

**NAME: EMMANUEL EMMANUELLA HAUWA**

**COLLEGE: MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES (MHS)**

**DEPARTMENT: MEDICINE AND SURGERY (MBBS)**

**MATRIC NO.: 22/MHS01/083**

**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 analyses 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?

### **FIVE UNDERLYING THEMATIC THRUSTS GOOD MORNING, SODOM ENGAGES**

1. **Cultism:** One of the most compelling underlying thematic thrusts portrayed in this work is the subject of a cultism. The playwright succeeded in depicting a vivid illustration and picture about the luring, initiations, activities, and adverse consequences in a classic Nigerian tertiary institution.

In the eighth movement of this piece, a scene is depicted thus - it's night-time in Mayflower University and three students; Demola included, are kneeling surrounded by a group of students in uniformed red t-shirts and black berets. The group is addressed by a person assumed to be the leader called "Spark" as the "Red Shadows" and they answer in unison by roaring their slogan – “Untouchable; Untameable; Unmerciful”. It is later seen in this movement that the students kneeling drink the “water of covenant” which forever binds their spirit, soul, and body to the noble sect. This scene barely but greatly attempts to shed more light on the initiation processes of new members into cult groups and the rituals involved.

As portrayed in this play, it is not worthwhile for any individual to join a cult group or any secret cult in general as a horrific and tragic event is faced by the

character, Demola. In the ninth movement, Demola and his fellow cult members were involved in a fight with a rival cult group which ended in him losing his life as seen in the tenth movement. Such activities also bring about family shame and disgrace as was the case with Nkanga Nwoko (a.k.a. K.K.) who was sentenced to life imprisonment among other charges. This piece teaches that cultism has different dangers for while someone was condemned to prison, another paid with his life.

2. **Negative peer influence:** This is another thematic thrust that is seen in *Good Morning, Sodom*. Demola was particularly a victim of negative peer influence.

In the twenty-first movement, a flashback conversation of Demola, K.K. and Bentol is seen. Demola had taken a liking for Keziah and his predicament was being discussed among the three of them. His “friends” advised him to drug then rape her for his satisfaction. He hesitated at first, but eventually gave in. Had it not been for the pressure of his so-called-friends, he would not have divulged in such abominable act. The immediate pleasure and satisfaction does not last long as it is earlier seen in the seventh movement that he feels bad and starts begging Keziah for forgiveness. Demola was clearly aware of the mistake he made and was trying to reach out to Keziah. He said, “I’m really sorry, Keziah. My action wasn’t intentional. I...”.

He was outrightly rejected and considering the peers he associated with, he again succumbed to their influence. K.K. is seen in the same movement bringing out a white substance (presumably a hard drug) from his pocket and giving it to Demola to sniff which he rejects but changes his mind and accepts. He was given the substance to run away from the realities of life and the guilt he was facing for causing Keziah so much pain, but this was only temporary. The dangers of succumbing to peer pressure are truly extreme in this piece. This work shows the significance of the influence of one friend on another and how it can change the course of a person’s life.

3. **Inadequate parental involvement:** Another underrated but important thematic thrust is the lack of parental involvement portrayed by Demola’s parents.

In the twenty - first movement, a conversation between the Diran and the Richard families is seen after Demola's death. A regretful and sorrowful Engineer Diran and Mrs Diran are in company of the Richards family in their house. Engineer Diran (Demola’s father) begins to narrate all that K.K. had said earlier in Agobi prison. The Diran family realised how greatly and badly they had failed as parents stating that

they permitted their excessive desire to secure Demola's financial future overshadow and take priority over their roles as parents to their children concerning showing support. Their upbringing mechanism was focused on providing what they regarded as necessary for their child. Thus, the attribute of caring, showing love, being supportive, giving a listening ear or just being present were neglected.

The adverse effects were revealed as Demola started lying (as stipulated in the nineteenth movement), engaged in cultism, rape, and drug abuse. All of these built up and led to his death.

4. **Agony of rape:** A critical theme explored in Good Morning, Sodom is rape and its effects on victims. Keziah and Stella are the characters which are victims of rape in this piece.

The act of rape goes a long way and traumatic for its victims as portrayed in this book. Keziah was drugged and raped unaware to her. She suffered mentally and even emotionally as her father was not supportive and caring when she needed it most. As he stated in the sixteenth movement that; "... she ceased to be my daughter that very day she brought shame and disgrace on this family with that evil thing in her womb...". She also had to drop out of school due to her pregnancy which her father wasn't in support of and wanted her to abort. All these hurt her so badly that she attempted suicide but was thankfully rescued on time.

Stella, who was Keziah's friend, was also raped but at a younger age and suffered great distress and pain for a long time which led to her living a reckless life before being redeemed. The play portrays the agony of rape victims which helps to recognise how they are feeling and thus approach them in a discreet way to help them.

5. **Justice:** The last thematic thrust which is justice was focused in the seventeenth movement of this play. After the devastating outcome of the clash between the cult groups, K.K., Bentol and other apprehended cult members were to be judged and sentenced in accordance with the rule of law.

Though "tempering justice with mercy" was considered, the prosecution counsel made it clear that if their offences were overlooked, then other individuals would engage in such knowing fully well that justice will not prevail, and they will be pardoned after admitting guilt and claiming repentance. In agreement, the judge added that as said in the legal system, *Fiat Justitia ruat caelum*; that is, 'Let justice be done

through the heavens fall', the law must be obeyed. He passed the required judgement, sentenced each person based on the gravity of their offences and in accordance with the law. This was to serve as a deterrent to other youths in and out of the tertiary institutions.

