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QUESTIONS

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

Thematic Thrusts

1)Rape:

The theme of rape is a major theme in this play, as it revolves around the main characters, Demola and Keziah. Demola a beast in sheep clothing, lures Keziah into his den as prey. While pretending to be a friend of Keziah. He gains her trust and that of her companions by acting genuinely concerned about her well being. Demola made Keziah feel at ease by offering to help her with her studies and this made her lower her guard. He got through to her by using her love for studying to his advantage. Under the guise of a study session, Demola invites Keziah to his abode, drugs Keziah and brutishly rapes her.

His action was premeditated, he lusted over her and the fact that she was playing "hard to get" made him irritable and frustrated, so he took her pride by force.

Like most victims of rape, Keziah is devastated by this experience. She gets stuck in a cycle of self blame and guilt. She blames herself for letting Demola into her life, for going to his room, for accepting him as a friend. Her friend Stella tries to console her, she tells her "it's not your fault" and goes on to narrate her hellish experience of being raped by four boys at the tender age of 14. After that painful ordeal, Stella lost an important piece of herself. "I had been irredeemable, forcefully deflowered". Even after her parents moved houses to get Stella to forget her past, she was already broken, and it fuelled her bitterness towards God and man. She abandoned her faith and turned to a life of sexual gratification. She immersed herself in the things of the world, engaging in all manner of promiscuous activities. She felt like a broken glass vase that could never be pieced back, this made her hate God. She blamed Him for not saving her from these boys, from not saving her from the humiliation, the shame and the misery. At the end God called her, washed her clean and gave her peace.

Rape is traumatic and causes a lot of damage in the lives of victims, they never truly heal, they question their self worth and wrap themselves in the garment of guilt. In the case of Keziah, due to the rape incident she gets pregnant and it threatens her education. Coupled with the shame and disappointment from her parents, Keziah is compelled to attempt suicide.

2) Peer pressure and negative influence:

The first time the theme of peer pressure was explored in this play was in Movement 5. Here, Bunmi and Ovie, friends of Keziah tried to cajole Keziah into accepting Demola as a friend "all we are saying is that you give him a chance, get to know him." They went

further to chastise Keziah for not giving Demola face.

Another case of peer pressure and negative influence is when Kk and Bentol advises Demola to rape Keziah. After Demola rapes Keziah and starts to feel guilty, In the seventh movement Kk offers him hard drugs so he could banish his sorrow and guilt. At first, Demola rejects the substance and responds with "not again, not this time. The last one nearly caused me an accident "showing Kk had offered him drugs before. Demola succumbs to the pressure and gets high.

KK and Bentol also initiate Demola into a secret cult group called Red shadows. During an inter cult war, Kk mistakenly guns down Demola. "He must have succumbed to the cold hands of bad influence "the sentence in the mouth of those who knew Demola. For they were shocked that he was on the list of those expelled for engaging in cult activities. Demola being swayed by negative influence was his tragic flaw.

3)Justice

This theme is very prevalent in the play.

The perpetrators of the heinous crime of raping Stella were punished under the law. They were made to spend time behind bars and the only reason they were not punished further was because Stella's mom was persuaded into not pressing charges.

The theme of justice is also present when law enforcement agents arrested cult members like Kk. The security agencies were determined to intensify their efforts to arrest and detain other culprits (cult members) and bring them to book. They believed this action would deter others from committing such crimes as it is the right step in an attempt to curb moral decadence in the society. In the seventeenth movement, Kk and Bentol were tried in court and were found guilty of heinous crimes and sentenced to jail term and fines.

4) Parental Negligence

The theme of Negligence is portrayed when Mr and Mrs Diran failed to supervise the activities of Demola. They were more interested in trying to secure his financial future and were not interested in any happenings in his life. They were oblivious to the kind of bad company he kept and did not notice his change of attitude.

Demola's parents "never bothered to check on him, to know how he was doing in school and what his challenges were". Kk and Bentol took the place of his parents and led him astray and encouraged him to engage in despicable acts like rape and cultism. This goes to show parents that parents must adequately care and monitor their ward, while leading them to the right path. It is also important for parents to know the character of their children.

The theme of parental Negligence can also be seen, when Mr Richard treats Keziah poorly for being pregnant out of wedlock. He ignored her and was unpleasant that she was keeping the baby. This led Keziah to attempt suicide, as she felt unsupported and unloved by her father.

5) Forgiveness

As the saying goes "To err is human and to forgive is divine". The theme of forgiveness gives a heart-warming ending to the play as the Diran and Richard family came together to talk about the issues concerning their children. Mr and Mrs Diran deeply apologised for their son's actions and took full blame for not raising him properly. They also went as far as to confess all of Demola's crime that Kk revealed them. They confirmed that Demola raped Keziah and she wasn't lying. The Diran and Richard family cleared the air and the Diran's were allowed to associate with Keziah's child and offered to perform their son's responsibilities on his behalf.

