

AKACHUKWU SOMTOCHUKWU STEPHANIE.

COLLEGE OF LAW.

22/LAW01/034.

AFE 122.

1. ATTEMPT AN INCISIVE INTERROGATION OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR'S GOOD MORNING, SODOM, UNDERSCORING AT LEAST 5 UNDERLYING THEMATIC THRUSTS THE DRAMA ENGAGES.

PEER INFLUENCE.

Peer influence can be seen in both a positive and negative aspect. Coping with peer influence is about getting the right balance between being yourself and fitting in with the friends that surround you. Peer influence is a major cause of the deplorable moral decadence in schools.

Positive peer influence can be seen in the character of **STELLA, KEZIAH'S ROOMMATE**. At the initial start of the play Keziah had said '...Stella has been of tremendous help to me...' as against her opinion towards the others; this event foreshadows Stella's nature as a good person. After Keziah's incident Stella stays by her side to advise her not to give up hope, as she shares her personal experience for Keziah to learn from.

In the case of **OVIE AND BUNMI**, their influence had a lot of impact in the play. They had been the ones to urge Keziah to accept Demola since they had perceived him to be a good person.

Negative peer influence is not hidden in the character **NKANGA NWOKO; REFERRED TO AS KK**. From K.K.'s confession to Demola's parents, he had been the one to give him the initiative to take certain actions, like leaving his hostel for town and lying to his parents about it, introducing him to drugs and getting him involved in the cult that led to his untimely death. Also, he encouraged him to make a move on Keziah; that is to rape her.

This theme had been dutifully employed in major parts of the play.

CULTISM.

The play exposes us to the moral issues in higher institutions. This is expressed by showing various vices and unfolding the consequences they attract. One of which is cultism.

Cult is a term, considered pejorative by some, for a relatively small group which is typically led by a charismatic and self-appointed leader, who excessively controls its members, requiring unwavering devotion to set beliefs and practices which are considered deviant.

The major cult in the play is the **RED SHADOWS CONFRATERNITY**. Demola was influenced into joining this cult, leading him to his untimely death, during the cult wars that took place soon after.

USE OF DRUGS.

This was not seen throughout the play but was addressed as one of the underlying issues, therefore it can't be seen as a major theme but rather a supporting theme.

Use of drugs in this case refers to the use of illegal drugs; to feel good, stop feeling bad, out of curiosity or to perform better. For the benefit of the play, the drug use took place after Demola had hurt Keziah and she had refused to have any other encounter with him, he was feeling terrible for his actions; though it can be perceived that he had used it before. From Demola's statement when K.K. had offered it to him, it can be deduced that he had deduced that he used it to stop himself from feeling bad and in accordance to the play he had become wild soon after it takes effect.

RAPE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY.

This was seen in the life of the character **KEZIAH**. The negative influence of KK and Bentol on Demola began as a result of the fact that Demola was from a rich home. He notices Demola's love for Keziah and advises him to rape her giving him a charmed handkerchief for her to inhale. Furthermore, in movement six we can see Keziah in Demola's House. This turn of events later leads to being raped by Demola. After the unfortunate events that she passes through, she once again loathes Demola is had to experience such dreadful event while trying to be his friend.

After being raped and suffering from the trauma of rape and pregnancy, she also had to deal with her parents disappointment with her. Also, Keziah father lost his sense of duty and responsibility when he found out about her pregnancy.

CONSEQUENCES OF ONE'S ACTIONS.

In the play, everyone is forced to live with the consequences of their actions and inactions; from Keziah to Demola's parents. Consequences are where our thoughts actions meet reality. 'You are free to the choice that want, but you are not free from the consequence of that choice' this is depicted in the p lay.

In the case of **KEZIAH**, though she had not intended to be caught up in the situation she found herself, she had faced the consequences of succumbing to the advice of her peers, Ovie and Bunmi. She had been raped, discovered she was pregnant and had drop-out of school.

In case of **DEMOLA**, he faced the consequences of heeding to the advice of his peers. He lost the trust and respect Keziah had for him and the rest of his actions paved way for his untimely death.

