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LEVEL: 100 LEVEL

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COURSE CODE: AFE 122

ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's good morning Sodom, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages**
- 2) Attempt detailed character analysis of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's good morning Sodom.**
- 3) What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of "*Good morning Sodom*"?**

1)

A) Negative peer influence: Peer pressure is a major cause of the rise of deplorable moral decadence in schools. It can be both positive and negative. A primary example of this theme is seen in the life of Demola and KK's friendship and also in Stella and Keziah friendship. It is even seen in Ovie and Bunmi influence on Keziah.

Demola was a hardworking, diligent young man with a bright future. He was so good that students could not believe it when they found him shot outside the school gates and saw his name on the board among the list of expelled students. 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. KK is also the one that introduced Demola to drugs and made him join his cult which later led to his downfall. It is unfortunate that all this could have been prevented if Demola had kept the right group of friends.

Keziah, in her own way, was also a victim of peer pressure, both good and bad. Keziah did not want anything to do with Demola at first. She knew deep down in her heart that nothing good could have come out of being associated with him but due to the urgings of Ovie and Bunmi she decided to give him a chance and deeply regretted it. After the incident, nothing is mentioned of Ovie and Bunmi again. Stella is seen as a positive influence in Keziah's life as we see that she had tried to warn Keziah against Demola and even after the incident Stella sticks by Keziah and helps her to heal from her pain and loss.

B) CULTISM: In Solomon Edebor's *Good morning Sodom*, the theme of cultism is portrayed. The play exposes us to the moral issues in higher institutions. This is expressed by showing various vices and their consequences, one of which is cultism. In the play, there are two cults portrayed, the red shadows and the sparrows. The red shadows is the major cult in the play. During the play, there was an initiation of new members into the cult. This involved the new recruits drinking from a calabash filled with blood. After the initiation, the red shadows go to war with the sparrows over the murder of two of their members and this leads to Demola's death.

C) PARENTAL CARE, RESPONSIBILITY, TRUST AND GUIDANCE: This is seen in the cases of Demola and Keziah. Demola was the child of a wealthy family and was probably used to having freedom and getting whatever he wants. His parents failed to protect him by not checking up on him. This can be seen in the area where Demola asked his parents to give him a room off campus and they did not bother to question him about it or even raise their concerns about what might happen if he stays off campus, they just willingly gave it to him no questions asked.

Also, Keziah's father lost his sense of duty and responsibility when he found out about her pregnancy. All he cared about was his reputation and he failed to see that his action was hurting his only child. Her father shunned, insulted and constantly reproached her. Unknowingly, he created a hole in his daughter's heart which led to her attempted suicide. Although, her mother tried to accept her daughter and the situation she was in, her father refused thereby causing a rift in the once perfect family. Keziah attempted to kill herself so as to relieve her family of the burden she put upon them and to try to restore the love between her parents. After being raped and suffering from the trauma of being raped and pregnant, she also had to deal with her parents

disappointment with her. What she needed at that time was their love, support and care but all she got was snide remarks and distrust from her parents especially her father.

Most parents believe that in university their child should be independent and so leave them to make their own choices without helping them and guiding them. They fail to realize that university is where their children need their advice and guidance more than ever. Also, parental love should not be situational. It must be present even in times of pain and disappointment. Parents need to learn not to constantly believe the worst of their children even when the situation turns sour.

D) LOVE: This can be seen in the story of Demola. We are told that Demola is deeply in love with Keziah in the book *Good morning Sodom* by Dr. Solomon Edebor. Although Demola does not express his love the right way, that is, he did not use the right method to win Keziah's love, the love he had for Keziah was genuine but with a fault and so, we can still take into account the fact that Demola truly and wholly loved Keziah. Demola was even against using charms to win over Keziah because he wanted to win Keziah the right way but in the end negative peer influence won. We can also see love between Keziah and her parents especially her mother. In the first movement, Keziah is filled with so much Joy and Happiness just because she had seen her mum and when she notices her dad's absence her mood darkens. Her mother's love is also seen especially when she does not turn her back on Keziah when she notices that she was pregnant.

