

NWOKO, UBONG - JESUS UWEMEDIMO

22/LAW01/163

Afe 122

Use of English

ASSIGNMENT

1. Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.

Answer

Solomon Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom is a play that is based on exposing some of the events that goes on in the lives of the youths. It is a play that intends to alert the public about the possible dangers our youths face in the environment of a university. The play centers around two main characters in the play, Keziah Richards and Demola Diran. Keziah is a serious, diligent and hardworking young woman, who turns down the friendship of a course mate, Demola. She later accepts to be his friend due to the pressure from her friends. Her life is later ruined by this new birth of a friendship between her and Demola, when he also allows the pressure from his own friends to turn him into a rapist and ends up impregnating Keziah. Demola later dies as a result of bad influence to get involve in cultists affairs, which leaves Keziah alone to carry on the burden of taking care of a child as a single mum, with assist from both her parents and Demola's parents. The play portrays different themes that capture the ideas of situations that goes on in our society around us. Some of the themes are; theme of parental negligence, theme of negative peer pressure, theme of rape, theme of cultism, and theme of injustice. Each of these themes will be discussed in my following paragraphs.

The theme of parental negligence is a major theme in the play as it portrays the way the improper parenting of a child can also be the cause of his or her downfall. The readers can see this in the way Demola's parent provide him everything he needs, but they fail to properly train their child against bad activities and negative peer pressure. This mistake of his parents not only causes him his own life, but also causes him to destroy the life of a hardworking and diligent girl, whose path would have been a bright one at first, if not for the pregnancy that destroyed her life. This particular theme is also portrayed through the way Keziah's parents, especially her dad decides to blame her for the rape situation that happens to her, instead of consoling her and hoping her mental health will be okay post the rape situation. The idea the author shows through this theme is that parents should pay more attention to what goes on in the lives of their children and also be there to counsel them on the "dos" and "don'ts" of living in a university environment. They should also learn to be very cautious of their children's mental health, because just like in the play, it is very possible for those rape victims to commit suicide.

Another major theme in the play is theme of negative peer pressure. Theme of negative peer pressure is another major theme in the play because of the way one can see that it is the pressure of friends that also causes the downfall of Keziah and Demola. When Keziah consistently continues to reject Demola, she is later convinced by her friends, Ovie and Bunmi, to give him a chance which Demola takes for granted. Demola allowing himself to be influenced by peer pressure ruins his chance of being a good friend to Keziah, when he drugs her and uses the chance to rape her. This change of character in Demola becomes shocking to the readers because of the way Demola changes from an innocent boy in the play to one who becomes guilty of almost all the crimes committed in

the play. This particular event not only shows Demola's lack of good parenting, but also the lack to make a good choice for himself. Due to peer pressure, he is killed in the midst of a cult war, by one of his so-called friends. One can see through the different movements in the play that the influence of friends can also cause one's downfall. This is to show that parents and the public should pay more attention to who their children keep friends with. After all there is a saying that goes, "show me your friend, and I will show you who you are". This statement simply means that youths of these days should be extra careful of who they call their friends, as one cannot easily stop themselves from being influenced by friends. This means it is at least far much better to get positively influenced by friends. This is exactly what the author portrays in his play, Good Morning, Sodom.

Furthermore, one can also see the theme of rape as another major theme in the play. Rape has become a very frequent act nowadays, especially among the men, making some women victims of this ungodly act. And though various cases keep being reported, it is still taken lightly in our society. Most girls do not always end up getting the justice they need, to recover from the situation. This is what the author shows in his play, Good Morning, Sodom, through the characters of Keziah and Stella. Keziah and Stella are roommates who have both suffered from the case of rape. In the case of Stella's own, she explains to Keziah about her own rape situation that happened when she was a child. She explains that though the case was taken to court, it was later dropped by her parents as they decided to move to another area, hoping it could give her a peace of mind. But it backfired, as she started to do all kinds of immoral things, until the day God visited her and she repented. She used her story as a way to tell Keziah to try her best to make her own rape situation not to make her to do

immoral things that will also ruin her life. Most female rape victims sometimes are shunned by society as if they are the ones that caused it for themselves. This is exactly what happens to Keziah when her own parents blame her for opening her thighs for different boys, believing their own daughter to be a prostitute, without trying to believe her that she was raped. This act of her parents shows the reason why most rape victims decide to remain quiet after they have been raped, because they are forced to believe that they will be shunned by society, or worse their family members. Through the way the victims of rape are treated in the play, it portrays to one the way most people in society decide to take rape as a small crime, but meanwhile when it comes to the act of dignity and moral act, it could be possibly seen as one of the worse acts to do. This is because when one is raped, it is not only their virginity or confidence that is taken away, but also their purity and dignity. The author uses the idea of rape in the play to preach that society should take the act of rape more seriously and make sure to show love and support to the poor victims of this act. It is because of this one can see it as a major theme in the play.

