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QUESTION 1: ATTEMP AN INCISIVE INTERROGATION OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR’S GOOD MORNING, SODOM UNDERSCORING AT LEAST FIVE UNDERLYING THEMATIC THRUSTS THE DRAMA ENGAGES

Good Morning, Sodom is a play centering on life in the university. It gives an indept look into the daily, academic, social and even religious lives of the students and the challenges they face. It higlights issues like rape, drug abuse, cultism, and others.

It follows the life of Keziah, her aim is to make her parents proud and she does her best including avoiding what would be a major cause of distraction to her, Demola.

Demola tries everything to convince her that he truly loves her but she isn’t of the same opinion. She tells her friends Ovie and Bunmi; “All that boys are interested in is that thing between your legs” when they try to convince her to give Demola a chance.

Demola claims all he wants is her friendship and Keziah finally gives in to his demands. This new found friendship leads Keziah to visit Demola in his house on the pretext of helping her with an assignment. Demola uses this opportunity to drug and rape her.

After the rape incident, Keziah goes to her friend, Stella who tells her she has been in her situation as she had been raped and tried to help her cope.

Keziah is rightfully upset with Demola and Demola blames the situation on his friends afterwhich KK “brings out a white substance wrapped in a nylon” for Demola to sniff. He originally declines claiming “the last one nearly caused me an accident” but in the end, he accepts.

It is later on discovered in the play that Demola’s friends KK and Bentol were the ones who convinced him that this was the only way to get Keziah to love him the way he loves her.

In the eighth movement, it shows a scene of a cult called Red Shadows initiating new members and unfortunately, Demola is one of these new members.

The cult ends up getting into a fight with another cult named The Sparrow for the murder of two of their members; Dagren and Festula. A battle in which Demola is the only casualty.

After finding Demola’s dead body, she faints and is taken to the hospital where it is found out that she is pregnant for Demola.

She tries explaining to her parents that she was raped by Demola but her parents refuse to believe her. While her mother tries to be accomodating of her and her pregnancy, her father refuses to see her as anything more than a disgrace and he says, “she ceased to be my daughter that very day she brought shame on this family with that evil thing in her womb”.

This drives Keziah to attempt to commit suicide which she almost successfully attempts if not that her father took her to the hospital. After this, her father regrets his previous actions and he once more treats her as a daughter.

She gives birth to a daughter and her father gives her the opportunity to go back to school.

The cultists end up being caught by the police and they are subsequently expelled from the university.

Seeing the names of those being expelled, people are shocked to see Demola’s name on the list.

A student, Nonso, claims it was hard to believe Demola’s name was on the list as he couldn’t believe it was the same Demola he knew. Even one of Keziah’s friends claimed she saw Demola as “serious, intelligent and hardworking”.

This situation brings to light a very important issue: no matter who you are, it is possible to fall victim to the influence of bad friends as Demola and Keziah did. The best you can do is to avoid them but it is much easier to be susceptible when you want to please them.

Keziah and Demola’s ending show two spectrums of the same situation. While Keziah’s ending is a beacon of hope, Demola’s is a show of despair.

The play has several underling themes including:

NEGATIVE PEER 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.

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 it’s 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 it 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.

LACK OF ADEQUATE 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. 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.

LACK OF PARENTAL 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 was that she had brought shame unto the family by her acts but refused to take her words, her pain into account. Her family were meant to believe her and stand by her side in such a situation but 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 worse of their children whenever the situation turns sour.

QUESTION 2: ATTEMPT A DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF ANY 3 CHARACTER’S IN SOLOMON A. EDEBOR’S GOOD MORNING, SODOM

KEZIAH

In the beginning of the play, Keziah is described as a medium height, slightly rotund, light skinned girl evidently in her late teens. She is the main protagonist of the play. She loves her parents dearly and is willing to do everything in her power to make them proud.

She is seen to be the object of the affections of another student called Demola. She wants nothing to do with him as she sees him as another boy who only wants her for one thing.

She does everything in her power to make sure she doesn’t end up under the influence of any man but due to the negative influences of her 2 friends, she gives in to Demola’s pestering.

She eventually ends up visiting him in his house which is off campus where he drugs her and then rapes her. She confides in her roommate, Stella, who tries to help her cope with the matter.

After finding out about the death of Demola by seeing his dead body on campus, she faints and is rushed to the hospital where her roommate calls her parents to meet her.

As she is taken home from the hospital, her father makes her read the results of a pregnancy test that was done to her at the hospital which comes out positive. He is angry at her and uses every opportunity to show she is nothing to him and calls her a shame to the family.

Months go by and she is heavily pregnant when she eavesdrops on a conversation between her parents where her father claims she is no longer his daughter and strives to end her life.

She is unsuccessful as her father is turned back from an important meeting to go and pick some files at home where he finds her unconscious body and rushes her to the hospital.

Luckily she survives and gives birth to a girl and is then given the opportunity by her parents to go back to school.

Keziah symbolizes a lot of girls in university who despite knowing their goals and striving to achieve them, end up being influenced byt 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

Demola is a tall, dark, handsome young man who comes from a wealthy family. He becomes friends with 2 boys KK and Bentol who coerce him to get an apartment off campus, indulge in drugs and other illicit activities.

He is in love with Keziah and constantly pesters her for her friendship but is always rejected.

She finally accepts his friendship and he invites her to his house where he drugs and rapes her. She hates him for his actions and wants nothing to do with him.

He blames his friends KK and Bentol for her anger as they gave him the idea to do it.

