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MATRIC NUMBER 22/LAW01/047

COURSE CODE COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH (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.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAY

Good morning, Sodom by Solomon A. Edebor is a play which is centered on Keziah the daughter of Dr & Mrs Aworawo Richards. Keziah is only child of Mr & Mrs Richards and is determined to make good grades for herself in the university.

The play begins with Keziah's mother coming to visit Keziah on campus alongside with her driver Olumide. She brings provisions for Keziah and asks her about her wellbeing. Keziah's mother soon leaves and Keziah stumbled upon Demola who is in love with her (Keziah). Demola is relentless as he continues to pester Keziah in order to persuade her into a relationship with him. Keziah was offered some advice from both Ovie and Bunmi who feels that Keziah should give Demola a chance on the grounds that he is not bad and may not be like other guys and most importantly he is intelligent. Keziah still does not give heed to what they were saying and decides to change the topic to the matters of their ENG 205 assignment.

One afternoon Keziah visits Demola in his room (off campus) for help in an assignment. Demola sought to get a drink for his visitor he remembers about a drink that was in his fridge and quickly offered it to Keziah after couple of sips she suddenly feels dizzy and falls asleep. She soon wakes up and finds herself beside Demola who is fast asleep it then dawned on her that he had slept with her. She was disappointed and wept bitterly. Stella was there to comfort her, Stella tells her a story of her life when she was raped by four (4) at the young age of fourteen boys two (2) of which were her pastor's sons.

Demola tries apologizing to Keziah under the umbrella that his actions were not intentional but Keziah would not even give him a listening ear obviously after what he had done, he should not be expecting her forgiveness. Demola goes to meet K.K the masterminded behind all Demola's deviant behaviours to express disappointment in himself after what he had done to Keziah "I can't forgive myself" he reasoned. K.K gives a white substance according to him it is meant to banish his guilt. After Demola took the substance, it soon started to take an effect on him. Demola was led

to the red shadows (a cult group), he was initiated by spark the head of the cult group.

At the main gate of the university, gunshot was heard and immediately, Demola fell lifeless to the ground. Soaked in a pool of blood there was a crowd around him stella was there and so she quickly called Keziah to come and see for herself as soon as she arrived, on seeing Demola dead, she feint and was rushed to the hospital. Stella quickly called her parent who came and took her home after she was discharged. Some days later, her dad called for her and showed her a letter to read it was a pregnancy confirmation letter (she was 9 weeks pregnant) she was made to confess who was responsible for her pregnancy and she told them that it was for Demola. Disappointed them was left to console themselves.

A court case was held for the apprehended cultists and judgement were passed based on the gravity of offenses committed. Meanwhile, Dr. Richards was on his way to Abuja when he received a call and found out that he has to get an important document so he had to go back and get it. On arriving at home he noticed that Keziah was not around he soon sees a letter on the table after reading the letter, he quickly rushed and to get his dying daughter he rushed her to the hospital and luckily she was saved. When Keziah was discharged, he took her and her mother home and apologised to Keziah for treating her that way the family soon became happy and one. After a while, Keziah gave birth to a girl and thing became all the more better.

THEMATIC THRUSTS ENGAGED IN THE PLAY

1. Peer pressure :(Influence)

The theme of peer pressure is depicted in the case of Demola and K.K. All Demola's actions were masterminded by K.K. K.K asked him to lie to his parents so that he could get a room off campus, he made him drugged Keziah and rape her, he introduced him to harmful substance to inhale according to them it was meant to banish their sorrows, K.K introduced Demola to the red devils (a cult group) and K.K shot Demola 'mistakenly' during their cult operation. There was an atom of peer pressure on the part of Keziah by Ovie and Bunmi who asked Keziah to give Demola a chance in Keziah's life.