## **DETAILED ANALYSES OF THREE CHARACTERS IN GOOD MORNING, SODOM.**

1. **Stella:** Stella was a student at Mayflower University and Keziah's roommate. She was supportive and caring to Keziah throughout her appearance in the play. She was the shoulder Keziah went to cry on after she was assaulted. Though unknown to Keziah, she had also personally experienced such in the past and at an even younger age. In the sixth movement, she narrated to Keziah her story. When she was fourteen, her father and her visited their pastor who was their fellowship leader. Her father and pastor had to leave quickly due to an emergency, so she had to stay with the pastor's sons. Later, it is seen that the boys and their two friends had a secretive conversation without Stella. Later she is lured into the pastor's bedroom, overpowered, and was raped in turns by the four boys. In the process, she loses consciousness. She was hospitalised and the deed had been done. The boys were temporarily arrested but after much influence, her parents did not press charges. They moved with the thoughts that it will help her recover but she didn't. The trauma that comes with rape affected her that she hated God and divulged in way-ward activities which she took to the university. Stella was able to go back to God after two encounters in the form of dreams and was able to slowly recover.

In the tenth movement, it is seen that Stella calls Keziah to a scene as she believes it is important for her to know what was going on. When Keziah collapsed, she accompanied her to the hospital. In the eleventh and twelfth movement, she was seen in company of Keziah and her parents being supportive in the best way she could. Stella is proof that victims of rape don't have to stay tied to the trauma as they can come out of it, seek help, and move on.

2. **Demola Diran:** Demola was also a student at Mayflower university in 200-level studying in the department of English language. In this play, he is portrayed as

someone from a rich home, and this is one of the reasons K.K. drew closer to him. To K.K., he was the right prey. Demola was greatly influenced by K.K. and others to engage in so many terrible acts such as lying to his parents that the school campus could not accommodate all the students so as to be able to reside outside of the school. He was also introduced and involved in the abuse of drugs and ultimately joined a cult. After intense pressure, he was encouraged to rape a student (Keziah). All these and much more led to his untimely death.

Demola is one of the characters in this play that portrays the extent of the damage that can be caused when surrounded by the wrong company of people and dubious background. As stated in this piece, his parents' desire to secure his future first above all including vital and basic emotional needs was not the right choice. He ran to his friends instead of his parents for insight. He set an example for people to learn from.

3. **Nkanga Nwoko:** Nkanga Nwoko is a 400-level student in Mayflower university also studying in the department of English language. He is Demola's biggest influence in this piece.

He met Demola and changed his life greatly and negatively. His effect on Demola led two of them to dire and even tragic consequences. His character shows the effects of hanging out with bad friends and people who can't help you grow. He is a typical example of students who get into school not to learn and get their certificate but get involved in anti-social vices despite coming from an unprivileged background. Though justice caught up with him, much harm had been done to those he was accustomed with. During his conversation with Engineer Diran, he confesses everything and how he was a major influence on Demola.

K.K. is character that reveals the consequences of being around someone with questionable morals and character. The reader should know that although this is not a character to imitate, it is very important to learn from this, because there are always people like him thus always be surrounded with the right company.

### **POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE WRITTEN AND THE FILM VERSION**

- In the third movement, the film showed that two students came at the end of the class and were sent out due to late coming but in the written, his teaching wasn't interrupted since no one came in. Also, it was shown in the film version that Ovie and

Bunmi were reading when Demola approached them but in the written, they were about to leave the class when he approached them.

- In the sixth movement while Stella was narrating her experience to Keziah, it is seen in the written version that her father and her were ushered into the pastor's living room but in the film version, her father left with the pastor whilst they were still standing at the door thus, she was the only one that went into the living room. In addition, the film showed that Stella was spreading her clothes when Emmanuella came to talk to her about Christ whilst in the written version, she was still contemplating about the dream on her bed when Emmanuella knocked.
- In the eighth movement, the film showed that Demola was standing circling the fire showing that he was an existing member of the group but in the written, Demola was amongst those kneeling at the centre indicating that he was a new member.
- In the ninth movement of the film version, after declaring the war with the rival group, the next scene portrayed the death of Demola and people gathering but in the written it showed that there were gunshots and students were hiding.
- In the twelfth movement, the film version showed Stella assisting Keziah get into the car and she also entered. In the written version however, it is seen that Keziah embraced Stella and afterwards she waves them goodbye as the car drives out.
- In the thirteenth movement, the film version that the DPO was a man whilst in the written, it is seen that the DPO was a woman. Also, in the film version there are four apprehended cultists while in the written, there are three apprehended cultists.
- In the sixteenth movement, the film showed that Keziah just went to open the door for her dad but in the written version, it is indicated that Keziah and her mother were in the kitchen before Mr Richards arrived.
- The film version showed Keziah being consoled by her mother as she cries at night immediately after the conclusion of the sixteenth movement but in the written version, this was not indicated.
- In the twenty-first movement, the film version showed that Mr Richards consoled Engineer Diran upon the death of his wife indicating that his wife was dead but in the written version, Engineer Diran and his wife were present in the sitting room during the conversation indicating that his wife was alive.
- In the twenty-third movement, it is indicated that Keziah's daughter was named Mouritha while at the end of the film version it is stated that her daughter was named Heritage Demola-Diran.