He ends up joining the Red Shadows cult and is killed by KK in a fight with another cult.

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 by the very people he called his friends. Even after his death, his misdeeds followed him which 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.

KK

KK is the only child of his mother who makes a living off selling corn on the roadside to provide for him.

He goes to university where he becomes friends with Demola because he claims he knew Demola was wealthy and needed him on his side.

KK is a member of Red Shadows cult and is a prime example of the type of people you need to avoid. Not only is he a member of a cult, he frequently abuses hard drugs and from the way he treated Demola’s issue concerning his love for Keziah likely has no issues taking the same measures he gave.

After an altercation with another cult in which Demola is killed, he and other cult member are arrested and taken for trial.

His mother is seen during the trial weeping for her son although it isn’t made clear if he is affected by her tears.

Although it is not stated if he felt remorse for being caught, it is obvious that despite the intentions of the friendship, he saw Demola as a brother and mourned his death especially as he was the cause of the death.

KK’s character is a complex one as although it is clear he is the epitome of human immorality, it is obvious that just like others he feels and it makes you curious to understand why he ended up the way he did.

QUESTION 3: WHAT ARE THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING, SODOM?

There were no differences in the first and second movements.

In the third movement, the film version of Good Morning, Sodom, two students walked into Dr Yusuf’s class late. He stopped them as they were headed to their seats and asked them for their reason of being late and when they could not provide a reasonable excuse, he sent them out of the class. Also, at the end of the class Dr Yusuf also asked the students if they had any questions when the class was over.

This was not stated in the book.

In addition, the conversion among Demola, Bunmi and Ovie in the play did not go the same way.

The fourth and fifth movements were the same in both versions.

In the sixth movement, it was stated in the film that Keziah went to visit Demola in his private apartment 3 weeks after the last scene but that wasn’t stated in the published book. Also description of Demola’s position as depicted in the book was on his bed while in the film he was seated on his reading table, right across Kehiah.

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

When Stella tells Keziah her story of how she had been taped, there was a point she was seen fetching water from a stream, we see just two men; Adeyoju and one other man bringing out her clothes to burn but in the published version there were four men.

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 stated in the book. 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 where Emmanuella evangelises to Stella. This means the conversation between Stella and Emmanuella was outdoors and not in Stella’s room.

The seventh movement was the same

In the eighth movement, the members of The Red Shadow cult have a meeting. The song they are singing isn’t the same one mentioned in the published book. During the initiation of the new cult members, there are only 2 new members whereas in the book there are 3 as Demola was already a member of the cult which was different from the book.

The ninth movement was the same.

In the tenth movement, there is no car being stopped by the students to rush Keziah to the hospital in the film. After Keziah faints and some students rush to pick her up, it moves to the next scene, where Stella is talking to Keziah’s mother but this conversation happens in the eleventh movement.

Apart from the above statement, the eleventh and twelfth movements were the same.

In the thirteenth movement, four cult members were seen in the DPO’s office not the three mentioned in the book.

The conversation where the DPO tells Inspector Dele to tell the IPO to hasten up on his investigations and gives a copy to the DPP for advice, while they round off their investigation was omitted in the book.

In the fourteenth movement, the book stated that Mrs. Richards and Dr. Richards are seated on the sofa in the lounge, while Keziah walks in to answer her dad but in the film, Mrs. Richards didn’t appear

 until Dr. Richards was interrogating Keziah about where her rape incident occurred. She also doesn’t speak until Dr Richards says, ‘Oh! Can you see the level our daughter is now operating at?’.

Unlike the book, in the fifteenth movement 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 ruin the lives of those expelled as there are certain opportunities they will lose.

The sixteenth movement begins with Keziah opening the door for her father and she and her mother were never cooking any food. Mrs Richards is 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?’

But in the book, Keziah and her mother were preparing food in the kitchen.

There was a bonus scene, where her mother came in to console her but this never happened in the book.

In the seventeenth movement, there was a highly detailed court scene but it was skipped in the film which only showed the Defence council rounding off. The judge then passed out his judgement on the criminals one after the other. The names of the criminals were called out, didn’t happen in the book. Once he passes out his judgement to them, he dismisses the court and that was the end of the movement so the subsequent lines mentioned in the book were omitted.

The eighteenth movement was the same.

In the film, the ninteenth movement didn’t happen until after the twentieth movement and even the, part of it was also in the twenty-first movement.

In the twentieth movement, Dr Richards has a conversation with Keziah on the sitting room couch. He isn’t seen coming into his compound with his car or carrying Keziah from her room as said in the book.

I’m the twenty-first movement, we see Dr Richards drive into ENG. Diran’s compound. 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.

The meeting between KK and Eng. Diran was shown as a flashback. In the book, both Eng. Diran and his wife, Mrs. Diran were at the prison but in the film because Mrs Diran was never present because she was dead.

All of Mrs. Diran’s lines were actually said by Eng. Diran and KK never showed Eng. Diran any picture of him 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.

KK told Eng. Diran about how he and Bentol coerced Demola to rape Keziah.

I’m the twenty-second movement, Keziah went into labour in her bedroom in the film then her mother walked in to assist her, and console her because of the pain she was in. Mrs Richards then called her husband to inform him which didn’t happen in the book.

At the hospital, the only conversation that was held between the parents and the Doctor Hanson was when Keziah had given birth and the doctor congratulated them. All other lines after this in the book were not mentioned in the film.

The twenty-third 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.