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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 thrust 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. THEMATIC TRUST THE DRAMA ENGAGES IN

- i. Negative peer influence
- ii. Parental neglect/indifference
- iii. Impartial judiciary
- iv. Criminal tendencies on the parts of students
- v. Sexual harassment

- i. Negative peer influence: Peer influence could either be positive or negative but this play emphasizes on the negative aspect. From the seventh movement, it is clear that K.K and Bentol were the ones who led Demola into harming Keziah. The twenty-first movement even lays more emphasis, it shows us how the initially unwilling Demola was persuaded into taking advantage of Keziah's visit. They encouraged him to rape her and even gave him the handkerchief he used to charm her. Peer pressure can be a driving force in influencing decisions and habits, especially those related to alcohol and drugs. K.K coerced Demola into taking drugs as seen in the seventh movement and he also introduced him to the cultism society. Furthermore, Keziah accepted Demola due to the pressure from Bunmi and Ovie as seen in the 5th movement.
- ii. Parental negligence/indifference: Numerous studies indicate that indifferent or neglectful parenting tends to foster higher rates of impulsivity and involvement in delinquent behavior and this is evident in this play. Engineer & Mrs. Diran failed to see to the physical and psychological well-being of Demola, they allowed their desire to secure his financial future becloud their sense of duty as parents. If they checked on him frequently, monitored his activities and took note of his challenges, it would have been difficult for K.K to lure Demola into engaging in despicable acts.
- iii. Impartial Judiciary (Justice): The world isn't always fair. Justice isn't always served—and when it is, it doesn't always look how we imagined it would. Thankfully, the judge rendered fair judgment to K.K and others irrespective of the circumstances, (particularly the situation of K.K's mother). A judge is expected to act in a fair manner towards all parties in a case appearing before them. In line with the prosecution counsel, overlooking those offences would have resulted in thousands other hooligans and law breakers in the society.
- iv. Criminal tendencies on the parts of students: One of the major themes in this play is the high tendency of criminal activities on campus. The university life presents lots of activities to students and the unfortunate ones end up falling victims of rape, anti-social vices such as cultism, use of hard drugs, etc. Spark, K.K, Bentol and few others were members of Red Shadows Confraternity of May Flower University. According

- to Stella, entering into the university gave her the desired opportunity to take her promiscuity to the next level. The tragic events that came upon the students of May Flower university highlights the dangers of anti-social vices.
- v. Sexual harassment: What's the reason for choosing sexual harassment as a theme? Sexual harassment is becoming a major social issue in the contemporary society and it brings unbearable shame and humiliation to victims & their family at large. In the sixth movement, Demola took advantage of Keziah, this resulted into pregnancy which made her father see her as a disgrace to the family for a period of time. Stella also shared her story of how she had been rushed into the world of sexual gratification. Her pastor's sons and their friends had overpowered her & raped her. She was a victim of sexual harassment.

2. DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSES

- i. Demola Diran: Demola, a tall, dark, handsome, young man was a 200 level student in the department of English of May Flower University. He was so persistent in becoming friends with a female student, Keziah that it seemed like he was stalking her, he was finally able to capture her heart by gaining her friends' trust. Demola was also a victim of inadequate parental care and monitoring, he was from a wealthy home and his parents satisfied his financial needs neglecting their other parental roles. As a result of this, Demola succumbed to the cold hands of bad influence, he was introduced to cultism and drugs. His friends led him into raping a young lady by providing him with a handkerchief which he made her sniff after getting her to his house. Demola died in a painful manner, (K.K mistakenly shot him instead of a rival cult member during their cult operation). In summary, Demola's role in this play portrays the negative effects of bad friends and parental indifference.
- ii. Keziah Richards: Keziah Richards, a female undergraduate of May Flower University starts out as a disciplined and focused student, but later falls victim of negative peer pressure. Keziah believed that she was in the university to study and be meritorious, she never wanted to give anyone the chance to distract her. Unfortunately, her course mates, Bunmi and Ovie succeeded in cajoling her into accepting Demola. Who knew that the ostensibly innocuous encounter she had with Demola would mar her? She was drugged and raped, and eventually, became pregnant. Realizing that by her actions, she had hurt her parents especially her father, she attempted suicide. Luckily, her father forgave her and Keziah's wish for going back to school was fulfilled. In spite of her baby, her transfer to the University of Ibadan was processed.
- iii. Nkanga Nwoko: Nkanga Nwoko (a.k.a K.K.) who was the only surviving child of his widowed mother was also a student of May flower University. He was a 400 level student in the department of English. He was the friend who led Demola into doing despicable things and engaging in anti-social vices. K.K became Demola's mentor,

made Demola leave hostel for town, encouraged him to rape his female course mate, Keziah, lured him into cultism and introduced him to drugs. K.K ended up killing Demola point-blank during one of their cult operations and was expelled by school authorities, sentenced to life imprisonment for the offence of manslaughter, two years imprisonment for the offence of membership of an unlawful society and a fine of a hundred thousand naira for unlawful possession of firearms, all to run concurrently.

3. POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING SODOM

Some points of divergences between the two versions of good morning Sodom include:

- In the third movement, it wasn't written in the published version that the class was interrupted by the students who came late to class as shown in the movie. Also, it was written that Demola moved in the direction of Ovie and Bunmi as they were leaving the class but in the film, he met them when they were still sitting and discussing.
- In the sixth movement, while Stella was narrating how she was raped, it was written that Stella and her father were ushered into the living room and waited for awhile before her father left but in the film her father did not step into the living room.
- According to the published version, Emmanuella knocked at Stella's door; she spoke to her in the room. While in the movie, Stella was spreading her clothes outside when Emmanuella came to visit.
- The shooting scene which was the ninth movement in the published version was omitted in the film version.
- Disc A ends in front of the health centre as Keziah's family drives out of sight with Stella in the car, but according to the published version, Stella waved the family as they drove out of sight.
- It was written in the 13th movement that three of the apprehended cultists came in with the officers and the DPO was a female but they were 4 apprehended cultists in the film and the DPO was a male.
- According to the fourteenth movement in the published, Mr and Mrs Richards were seated in the sofa before Keziah joined them but in the movie, Mrs Richards was not with them at the beginning of the conversation.
- In the sixteenth movement, the published version tells us that Keziah was in the kitchen with her mum before her dad returned, and after welcoming him, she went back to the kitchen but in the film version, no part of that scene was acted in the kitchen.
- Also, in the sixteenth movement, Mr & Mrs Richards discussed about Keziah & the baby in their bedroom, but in the film, the discussion was in the lounge and after the discussion, Mrs. Richards went to console Keziah in her bedroom but this was not written in the published version.

- In the court scene, the film version skipped some parts where the prosecution and defence counsel were addressing the court (as written in the book). Also, the judge in the film adjourned the court immediately after the punishment while he admonished the audience before adjourning the court in the published version. In addition, the part where Mrs Nkanga collapsed was not depicted in the film.
- In the nineteenth movement, (according to the published version), Engineer & Mrs Diran were in the ward, but in the movie, only Engineer Diran was present in the ward. And later on, at Engineer Diran's house, the book revealed that Mrs Diran was sobbing silently beside her husband, but in the movie, Mrs Diran had already kicked the bucket.
- The film version showed us Keziah being helped by her mum during labour while the published version did not. On the other hand, the part where she was in the labour room as stated in the published version, was omitted in the movie.
- At the end of the movie, we were told that Keziah's daughter was named Heritage Demola-Diran but in the book her name was said to be Mouritha.