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Good Morning, Sodom

By

Solomon A. Edebor

ASSIGNMENT

- 1. Attempt detailed character analysis of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor's "Good Morning, Sodom"**
- 2. Attempt an inclusive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom, underscoring at least five(5) underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.**
- 3. What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of "Good Morning Sodom"?**

CHARACTERIZATION

KEZIAH

Keziah, the only child of Dr. Aworawo and Mrs. Joke Richards, is a 200 level student of Mayflower University. She is the protagonist of the play. She is inspired and determined to become great and give back to her parents but later falls a victim of peer pressure. She is raped and becomes pregnant at an early stage of her life.

SHE IS FOCUSED

Keziah is a focused character. She understands what she is in the university for. Even though, her room mates and course mates are living a wayward life, she is influenced. She hates distraction from everyone and believes that the university is for one purpose and that is, to study and make something worthwhile out of one's life.

SHE IS HARDWORKING

Keziah is very industrious in all she does. She always goes to the library to read. She studies a lot and talks about assignments, group works, test etc. she goes for classes and prepare ahead of time. Keziah is also persistent as she obstinately refuses to be Demola's girlfriend.

SHE IS INTELLIGENT AND DISCIPLINED

Keziah is an intelligent lady as she always read and study. Her intelligence is revealed through the words of her mouth. She is also disciplined. She has set of rules guiding her life in the university and always chooses where to go and whom to walk with.

SHE IS CARELESS

Keziah let down her guard by going to Demola's room without taking anybody along with her. She is not concerned or worried about going to a male's room alone. She did not give sufficient attention or thought to her action, especially about the avoidance of harm, harassment and particularly, rape which she eventually falls victim of. Her action leads her to becoming a single mother. All these happen because of her carelessness.

STELLA

Stella is one of the characters in the play, “Good Morning Sodom”. She is Keziah’s roommate and also, a victim a gang rape. This ugly incident happened when she was fourteen (14) by her pastor’s children and their two friends. She hates God after this occurrence but reconciles with her maker after having two bad dreams.

SHE IS CARING AND KIND

Stella is a very caring lady. She takes care of *Keziah* and gives her good advices. She also consoles her (keziah) when raped by *Demola* and takes good care of her while in the hospital. She allows her to recover before leaving her into the hands of her parents.

SHE IS WISE AND MATURED IN CHARACTER

Stella is a wise lady. Her wisdom is portrayed in the situation where she uses her own experience to calm keziah down after what happened to her (keziah). She waits for the proper time to tell Keziah’s parent about the incident. She takes keziah to the hospital and gets her admitted before putting a call across to her parent and does not leave her side until she recovers.

SHE IS RELIGIOUS

Stella loved the lord when she is young and had the zeal about the things of God but later blamed and hated him with all her heart for allowing four boys rape her. However, after having two bad dreams that looks similar, she knows that God is pointing her attention to something. She later gives her life to Jesus Christ and becomes a fervent Christian.

ENGINEER DIRAN

Engineer Diran is a minor character in the play. He is the husband of Mrs. Diran, Demola’s mother. He meets K.K, Demola’s friend and adviser to see him and there, he gets to know the story of Demola’s life at school and how he died. Engineer Diran blames himself for demola’s death after hearing the story but later accepts Keziah’s baby as Demola’s last legacy.

HE IS IRRESPONSIBLE, UNCARING, NON SENSITIVE AND UNEMPATHETIC

Engineer Diran did not pay close attention to his son. He is not sensitive to the extent that, he does not if his son is lying or being truthful. He is not caring, as he does not ask for his son’s welfare, even in the university but always busy. He does not show any concern or take the responsibility for his children’s wellbeing both physically and psychologically. He never bothers to check on Demola, to know how he is doing in school and what his challenges were. All he thinks of is how to secure his son’s financial future, which he is unachieved in the play.

FIVE UNDERLYING THEMES IN THE PLAY

1. Lack of parental care and surveillance
2. Negative peer pressure
3. Moral decadence
4. Negligence/ insensitivity
5. Reward for behavior

1. LACK OF PARENTAL CARE AND SURVEILLANCE

Demola's parents did not really bother about demola while he was in school. They believe that once a child has every material thing he/she wants, there is no need to start asking about such person's welfare. Engineer Diran and his wife were so busy, focusing only on their jobs and forsaking their primary assignment, thereby, leaving Demola into wrong hands. They failed to advise him on what to do and what not to do when in the university and this led to demola, having bad friends, taking drugs and joining a cult group in the university. Demola's parent failed to monitor their child's movement and that led to his death. They are so insensitive to the extent that they don't know that their son was living off campus. Their lack of care for their son led to find solace somewhere else.

2. NEGATIVE PEER INFLUNCE

In the play, "Good Morning Sodom", the theme of negative peer pressure is so dominant. Keziah is a victim of peer pressure, likewise Demola. Demola fell into the hand of bad friends, who influenced him to take drugs and also initiated him into a secret cult. They also encourage him to rape a girl, which he had feelings for.

The saying, "show me your friend and I will tell you who you are", pictures Keziah's relationship with her friends. She was influenced to have a relationship with Demola, which later results in rape.

