

OKWY-AMAHALU KATERINA O.

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AFE 122

THEMATIC THRUSTS IN GOOD MORNING, SODOM BY SOLOMON
EDEBOR

1. PARENTAL CARE AND MONITORING; The play Good Morning, Sodom draws our attention to the poor parental skills, care and monitoring some parents offer their children. It's quite ironic how there is a sharp contrast between the two principal characters, that is Keziah Richards and Demola Diran.

The play opens with Keziah's mother coming to visit her daughter at her university but with the absence of Keziah's father, Mr. Richards, whom was called to an urgent meeting at Abuja. This leaves Keziah's mother to come visit her daughter alone bearing provisions and the promise of more gifts when next time they come visiting. This shows the visit regularly. Also, the familiar manner at which Keziah and her mother had conversations is quite notable, it showed they are close. In the third movement when Ovie and Bunmi are questioned by Demola about Keziah's whereabouts, they reply as per usual which puzzles Demola.

Demola's parents are not seen till the 19th movement after the death of their son as they seek answers from Nkanga Nwoko (kk) who had introduced Demola into cultism, drugs, influenced him to rape his fellow course mate (Keziah) and eventually killed him. Engineer Diran and Mrs. Diran admit their faults as parents by not paying enough attention to Diran and just replacing the attention with materials and funds basically leaving the void for bad influences like the likes of kk and Bentol, which led him to his tragic and unfortunate death.

2. PEER PRESSURE; Peer pressure is a reoccurring theme of the drama. Peer pressure largely influenced the actions of the characters in the play. Keziah's course mates Ovie and Bunmi notice the attention Demola gives Keziah and try to coax her to be friends with him, she sees through their act but eventually gives in though she doesn't want to have anything to do with him.

Demola was influenced to rape Keziah by his parents by his friends Kk and Bentol even though he did not want to do anything to hurt her. This causes the major conflict in the drama and also eliminates every chance he had with Keziah. Kk and Bentol also convince Demola to lie to his parents to get him an apartment out of school, and it worked because his parents barely paid heed to him.

Apart from the negative, Stella who was Keziah's roommate, is a positive influence to her. She advises Keziah with her life story to motivate and teach her. The play expresses the importance of positive and negative pressure.

3. Moral Decadence; The play draws attention to the moral decadence in the society amongst the youth. It shows the increase in crimes by the youth such as rape. Stella was gang raped by boys who were probably only a little older than her. Also, Keziah was drugged and raped by her course mate. Another rampant crime among the youths portrayed in the poem is that of cultism. In movement eighth there is a meeting of the red shadows, a cult group that Kk, Bentol and Demola were involved in. That same cult group had other students from other levels as well. In the Ninth movement there was an inter-cult war on campus which led to the loss of lives, including the life of Demola.

The use of hard drugs is another crime committed in the play by the youths. The cultists trafficked drugs illegally. Also, when Demola in the seventh movement, Kk offered to give him a substance he got from his pocket and sniffed from, but he replies with 'not again, not this time. The last one nearly caused me an accident' but he eventually gives in. substance abuse is also seen at Kk's confession to the Dirans in the 19th movement. Kk claimed to have used a substance which need to be sniffed on the handkerchief Demola used on Keziah. There were other crimes such as head-turning alcoholic drinking, a brutish sex drive and so on.

4. LOVE AND DEATH: This is another important theme in the drama. There is the romantic love Demola wished to share with Keziah which caused him to rape her. There was the parental love Dr. and Mrs. Richards shared with their daughter Keziah, but when she became pregnant, her father was ashamed of her. Due to this, she attempted suicide but her survival revived the love her parents had for her. Also, Engineer Diran and Mrs. Diran also realized how

much love and care they failed to show their son Demola until after he had died. They also extended care to Keziah who was carrying their sons child and took responsibility for his action.

Stella also showed love to her friend (Keziah) by comforting her in her moment of hardship after her rape through her life story.

5. INADEQUACY OF THE AUTHORITIES; The inability of the authorities that is both in educational institution and outside, have failed in their duties to protect the people and the students.