The theme of injustice is also another major theme in the play. There is a lot of unfair treatment that goes on in the play. The author uses some of his characters to portray the way some victims of the bad things of society, do not get the justice they need to feel better. The readers can see this act of injustice in characters like Keziah, Stella and Demola, especially when it comes to the lives of Keziah and Stella. Keziah and Stella are victims of rape in the play, Good Morning, Sodom. They do not get the complete justice they need their rapist to feel. On Stella's part, the four boys later get release after her parents were convinced to drop the case, which does not serve justice for Stella. On Keziah's part, the boy that rapes her dies,

but to some of the readers, it might seem that Demola did not get his own full punishment too, because not long after the incident occurs, he dies. This his immediate death after the rape situation does not allow him to feel much of the shame first so he could also suffer the same criticism as she was going through. Due to this, it shows that Keziah did not also get her full justice too. As for Demola, though he is a turned innocent boy to criminal in the play, he also seems not to be justified when he is painted as someone who is bad throughout his life, but meanwhile was just affected by the pressure group he got involved him.

Another major theme in the play is theme of cultism. Most of our youths of today are getting exposed to the initiations, actions, processes and dangers of cultism in our Nigerian society, most especially the university side. This is exactly what the author portrays in his play, Good Morning, Sodom. In the eight movement, when Demola and two other blindfolded students are brought to a circle of boys with red t-shirt and beret, they are seen to be initiated into the cult. This particular event portrays the initiation that most new university students go through when they are newly accepted into the school. The author uses this to preach about the kind of things to the public to help their children be aware of the dangers of university. It is not advisable for anyone to join a cult or practice cultism as one can see a tragic event that befalls a student of Mayflower university. Demola one of the three students that were initiated into the cult was caught up in the fight between the rival cults and lost his life (tenth movement). Cultism never ends well for anyone involved in it. Not only does unnecessary loss of lives occur but also, shame to family relatives as was the case of Nkanga Nwoko(kk) when he was facing his judgement in the seventeenth movement. The

unfortunate events that take place shows the dangers of cultism and everyone knows what it could cause.

In conclusion, all these major themes in the play, Good Morning, Sodom, are ways the author used to alert the public, of the possible affairs university student could get themselves into. He uses them as a way to let the parents to start paying attention to the lives of their children more.

2. Attempt detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom.

Answer

Stella

Stella is a student of Mayflower university and one of the roommates of Keziah. She is one of the rape victims portrayed in this story. She gets raped at the age of fourteen by four boys, when she is left alone with two of her pastor's son because of an emergency that led to Stella's parents leaving her alone with the boys innocently, not knowing what the boys were capable of. Stella in this play, is a rape victim that went through a hard time but got out of it and was even able to sympathize with Keziah after she was raped too. She represents real life victims of rape and what they go through, the neglect they feel and hardened "monsters" they become. But also, she is proof that a rape victim does not have to stay in their pain as they come out of it. She shows that is possible with God's help even when she has allowed her pain to take her deep in sin, but she later repents due to a visit by God.

Demola

Demola Diran is also a student of Mayflower university whose father is an engineer. He is a 200-level student in the department of English. Demola, in this play, is someone that came from a rich home and this is one of the reasons that Nkanga Nwoko A.K.A “Kk”, who is a 400-level student in the same department gets closer to him. He is influenced into doing so much terrible things. He lied to his parents that the campus could not accommodate all students making his parents to get a place for him outside the campus. He was also introduced to drugs and even joining a cult. After much pressure, he was encouraged to rape a female student named Keziah. All these influences led him to his accidental death as a cult member of the Red Shadows. Demola is a character in the play, that shows the extent of the damage that can be caused when surrounded with bad friends and questionable parental upbringing. His parents desire to make sure that he does not end up poor was not a bad idea, but they sidelined other responsibilities they had over him like love and care and even the smallest details about their son. All these things made him get answers not from his parents, but from people closer to him (his peers). He is a lesson to be learned from parents, children and even students.

