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### **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*?

## ANSWERS

### 1. SHORT BRIEF OF THE PLAY; GOOD MORNING SODOM

The play is an eye opener to the causes of some lingering atrocities that have been bedevilling the nation's campuses, identifying such important factors like negative peer influence, lack of adequate parental care and monitoring, and inability of constituted authorities to take decisive steps towards curbing the menace. It equally draws attention and proffers enduring solutions to what designated authorities in higher institutions of learning could do to curb criminal tendencies on the part of students, particularly cultism, prostitution, taking of hard drugs and other anti-social vices; what roles parents ought to play in the lives of their children/wards; and what cultural values students should imbibe so as to excel in their academic pursuits.

#### 1. FIVE THEMATIC THRUST (THEMES).

Thematic Thrust is also known as the themes. The following are the themes seen in the play Good Morning Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor:

- . Lack of parental care
- . Peer pressure
- . Love
- . Immorality (Rape & Cultism)
- . Forgiveness

#### a. Lack of parental care:

Uninvolved parenting, sometimes referred to as neglectful parenting, is a style characterized by a lack of responsiveness to a child's needs. Uninvolved parents make few to no demand of their children and they are often indifferent, dismissive, or even completely neglectful. In the play, Good Morning Sodom, lack of parental care is one of the themes. It is portrayed in the way Engineer and Mrs. Diran neglected their child (Demola Diran - a 200lvl student of mayflower university), paying no attention to him and not even looking after him in school.

They failed as a parent by not providing the basic needs for their child, they were less concerned with his education and well-being but more concerned about his financial needs which led him to involving in immoral act and caused him into trouble. His parents were never aware of his bad acts but they later regretted at the end when they realized what they have done in not showing their responsibility as a parent.

b. Peer Pressure:

People are influenced by peers because they want to fit in, be like peers they admire, do what others are doing, or have what others have. Peers are people who are part of the same social group. This theme is predominant in the play. In the play, Demola was influenced negatively to join peer group. He was altered by his friend known as K.K who pushes him to join his peers (a bad social group such as cult group). He engaged himself in this which led to his death. From the play, we can see Demola was a victim of peer pressure (negatively). They led him into taking illegal drugs and even told him to tell his parents that the rooms on campus were all occupied (which was a lie) and had to get an apartment outside the school. This really caused him a great loss. He suffers an ignominious death long before his time. Also, in the play, we see that Keziah starts out as a disciplined and focused student, but later falls victim of negative peer pressure. Ovie and Bunmi, Keziah's classmates, bring negative peer pressure to bear on her as they lead her into Demola's trap.

c. Love:

There are various kind of love in the play *Good Morning Sodom* such as; mother's love, unreturned love and platonic love. These different kind of love were demonstrated in the play with different role. It is also a predominant theme in the play.

i. Mother's love:

A Mother's love is the love a mother shows to her child such as taking care of her child, playing her roles and responsibilities and providing the basic and social need need for her child. In the play, we can see how the writer demonstrated mother's love, portrayed in the way Mrs. Richard ( Keziah's mother) obtain her

duties and played a significant role in taking good care of her child - keziah, and looking after her, always checking up on her in school and giving her everything she wants. Mrs. Richard showed love to her daughter in various ways even when she (keziah) is faced with tribulations. Mrs. Richard also love her husband.

ii. Unreturned/ Unrequited/ One sided love:

Unrequited or one sided love is love that is not openly reciprocated or understood as such by the beloved. The beloved may not be aware of the admirer's deep and pure affection, or may consciously reject it. Unrequited law occurs when one yearns for unconditional love from another individual who doesn't feel the same and and this is demonstrated in the play and seen where Demola so much had feelings for keziah, but he did not get back the love. He was not loved the same way he loved keziah. Keziah always decline and show no interest in him. This type of love is called a one sided love.

iii. Platonic love:

Platonic love is a type of love in which sexual desire or romantic feature are non-existent or have been suppressed or sublimated, but it means more than simple friendship. In platonic love, both parties feel overwhelming gratitude, fondness and interest for one another. This platonic love, was demonstrated in the play between keziah and Stella (who happens to be her friend). Stella loved keziah so much that she calm her down and always giving her good assurance in any ramification. She played a role of a good friend in the play, remembering keziah that God loves her.

Love is also demonstrated in the way keziah's dad helped her daughter in giving her another opportunity to go back to school after her safe delivery of Mouritha (her child).

d. Immorality (Rape & Cultism):

Immorality means evil or sinful. It is a state or quality of being immoral: wickedness or otherwise, wrong behavior. It is unchastity. Immorality could also be said as a predominant theme in the play. This theme particularly - rape, is viewed in two different aspect and different people in the play. The first was when keziah was misled by her friends to give Demola a chance, although she refused

but later ended up going to his house, which is not within the school area but outside (town) and she was drunk and got raped by Demola. This act of Demola is very immoral and sinful. We can also portray it in the play where Stella was sharing her story with Keziah, how she was raped and deflowered while she was 14 years old. She got raped and she felt so sad and depressed but later on, everything became okay and fine. Also, Cultism is an immoral act that is also relevant to the play, Demola was influenced negatively by peers and he joined Cultism, started immoral acts, taking illegal/ hard drugs such as cocaine, and many other things that are not moral which eventually led to his death at young age.

e. Forgiveness:

Forgiveness is generally defined as a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance towards a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness.