The school authorities had failed to curb the activities of the cult groups who caused havoc, loss of lives, insecurity and loss of property on school grounds. The school authorities are clearly not strict enough with their students because Demola lived off campus freely without his parents knowledge. Also, Mayflower University also has an easy flow of substance. Which had made it easy for students like Kk and the rest of the cultists to traffic drugs and for Demola to drug Keziah. But the school authorities should also be commended for the expulsion of the member of the different cult groups and the policemen should be commended for their hard work and commitment to apprehend the perpetrators.

As for state authorities, need to seat up and implement their policies properly to prevent more of such cases from re-occurring.

2. Attempt detailed character analyses of any three character in Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning Sodom.

- A.) Keziah; Keziah is the protagonist of this play. All actions surrounding the drama are centered around her. She is the only child of Dr. and Mrs. Richards who love her so dearly. She is a student and Mayflower university currently at her second year. Keziah is clearly a responsible and dignified girl who upholds morals and would never do anything to ruin the name of her family. Unfortunately, she was raped by a man who claimed to have been in love with her. Demola pretended as though he wanted to explain a topic, she was finding difficult to understand. While he was teaching her he claimed to have seen a stain on her face and used a handkerchief which was stained by a drug so she could inhale and instantly fall in to a deep slumber. He took advantage of her unconscious state and left Keziah impure.

Eventually, Demola by a friendly fire during an inter cult war. This leaves Keziah in such a shock, that she loses consciousness and was bleeding from her pubic area. After she was discharged, results showed that she was two months pregnant. Her parents did not take this news likely, as they were ready to disown their own daughter due to her misfortune. This drives Keziah to depression because the family who used to love and show her so much care did not care so much anymore. She decides to commit suicide but is revived at the neck of time. This rekindles her parents, especially her father's love for her. The parents of Damola also reach out to help her and in the end her dreams of finishing school were realized with an admission letter and living accommodations with her baby Mouritha.

B.) STELLA; Stella is the room mate of the protagonist Keziah. She's also a friend of Keziah's. She noticed her closeness with the notorious Demola and wanted to warn her but was too late. She consoled Keziah who felt like her whole world had crumbled after her rape. She told her the story of how she was gang raped in her childhood days while working for God. This made her hate him so much that she wanted nothing to do with him. So she never prayed nor attended church services, she became very promiscuous and her admission into university made it all worse. Everything changed for Stella after odd but partly similar dreams of her wanting to commit suicide by a stream due to her clothes being burnt.

She used her life stories to teach Keziah an important lesson. She was also at scene of Demola's death and was the first to tell Keziah of his death.

B.) Nwayo Nwoko(Kk); Nwayo Nkanga popularly known as Kk is a well known cultist who took interest in Demola from the moment he entered the university. He saw that he was different and also had rich parents, though Kk came from a poor background. He's a well-known member of the red shadows, a cult group with different members from all the departments and levels around campus. He introduced Demola into the cult group and introduced him to drugs, alcohol and illegal substances. He along side his friend and another member of the cult, Bentol convinced Demola to drug Keziah and take away her virginity though he did not want to do that because he loved her.

Eventually, Kk shot Demola in an inter cult war. In his dying moments, Demola gave Kk a picture of his parents to tell them how much he loved them and how sorry he was for being a disappointment. Kk was apprehended and eventually sentenced to life imprisonment. While still in prison, Kk requested an audience with his late friend's parent to confess all the evil he had done and replay Demola's dying message to them. In that very moment Demola's parents realized how much of a poor job they had done with their son living him under the terrible influence of Kk due to their lack of parental care.

Kk can be seen as a representation of negative peer pressure. He is also a sector of the youth that needs re-orientation. But through Kk we could see how much peer pressure affects us and also exposed Engr. And Mrs. Diran's poor parenting skills.

3. What are the points of divergence between the published and film version of GOOD MORNING, SODOM?

- a.) In the movie, Keziah's daughter's name was heritage, while in the book, her daughter's name was Mouritha.
- b.) In the movie, Keziah is a dark-skinned young lady, while in the play, she was a light-skinned young lady.
- c.) In the movie, Keziah's lifeless body was found at the dining room by her father, while in the play her lifeless body was found in the bedroom.
- d.) In the movie, Engineer Diran's wife was dead when Keziah and her parents visited, while in the play, she was alive when they visited.
- e.) In the movie, Engineer Diran went alone to see Kk, while in the play, both Engineer Diran and his wife went to see Kk.