ENGINEER AND MRS DIRAN, lost their son. This was the consequence of their inability to guide him as parental figures and also, due to their negligence towards their parental duties.

It is also shown as the students who had committed offences faced their disciplinary actions given by the school; ranging from suspension to expulsion. And the students involved in offences more grave than the school could handle; those involved in cult practice, were sent to higher authorities; the court.

2. ATTEMPT DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSES OF ANY THREE CHARACTERS IN SOLOMON A. EDEBOR'S GOOD MORNING, SODOM.

KEZIAH.

Keziah is a medium height, slightly rotund and fair young lady. She is the daughter of Dr and Mrs Richards, Stella's roommate and Demola's love interest. She is the protagonist of the play good morning Sodom. She is the pride her parents and is a brilliant student who spends most of her time reading or engaged in school activities. She is seen to be the object affection of another student named Demola. In the foreword, she is described as a disciplined and focused student who falls prey to the advice of her course mates which leads her to Demola's trap.

She is a significant figure in pointing out how a seemingly harmless encounter among students can turn out to be dangerous and destructive. She symbolised the outcome of peer influence and falls prey to the bad advice of her two friends Ovie and Bunmi and ends up being raped by Demola and subsequently finds out that she was pregnant.

Keziah's experience teaches that we cannot change the past but rather aim for a better future.

DEMOLA.

Demola is a tall, dark, handsome young man who comes from a wealthy family. He is the son of Engineer and Mrs Diran. He becomes friends with two boys, K.K. and Bentol who are responsible for all the negative things he had done like indulging in drugs and other illicit activities. Demola is a character whose actions have been defined by his peers, that is he was easily influenced by his peers. This was proven in the scene where K.K. admitted to all that he influenced Demola to do, from raping Keziah to joining the cult.

K.K. advises him to use a charm on Keziah and sleep with her after she had finally agreed to be his friend and come to his house. He blames KK and Bentol for her anger because they were the ones who advised him to do it.

He shows how students fall victim to negative peer influence and the kind of consequences that come after. His death is a sad ending to an otherwise bright and meaningful life. He is a significant character in portraying the outcome of peer influence and showing the issue of moral decadence. He shows how crime has started to consume the entire community.

STELLA.

Stella is mentioned in the first movement where Keziah says ‘...Stella has been of tremendous help to me...’ whilst she condemns the lifestyle of the others. Stella as a character first appeared in the sixth movement where she consoles and advises Keziah by sharing her personal experience. She tells us how she was raped by four guys, people who were meant to be a role model to her as the pastor’s children. She questions why boys treat females like possessions and fail to realise that women are flowers and treasures that radiate beauty and glory but are marred when violently plucked.

She is a good example of positive peer influence; after Keziah’s situation with Demola she advises her not to leave God. When Keziah is taken to the hospital, she stays by her side showing her as a good friend as she is present in Keziah’s time of need.

Her story talks to members of the campus community, enlightening them on tough situations people can be put through but they are advised not to falter in faith.

3. WHAT ARE THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF "GOOD MORNING SODOM"?

BOOK	MOVIE
1. DEMOLA'S MUM WAS ALIVE.	DEMOLA'S MUM WAS DEAD.
2. KEZIAH'S DAUGHTER WAS NAMED MOURITHA.	KEZIAH'S DAUGHTER WAS NAMED HERITAGE.
3. THREE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED.	FOUR PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED.
4. DEMOLA'S CONVERSATION WITH KEZIAH HAPPENED ON HER WAY TO THE LIBRARY.	DEMOLA'S CONVERSATION WITH KEZIAH HAPPENED IN THE LIBRARY.
5. DURING THE INITIATION, DEMOLA AND TWO OTHERS WERE INITIATED.	DURING THE INITIATION, DEMOLA WAS ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE CULT AND ONLY TWO MEMBERS WERE INITIATED.

***THE ENTIRE MOVEMENT TWENTY-THREE WAS OMITTED IN THE MOVIE BUT WAS RATHER GIVEN IN A SUMMARY.**