3. MORAL DECADENCE

Students no longer go to the university to learn but to enjoy their freedom from home. Many immoral act starts in the university before it spreads to the society. In the play, Demola was introduced into a secret cult, which eventually ends his life. In our universities today, there are numerous secret cults that aim at harming anyone that comes their way. Students now join bad gangs in order to feel high in school or for revenge, which is actually bad. Students lose their

morality on getting to school, by engaging in all sort of nonsense, living a bad lifestyle as we see in the life of Keziah's roommates.

4. NEGLIGENCE/INSENSITIVITY

Keziah was so careless to have gone into a guy's room alone. She did not see a big deal in it so; she did not take any of her friends along with her. Her reckless behavior eventually led to an unexpected pregnancy that changed her life.

Stella's father was so careless. He left his daughter in the hands of his pastor's children, forgetting that, it is not right for the opposite sex to stay alone. Stella was also not sensitive enough to have followed two boys into someone else's room. She failed to realize that she is the only female among four males so as to her exercise a standard of care.

5. LOVE

Mrs. Richards showed her daughter love in season and out of season. She always brought her provisions even in the campus. Her love towards her child was also seen during Keziah's trying time. Unlike her husband, she was there for her daughter, took very good care of her till she fully got back on track.

Stella also showed a lot of love to keziah, while in school and also at the hospital. She loved her to the extent that she consoled keziah, who has insulted her because of Demola and stood with her in the hospital until she recovered fully. A kind of love is seen between Demola and Keziah, even though, it did not last long.

The points of divergence between the written and film version of the play, “Good Morning, Sodom”

The play, “Good Morning Sodom”, is a one in which issues of students' life in universities were revealed. There is a published book on it and also a film version of this same play, produced for all, in order to fully understand what the published book is all about. Our focus is on the points of divergence between the written and film version of this play.

In the second movement of the written play, the narration did not fully explain or reveal the location of keziah and demola when he opens up unto her. Truly, the book states that they were heading for the library but did not tell us whether they truly entered into the library or the whole conversation between the two was done on their way. On the contrary, the film version showed us that, at a point they entered into the library and that was when demola opened up to keziah.

Another point of divergence can be seen between the third movement of the written version and the third scene of the film version. Mr. Yusuf, who is the literature lecturer, sent two students who came late for his class, out, in the film version but in the published book, no students came late for his class. He also asked if there was any question in the film but was not written in the book.

According to the written version, Demola, after taking a long sip out of his drink, took a mouthful of rice and then addressed Keziah but this is not so in the film. Demola only took a short sip out of his drink and did not take a mouthful of rice as he only bought a drink.

Four young men were seen, in the written version, bringing our clothes from a house, according to a man's command and later set the clothes on fire while in the film version; only a man was seen bringing out clothes from a house according to a man's command and later sets the clothes on fire. Also, a man dressed in khaki shirt and short with a cap spoke with Stella while trying to drown herself in the book. Contrary to this, the man who spoke to Stella while she was in the act of drowning herself, was dressed in Ankara, with no cap on his head but only a stick in his hand.

After Stella had the first dream, in the written version, she was visited in her room by Emmanuella, who came to preach the gospel of Christ to her but in the film version, Stella was seen packing her clothes from the line outside before Emmanuella came and started preaching God's word.

In the eight movement of the written book, the song being sung at the cultists' gathering differs from that which was sung in the film version. Demola was already a member of one of the secret cults in the university but in the written version, Demola was being initiated into a secret cult. Also, the calabash according to the published book was stained with blood while that of the film was not stained with blood.

Again, gunshots were not heard from different directions in the film version as contrary to the written version. Only Demola's dead body was found with a group of students surrounding it in the film.

Movement thirteen of the written version of the play, "Good Morning Sodom", reveals the D.P.O. to be a woman while a male acted the role of the D.P.O. in the film version.

Also, in the sixteenth movement of the published book, keziah was seen moving away from the door to her parent's bedroom, weeping copiously and heading for her room but in the film version, keziah was only shown lying on her bed, weeping. Mrs. Richards was seen consoling her child in the film but this was not so in the written version.

A more detailed account of what was said by the prosecution and the defense council was known in the written version of the play rather than the film version whereby everything was summarized. Some events that also took place in the court were skipped in the film version.

Events like, 'when Mrs. Nkanga collapsed,' 'when the court turned into a very rowdy atmosphere,' 'when K.K. and others were being led away amidst tight security'.

Dr. Richards, in the film version, while talking to someone on the phone, told him or her that he should be in Abuja in the next one hour, fifteen minutes while only one hour was mention in the written version. When Dr. Richards got home, and having read through his daughter's letter, according to the film version, found her lifeless body on his way to her room. In contrast to this, he went to her room and found there her lifeless body, according to the written version.

In the film version of the play, Diran's mom was not shown as her husband made us realize that she was dead but in the written version, she was alive and even followed her husband on his visit to the prison were K.K was.

The last movement of the published book which is the twenty third movement, was not revealed in the film version.

In conclusion, there are still some words that were used in the written version but not in the film version. In my own opinion, it would be better if students not only read the published book of this play but also take time to watch this amazing and edifying film version of "Good Morning, Sodom" for better understanding and comprehension.