was raped by her fellow student as well. All these vices are offences to the state and would attract a severe punishment. K.k is also unfortunate to have had a hand in Demola’s death although it was unintentional, still classified as a crime of manslaughter.

4. **REGRET**

There are several cases of regret in the play. Demola expresses a feeling of regret whilst attempting to explain himself to Keziah after he had realized the conquences of his actions.

When k.k is sentenced to prison and invites Eng. and Mrs. Diran to talk to them about Demola. K.k expresses feeling of guilt and regret as he confesses all he knows about Demola’s death to them.

After Keziah attempts to commit suicide, Dr. Richards realizes his fault of not being there for his daughter. “I should have been there for you as a loving father, just like your mum…” (p. 72). He asked for a chance to right his wrong. Keziah lived her whole life in regret after being drugged and raped by Demola. She goes as far as committing suicide but was revived at the hospital.

5. **POOR PERSONAL SECURITY**

This not being a dominant theme still leads to the downfall of the protagonist, Keziah. She is not security conscious that visiting a male in his apartment alone could be quite risky. She faces the consequences of her ignorance.

**CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF GOOD MORNING SODOM**

1. **KEZIAH RICHARDS**

She is a 200 level student of Mayflower University. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richards. She is brought up in a God-fearing home. Keziah started out as a disciplined and focused student and later falls a victim of negative peer pressure by her friends, Bunmi and ovie.

Keziah falls into the trap of Demola by finally giving in to his deceit. She is raped and becomes pregnant for emola. She is not able to continue schooling at mayflower university. Things turn out bad for keziah after her incident of rape. Keziah being disappointed in herself writes an apology letter and attempts suicide but is rushed to the hospital by her parents and survies. Keziah gives birth to a baby girl who is named mouritha. She is lucky enough to be enrolled back in school by her father. She is now enrolled in University of Ibadan for a change of environment to enable her put her past behind her.

2. **DEMOLA DIRAN**

He is also a 200 level student with Keziah. He makes advancements and shows interest in Keziah who does not seem to be interested in whatever he wants from her. Demola, also being a victim of negative peer pressure was made to do drugs and rape Keziah for his own satisfaction.

He becomes initiated into a cult group Red Shadows confraternity by a 400 level student, k.k. Demola gets involved in the illegal intake of drugs. After his initiation into the red shadows confraternity, he is being shot dead mistakenly by his fellow cult member.

3. **NKANGA NWOKO**

He is also known as k.k. He is a 400 level student of Mayflower University. He is friends with Demola and ends up initiating him into a secret cult, Red Shadows Confraternity. He is the one that convinces Demola on the intake of illegal drugs and also advices him to take advantage of Keziah and sleep with her. He gives Demola a handkerchief to make her sniff it which will make her fall into a deep sleep.

During one of their occultic operations, k.k mistakenly shoots Demola to death. K.k and the members of his cult group are rusticated from the school. They are caught by the police and sentenced to court for proper judgment. They are sentenced to prison for their various offences. K.k is charged guilty of manslaughter and being a member of an illegal group.

During his stay in prison, he invites Demola’s parents over then confesses all he knows about Demola’s death to them.

**POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE FILMED VERSION AND WRITTEN VERSION.**

1. The professor was interrupted by two students in the filmed version while in the written he was not interrupted
2. The professor asks if there was question but he didn’t ask in the written version
3. They were still seated in class when demola asked about the whereabouts of Keziah in the filmed version but the two course mates were about to leave when demola asked
4. Keziah didn’t see him approach in time in the filmed version but in the written she saw him approaching
5. It was Adeoju and a man who brought all the clothes from Stella house in the filmed version while in the written, it was several men that brought out the clothes
6. The police caught four apprehended cultists in the filmed while in the written, the police caught three