Keziah

Keziah is one of the two main characters in Dr. Solomon Edebor’s play Good Morning, Sodom, by which envelopes the effects of anti-social vices on an innocent individual in the university setting. Keziah Richards is a very studious and hardworking girl, towards her studies as seen in the early Movements of the play. She is held in high regard by both her parents and her friends. She is admired by the character, Demola, who was one of her course mates. But she knew he was a distraction, so she never gave in to him. After bad advises

from her course mate to give the boy a chance, and a push from the boy, himself, she finally let her guard down and allows him to be her friend. Keziah being friends with Demola never had any immoral intentions with him, but little did she know that Demola had contrasting intentions for her. After they become friends, she goes to his house for a help with an assignment, as they continue to talk, Demola drugs her and takes advantage of her. This particular event in Keziah's life destroys her life as she later finds out that she is pregnant after she collapses in front of the place, where Demola's dead body is found. Keziah falls into depression because of this situation and her father that disliked her due to the fact she is pregnant. This depression pushes her to the extent of suicide. She attempts the suicide when both of her parents are out of the house, which she would have been successful in doing, if not her dad came back on time to rush her to the hospital. She is taken care of, and her unborn baby survives. Keziah and her family reunite after they return from the hospital. Not long after, Keziah gives birth to a girl named "Mouritha". The family of Demola soon visit her and agree to take full responsibility of their dead son. She also receives a surprising letter of admission from her father, who promises to pay for her accommodation and everything she will need. One can see the adverse effects of peer pressure and the experiences of a rape victim as she is seen as a triumphant character that arises from her problems that causes her to stumble on her new journey of life as she gets a second opportunity to get the degree and good result she hopes for.

3. What are the points of divergence between the published and the film version of Good Morning, Sodom?

Answer

The Movie "Good Morning, Sodom" written and directed by Dr Edebor Solomon, is indeed a masterpiece as well as the play, appealing to the optical senses and hearts of the audience on the life within the four walls of the university and the social vices present in the tertiary institutions of today. While most of the lines and scenes were mirrored exactly as the play, there was creativity in the movie as there were distinct characteristics and situations that took place in the movie to further increase the interest of the audience.

In the movie, the lecturer sent the late students out of the class for their Tardiness, and asked if the class has any questions at the end of the lecture which didn't occur in the play but gave us the sense of discipline and order in the class room. As for Keziah's and Demola's discussion in the cafeteria, their lines were a bit different and Demola wasn't eating rather he bought a drink to spike a conversation with her.

In Stella's recount of her rape, she excluded the fact that she was unconscious and woke up in the hospital. There was also visual inconsistencies line with the play as there was additional lines taken so as encompass the creativity of the director. Also, in the scene of Stella's dream, the man who stopped her wasn't dressed in a Khaki and cap, rather a traditional attire. Also, rather than her rising from the bed at the end of her dream, we see her in the next scene drying clothes outside before Emmanuella came to meet her

The remaining part of Zumaira and Nonso was cut out when they were commenting on the expulsion of Demola

The kitchen scene was cut out to encompass the dialogue of Mr. and Mrs. Richards about the next step to take, regarding Keziah's pregnancy, of which he recommends the suggestion of abortion so as to reduce the shame on Himself and his family.

There is a plus scene of Keziah crying on her bed (after hearing her parents discussion) and her mother coming to console her regarding her father's maltreatment on the grounds of her being pregnant.

In the movie, the court case is skipped to the end, when the judge is pronouncing the judgement unlike in the play where there was a detailed court session.

Also unlike in the play where both Engineer Diran and his wife went to see K.K in Prison, only Engineer Diran was present to hear K.K plead for forgiveness as his wife had died in the movie. It can be said although it was an interesting movie, it would seem that it was rushed and skipped some minor scenes like where we would see Keziah's daughter and how her dad breaks the news of an admission into University of Ibadan.

Regardless of whatever adjustments were made in the movie adaptation, the relevance of "Good Morning, Sodom" by Dr Edebor Solomon remains the same and even increases with the movie. It is a very impactful piece that has taught life lessons to all and serves as an inspiration to the youths.