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MUNIRAT  
22/ENG03/003  
CIVIL ENGINEERING  
AFE 122(Use of English)**

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

Good Morning, Sodom is an intriguing play which gives an insight into the current situation in universities. It draws attention to the common destructive acts often engaged in by students, resulting in the deaths of people and dreams. The play focuses on the moral decadence in our today's society.

It's obvious that the playwright, Solomon A. Edebor wrote this play to teach lessons and curb the atrocities on our campuses.

Good Morning, Sodom tells the story of Keziah, a female undergraduate in Mayflower University, who was unfortunately, a victim of sexual assault. This terrible act was performed by Demola, her course mate. The book gives us the idea that he didn't intend to, but he was influenced by bad friends. Demola joined a cult group, and was killed eventually, leaving his parents to blame themselves for not raising him in a proper manner. Through the disappointment she faced from her parents, and rejection she faced primarily from her father, Keziah birthed Mouritha, Demola's child.

There a quite a number of thematic thrusts this drama engages, some of which include:

- Sexual Assault
- Cultism
- Negative Peer Influence
- Lack of parental care
- Drug abuse
- Unwanted Pregnancy
- Justice

## **Sexual Assault**

Sexual assault is an act in which one intentionally sexually touches another person without that person's consent, or coerces or physically forces a person to engage in sexual acts against their will. Sexual assaults are becoming very rampant in today's society.

In sixth movement of the book, we are made to realize that Keziah went off campus to visit Demola. Apparently, the naïve girl went there so he could solve a question for her. She drank a pack of juice he offered to her. Unknowingly to her, he had drugged the juice. She woke up confused after feeling tipsy. She eventually realized Demola had defiled her. He slept with her without her consent. She left his room hurt.

A lesson from here is that students; especially girls should avoid going too close to the opposite gender. There should be some limits. Keziah was stupid enough to go into Demola's room, and to even drink a juice he himself didn't drink.

## **Cultism**

Cultism can be defined as a ritual practice by a group of people whose membership, initiation, policies, and activities are done secretly. Cultists often engage in illegal activities which cause harm to themselves and their families.

Movement eight of the play describes a scene involving the activities of a cult group-Red shadows. There was an initiation of new members into the group, one of them being Demola. It was quite obvious this cult group was dangerous: the new members drank blood, their slogan was "*untouchable; untamable; unmerciful*", and they planned to seek vengeance on those who killed their dead members.

The Red shadows were involved in a dangerous fight with unidentified rival cult groups. Sadly, Demola was shot dead.

Cultism has many negative consequences, which include expulsion, murder, violence and moral decadence.

### **Negative Peer Influence**

Negative peer pressure involves the influence that sways people toward risky activity such as criminal behavior, underage drinking, drug use, and an overall unhealthy lifestyle.

From the whole story, one could conclude that Demola was influenced negatively by his friends, especially K.K. and Bentol. K.K. encouraged him to lie to his parents, and leave the hostel for town. He also introduced him into hard drugs. K.K. was the brain behind the Keziah's rape. We could also depict that they implored him to join the cult group, of which a member killed him accidentally.

We should always watch the friends we keep, as they have a powerful impact in our lives.

### **Lack Of Parental Care**

Parental care is important. Parents are expected to take care of their children, and see to their financial, educational, social, emotional and material needs.

This was not the case with Demola's parents. It took them understanding of the causes of his death to realize they didn't show total parental care to him. They only showed financial care and abandoned other aspects as they continued with their busy lives. They never bothered to check on Demola, to know how he was doing in school and what his challenges were. This was how K.K. was able to get in, and influence Demola on their behalf. He persuaded him to engage in different despicable acts, lured him into cultism, and shot him point-blank afterwards.

## **Drug Abuse**

From the play, we could see that the use of hard drugs was prominent among K.K. and the other cultists. K.K. lured Demola into taking drugs. We could see that in the seventh movement of the play, He suggested the drugs when Demola felt guilty, after defiling Keziah. At first, Demola was hesitant, but he gave in eventually. K.K. told him he needed to ‘banish his sorrow and guilt’, and he needed something to make him feel high.

Its dangerous for students to abuse the use of drugs. It has so many consequences which include: aggressiveness, hallucinations, addiction, impaired judgement, and loss of self-control.

## **Unwanted Pregnancy**

Unluckily for Keziah, the rape led to a pregnancy, which was only discovered after she slumped and was rushed to the hospital. The disappointment her parents had tells us they trained her well enough, and they didn’t expect that of her. She explained herself that she was raped, but her father wouldn’t just hear of it. He rejected her, saying she brought shame and disgrace to the family. He had frequent quarrels with his wife on the matter, and even suggested an abortion, which was against his normal ethical principles.

## **Justice**

Movement seventeen describes the court scene, where the cases of the cultists were brought before a judge. Though the defence counsel tried to plead with the judge to temper justice with mercy, and to consider K.K.’s grief-stricken mother(K.K. was the only surviving child of his widowed mother, who struggled to survive), the prosecuting counsel maintained that it was a court of law, not a religious gathering, and that sympathy

must not becloud their sense of judgement. Whoever sins should be punished to serve as a deterrent to others.

The judge concluded with a legal system saying, ‘*Fiat Justitia ruat caelum*’, which means, “*Let justice be done though the heavens fall.*”

The play shows that no matter what, people are to be treated impartially, fairly, properly and reasonable by the law.