2. Sexual Assault: (Rape)

The theme of sexual assault effaced in the play in the sixth movement when Keziah went to Demola's room to get to understand more about her work. Demola gave her a drugged drink in order to take advantage of her. She fell dizzy and slept off only to wake up and realize that Demola had already slept with her. There was nothing she could do about this happening as it had already taken place. Sexual assault (rape) was also prominent in the case of stella

when she was fourteen years and was raped by four boy who had her in turns (two of which were her pastor's sons).

3. Betrayal: (Disappointment)

The theme of betrayal/disappointment was also prominent in the play good morning, Sodom. It first surfaced when Demola had his way with Keziah. Keziah was disappointed in him. He was like still under consideration on whether she should accept him or not and he had his way with her. It further extended it hands to Mr. Richards who went to the extreme end of disowning his daughter and treated her like trash. Obviously she had brought shame to the family

Poor Parenting/ negligence: This theme mostly centres on Demola's parents, Engineer & Mrs. Diran. This is due to the fact that Demola's parents did not put an effort to understand their son and check up on how he was faring, even where he stayed in the school. This theme also stretches its hands to the parents of the other cultist. This theme also centres on Keziah's father, Mr. Richards who disowned her because of her pregnancy and which made her almost commit suicide. Keziah's father failed to understand that she was going through traumatic experiences but all he cared about was the shame she would bring to the family.

- A. Lust: This theme centres on Demola as it is obvious that he was not actually in love with Keziah but rather lusting over her. If he was actually in true love with Keziah, he wouldn't give in to the pressure of sleeping with her. Not only did he not sleep with her but he drugged her in order to do the act. He proved Keziah right when her friends advised her to befriend Demola because of the way it seemed like he loved her due to the disturbances and approaches he made, telling them that the only thing these men are after is what is in between your legs. So, Demola fulfilled the theme of lust in the play.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS/CHARACTERIZATION

1. Keziah Richards: Keziah Richards the protagonist of the play is an undergraduate, fair skinned and medium in height. She is the daughter of Dr & Mrs. Richards. Keziah being the only child was brought up rightly and treated with utter care. She is a hardworking and studious girl who wanted the best for herself and good grades hence, stayed away from distractions of any sort. She is constantly disturbed by Demola who 'loved' her and wanted to be in a relationship with her but equally rejected his offers because she didn't want anything to take away her time and mind from her studies. As the play evolved it is seen that she later gave in to Demola who drugged her and slept with her following the fact that she came to study in his room. Keziah is soon to become a mother to be as Demola, the father to be is shot in a rival fight between his cult group and another. Keziah is treated with negligence and soon disowned by

her father who was angry at her for her pregnancy. This soon leads to her attempt of suicide as she is rescued just in time. She soon reunites with her family as she gives birth to a baby girl.

2. Diran Demola: Demola is the antagonist of the play. He is an intelligent undergraduate and the course mates of Keziah, Ovie and Bunmi. He was weighed down by peer pressure as his actions in the play can be testified. He was madly in love with Keziah as he disturbed her countless of times for her love and to be in a relationship with him, though he was rejected countlessly he didn't mind going for another chance until she finally gave in which he took advantage of. He drugged her and slept with her in his room when he invited her over for a study. He is hated by Keziah which makes him regret his actions of sleeping with her. He is now then initiated into a cultist group (Red Shadows) which leads to his demise as he is shot unintentionally by his teammate K.K in a clash between their rival. He is also the father to Keziah's child.
3. Stella: Stella is the roommate, friend and course mate to Keziah. She accompanied and comforted Keziah when she was sexually abused by Demola. She too was a victim of rape as she tells her story to Keziah. it was when she was fourteen, she was told to live with her pastor's two sons because the pastor's wife was involved in an accident, which made the elders of the church (her father) and the pastor to go visit her. To feel at home, she went to watch musicals with them as Daniel one of the pastor's sons tricked her into coming to their father's room where she was overpowered by the two of them and two other boys. Stella also took Keziah to the hospital because she fainted at the dead scene of Demola, she also called her parents. Throughout the novel Stella was more supportive of Keziah than any of her friends.