This is one of the relevant themes in the play. It is portrayed in the way K.K, Demola's friend, who murdered him, confessed to his parents (Demola's parents) that he was the one who misled him and lured him to join his peer group, teaching him the bad and immoral act which the parents were not aware of and K.K asked for their forgiveness. Also, Keziah became pregnant for Demola and her educational adventure is truncated; Demola's parents ( Engineer & Mrs. Diran) came to ask for forgiveness on behalf of their late son from Dr. Richard in which they were forgiven and they work together in hands to help Keziah. The whole drama, therefore, ends with a chorus of Thanksgiving to God from Keziah and her parents, while Keziah also tenders a heartfelt apology to her parents.

## **Characters and characterisation**

### **2. Three (3) characters in the play; Good Morning Sodom.**

#### **Answer**

##### **. MRS. RICHARD:**

She is the mother of Keziah. She is described as a loving and caring mother who checks up on her daughter in school. She is a cool character in the play. She plays a very good role in leading her daughter well right and supporting her in any circumstances. She is considered as a calm and understandable mother, this is portrayed in the way she always stands by her daughter. She is equally a responsible and a respectable wife, this is seen in the way she gives due regards to her husband and making him to understand his daughter - Keziah. She also gives an adequate parental care and monitoring to his daughter as a mother. She did not fail as a mother.

##### **. KEZIAH:**

This is the female protagonist in the play, Good Morning Sodom. She is a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady. She is a 200 level student of Mayflower University. She is evidently in her teens. She played the main role in the play. She is seen as a disciplined and focused character. This is portrayed in the way she took her education seriously and stayed focused with her studies. She is brought up in a good family, a God-fearing family in which they took care of her and provide all the basic needs for her. She is also seen as a careless character, this is described in the way she left for her hostel and went to Demola's house to do an assignment. In the scene, Demola got her drunk and she was raped. This is an act of carelessness. Also, she is easily influenced, seen in the way she fell victim of negative peer pressure. Ovie and Bunmi, her classmates, bring negative peer pressure to bear on her as they led her into Demola's trap. Keziah became pregnant and her educational adventure was truncated. This brought shame to her family and her father was so embarrassed and disappointed. She is also a courage character, seen in the way she boldly/confidently tells Demola to his face that she won't have any affair with him. She is considered as a remorseful person.

## DEMOLA:

Demola is a tall, dark, handsome, young man. A 200 level student of Mayflower University. He was a young man who was in love with a female student - Keziah, and was ready to do anything just to get her attention and time. Demola was the only child of his parents and they were ready to provide whatever he needed without hesitating or any question asked. Demola fell victim to peer pressure which affected him negatively, he never got his parents attention and was not able to talk to them on some certain things. Demola was liked by a senior student K.K, who influenced him and made him do some certain things that are immoral and ungodly. Demola raped Keziah and got her pregnant, he was also involved in drugs and later, he became a member of a cult group (Red Shadows) of which he eventually lost his life at an early age on one of their missions. He is seen as an inconsiderate and cruel character.

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

**Answer**

1. The published version state that keziah is fair, while she appears dark in the film version.
2. In the thirteenth movement in the book, when the Inspector and the D.P.O. were interrogating, it is clearly stated that the D.P.O. happens to be a woman, but in the movie, the D.P.O appears to be a man
3. Demola is initiated in the book, but he is already part of the peer group in the movie.
4. Ovie follows Demola to a corner to talk about the absence of keziah in class in the book but it is revealed in the movie that bunmi is also there with Demola and Ovie.
5. In the book, Stella woke up from her dream, frightened when she heard a knock on the door and it was Emmanuella who came to talk to her about God and deliver God's message to her but in the movie, she met her when she was drying her clothes.
6. In the third movement, some students came late for class in the movie, this is not written in the book.
7. Movement nine(9) was not enacted in the movie.
8. Mrs. Diran is dead in the movie but she is alive is the book.
9. Keziah's daughter is named Mouritha in the book, while in the movie, she is named Heritage Demola Diran.



10. In the book, keziah eavesdrops on her parent's discussion but this is not shown in the movie.

11. In the 12th movement, Stella assists keziah to enter her parents car and she (Stella) waves at them while they drove off according to the book, but in the movie, Stella goes in the car with them.

12. The last movement in the book - Twenty Third (23) movement was not enacted.