2) *Attempt detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom.*

### **KEZIAH RICHARDS**

This play revolves around Keziah, a female undergraduate in Mayflower university. The protagonist was described to be a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady. Her parents were Dr Aworawo Richards and Mrs. Joke Richards.

The play tells us she was a strict serious-minded student, who never had time for boys because she had the belief that all boys wanted was the thing between her legs. She had strong beliefs and opinions about people.

Demola, a course mate of hers kept on pestering her for a relationship. She didn’t budge at first, but after a while he succumbed to the pressure from Demola himself, and her other course mates: Ovie and Bunmi. At his house outside campus, she drank a pack of juice. Unknowing to her, it was drugged, and she felt light in the head for some time. We can see this in the sixth movement of the book, page 30. She woke up devastated as she realized Demola had defiled her. Stella, a good roommate of hers comforted her and told Keziah her own story of how she was raped.

A lesson here is, people have to be conscious and smart, especially when you are in a new environment. Keziah could have been smarter enough than to drink from a pack of Juice Demola didn't drink.

It was after Keziah fainted after seeing Demola in his own pool of blood that her parents got to know she was pregnant. They were very disappointed in her, especially her father who believed she had brought shame and humiliation to the family. He even suggested she aborted the pregnancy.

During a visit to Demola's parents', she got to know Demola not only drugged her, but also charmed her, with an handkerchief he used to wipe her face.

Her story ends in a good note. After her birth, her father helped to secure her admission back into school. She was to stay off campus, with a maid to help with her baby. She was tearful and happy on hearing this.

Keziah was lucky enough to still get into school after an unwanted pregnancy. While this happens a few times in the real world, its not something to be counted on. Its better to finish one's education without disruptions.

## **DEMOLA**

The play describes Demola as a tall, dark, intelligent and handsome young man. He is the antagonist of this play. Demola was noticeably from a rich home; the story tells us his parents were wealthy.

According to the play, he was very interested in Keziah, and he didn't give up. He pestered her till she agreed to come over to his house for the explanation of an assignment (though under the influence of his friend, K.K.) It was at his house he drugged, charmed and impregnated her. From the play we could suggest he was quite sorrowful and he felt guilty of his act.

We were made to realize he was a product of fairly irresponsible and busy parents, who didn't care about his wellbeing. This caused K.K, a bad boy to take their place, advise him and lure him into drug abuse, rape, cultism, and lying to his parents.

It was during a fight with a rival cult group that Demola lost his life. He was shot accidentally, by K.K.

The death of Demola shows us how much impact friends can have in our lives, so we're to be careful of who we move with.

### **MRS JOKE RICHARDS**

Mrs. Joke Richards was Keziah's mother. The play depicts her as a good, responsible mother, who cared about the wellbeing of her daughter, one can infer this right from the beginning of the play, where she went to visit her daughter. The playwright described her as 'imposing'.

Even after she discovered her daughter was pregnant, she didn't feel annoyed with her for too long. After a while, she embraced her and continued caring for her.

When her husband treated Keziah's with disdain and disgust, she still tried to calm him down. She reminded him she's still their daughter, and not a piece of rag. We can see this in the sixteenth movement, page 55. She continuously tried to remove the idea of abortion from her husband's mind. She showed uttermost concern even when Keziah tried to commit suicide.

When Keziah regained an admission after she was eventually delivered of the baby, she offered to send her maid- Chinenye to help take care of the baby.

The character was a good mother. She still loved Keziah, regardless of all that occurred. People make mistakes, and we shouldn't give up on them.



3) *What are the points of divergence between the written and the film version of the book?*

There are quite a number of divergent points between the film and written version of the book.

In the third movement of the play, the film version showed us two late comers who doctor Yusuf asked to get out of his class. The book doesn't inform us of any late comers.

In movement 6 of the book, when Stella shared her sexual assault story with Keziah, we were told that Emmanuella, who came to preach to her visited her room. In the movie, Emmanuella approached and spoke to her outside, as she packed her clothes from the line.

The cult scene in movement eight of the book gave us the impression that Demola was one of three newly initiated cult members. The film depicts the initiation ceremony of two new cult members, with Demola already a member.

The twelfth movement informs us that Keziah was led into the family car after her discharge from the hospital by both her parents and stella. The film version showed that it was only her mother and stella that led her to the car. The film also tells us that stella entered the car, and she didn't wave or embrace stella as the book says.

The thirteenth movement of the book made us realize the D.P.O is a female. The film depicts the D.P.O as a male. The D.P.O. also sent a message across to the I.P.O, whereas the book didn't inform us of any I.P.O.

Keziah's dad did not call Keziah a disgrace to the family, and everything they stood for in the film, unlike the book (movement fourteen, page 50).

In the film version, Zuwaira and Nonso were depicted as females (movement 15).

In the film, KK's mother wasn't even shown, unlike the book which emphasized his mom in the court scene (movement seventeen).

The film version tells us only Engineer Diran, Demola's father went to see KK in the prison. The book tells us both parents went to visit him (nineteenth movement). We were also told KK gave a picture to Demola's parents, whereas nothing of such was shown in the film version.

The twenty first movement of the book tells us that both Demola's parents were around when Keziah's family went to visit. The film version made us realize Demola's mom was dead.

In the book, Keziah's daughter was named **Mouritha**. In the film, she was named **Heritage Demola-Diran**.