We can also see love in Keziah's mother's eyes and in Demola's parents. Although they failed in bringing up their children properly, it is obvious that they really loved their child and I'm sure that if they could turn back the hands of time they would ensure that it had never happened in the first place. Also the love of God is portrayed in the life of Stella. Even after Stella turned her back on God He did not forsake her but instead tried to call her back to him. There is also friendship love especially between Stella and Keziah.

E) HOPE: Stella is the centre of this theme. After Keziah was raped, she was crying in her room but was consoled by Stella who told her everything would be alright. She had hope that it would be alright because she had been in a situation far worse than Keziah's. 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 must 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 believed that Keziah could go back to her normal lifestyle, that is, before she decided to associate herself with Demola. She is responsible for providing Keziah with the hope that she needed to get back on her feet and become stronger, wiser and better.

2) CHARACTER ANALYSIS

A) KEZIAH: Keziah is described as a medium height, slightly rotund, light skinned girl evidently in her late teens. She is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Richards and is an undergraduate of Mayflower University. She is the protagonist of the play *Good morning Sodom*. She is the pride of 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 of affection of another student named Demola. She wants nothing to do with him as she suspects that he is only after one thing but soon 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. She is a significant example of how a seemingly

harmless encounter can lead to ones demise and destruction. Keziah symbolizes a lot of university girls who although knowing their goals, have veered off track and a beacon of hope to those who have strayed that they can get a second chance to right the wrongs in their lives. Although they cannot change the past, they can aim for a better future.

B) DEMOLA: Demola is a tall, dark, handsome young man who comes from a wealthy family. He becomes friends with two boys, KK 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. Demola happens to be in love with Keziah and constantly pesters her for her time which she refuses. He is confused as to how to get her approval and goes to KK for advice on what to do. KK then 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 nger 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 dies a useless death that could easily have been avoided had he chosen the right set of people to hang around. 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. He was manipulate, negatively influenced, coerced and eventually killed by the very people he called his friends

C) KK: He is the only child of his mother who makes a living selling corn on the roadside to provide for them and pay his school fees. KK is a member of the red shadows and an example of bad company corrupts good manners. Not only is he a member of a cult but he also indulges in drugs and other bad things we we are not even told of. Due to the advice he gave Demola on Keziah's case, we can only assume he has done it before to someone else. After an operation with another cult in which Demola is killed, he and his other cult members are arrested and tried. His mother is seen during this trial and the reader tends to feel pity for her because she surely did not expect to be in a court room about to watch her only son, the only reason why she woke up each day, be exiled due to murder. Although, it is not stated if he felt remorse for his actions but it is obvious that despite the intentions as to which he became friends with Demola, he still considered Demola as a brother and regrets being the one who killed his only true brother and friend. KK character is a somehow complex one as we can see that he is an epitome of human immorality, it is obvious that like other characters he has some atom of humanity and that makes us wonder why he ended up the way he did.

3) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BOOK AND THE FILM

Reading the book and watching the film “*good morning Sodom*” by Dr. Solomom Edebor, we can see some notable differences. Some of the differences that can be seen are;

THE BOOK	THE FILM
1) Demola's mum was alive	Demola's mum was dead
2) Three people were arrested	Four people were arrested
3) Demola and Keziah have their conversation in the library	Demola and Keziah had their conversation outside
4) There is no mention of any student coming late to class	During the lecturers lecture, two students came in late and were sent out

5) Stella and Keziah had their conversation and shared their stories in the room	Stella and Keziah shared their stories outside while walking
6) When Emmanuella goes to tell Keziah about God, she meets Stella in her room	Emmanuella meets Keziah outside while she was spreading her clothes.
7) During the initiation into the cult, we see Demola being part of the new recruits for the cult	Demola is already a member of the cult and so is not part of the initiation for new members
8) The DPO is a woman	The DPO is a man
9) KK's mother is alive	KK's mother is dead
10) Keziah's attempted suicide took place in her room	Keziah's attempted suicide took place in the living room
11) Keziah's daughter name was Mouritha	Keziah's daughter name was Heritage
12) When Keziah returned from the hospital after her attempted suicide, she had a conversation with her dad while lying on her bed	When Keziah returned from the hospital after her attempted suicide, she had a conversation with her dad while lying on a chair

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