This theme is also present when Keziah father asks for her forgiveness for treating her poorly

Characters Analysis

1) Keziah:

Her full name is Keziah Richard. A 200 hundred level student of May Flower University, studying English Language. In the play, Keziah is described as "a medium height, slightly rotund, fair young lady". She is presumably in her early teens. From her habit of studying, it can be deduced that Keziah is a disciplined and focused student, who detest any lifestyle of waywardness. She has clear objectives, to pass in flying colours, so she spends most of her time with head buried in a book. Unsurprisingly, she refuses to condone any distractions in form of a relationship, this is evident when she dismisses the idea of being in a relationship with Demola "listen Demola, I have made my position known on this matter there can never be us".

Keziah is also very cautious of the male gender. In page 19 She says "I know what boys like you are after "This shows she is aware that some boys could have ulterior motives, and only get close to girl just to fulfil their sexual desires This knowledge makes her a bit uneasy and on alert around Demola. Until he befriends her.

She is a strong female protagonist, as she tries to move on after being raped by Demola. After finding solace in her embrace of her friend Stella, she pieces her life together and try's to live as she did before. But life can never the same for her as she finds out that she had become pregnant, following the terrible news of Demola's death. She faced the disappointment of her parents and the possibility of never getting an education. Her world is scattered as her father turns his back on her, as she has brought shame and disgrace to the family.

At the end, Fortune smiled at her as her parents forgave her, she gave birth to a beautiful daughter and she was able to continue her

education.

2) Demola:

Demola Diran is a 200 hundred level student of May Flower university, studying English Language. In the play he is described as a tall, dark, handsome young man. He was sent to an early grave due to keeping bad counsel. His friends encouraged him to dabble in a lot of illicit activities like taking of hard drugs, committing rape, joining a cult etc.

He was also madly infatuated with Keziah and tried to woo her any chance he gets even though she refuses his advances. A key trait pertinent to Demola is his persistence. Even after Keziah blows him off he still asks her to consider being with him, frustrated Keziah asks "I thought we had closed this book" and he replies with "On a damsel like you? Not in my life!" He explores any means to get close to Keziah, and he uses the one thing Keziah has an interest in which is studying.

He tries to be her study buddy. He tells her he wants to help her with assignments and homework while harbouring ulterior motives. Demola was indeed pretentious as he knew another way to get to Keziah was through her friends, they thought he is such a good person so much so they even attested of his good character "he appears different. He is serious, intelligent and hardworking."

After a while of chasing Keziah, he got upset and frustrated because Keziah was playing hard to get. Encouraged by his friends he rapes her. This is where his deceptive behaviour comes to lime light as he invites Keziah to his room for a study session and drugged and raped her. This shows he is a wolf in sheep clothing.

He goes on to be remorseful and approached Keziah to ask for forgiveness. He claimed his actions were not intentional and he was pushed by his friends Kk and Bentol. She immediately dismisses him and confesses her hatred for him "I hate you, Demola! I curse the

day I set my eyes on you". He vows to never forgive himself for his action. Later on he is killed during a cult operation. He has a tragic flaw, which was succumbing to negative influence and peer pressure.

3) Stella:

She is one of Keziah's roommates and friend. She is very supportive and endearing. She gave succour to Keziah when she got raped. She was also a victim of rape at the tender age of 14. Since that day she was plundered into the world of immorality and sexual gratification.

She is resilient, even with the emotional pain and struggle she had to endure, she overcame it with the help of the most high God. So when she consoles Keziah "I know because I was once a victim" she completely understands Keziah's pain and plight and doesn't want her to fall into great depression. She narrates how she was raped and saved by God through, multiple revelations and signs from God. She knew God had a plan for her." I knew God was pointing attention to my disgraceful end if I forfeited that moment. "and "God has been helping me".

3) The Differences spotted between the published and Film version of Good Morning Sodom.

The published version of Good Morning Sodom is not the exact replica of the film version of Good Morning Sodom. There are few changes in the settings and dialogue, as some scenes were cut out and others were added. The film version was more condensed and brief, only focusing on the important details or parts essential for the continuity of the story. It brushes past minor scenes.

Major Differences

1)At the beginning of the play, it is said that female students were at different spots, washing clothes, laughing and chattering away but in the movie that is not portrayed, it is cut out and we just see Keziah conversing with her mother.

2)In the play Keziah was described as a fair young lady with freshly braided hair. In contrast to the Keziah shown in the movie who was a dark middle aged lady, wearing a wig.

3) Another difference was at Dr Yusuf lecture scene, in the film two late students interrupted his lectures. They were sent out of the class by Dr Yusuf, showing a strong intolerance for indiscipline. This was not the case in the play as no student came late.

Also in Dr Yusuf's lecture scene, in the film he asked if the class had any questions. To confirm that they understood all the taught. He didn't

4) In the course of the play when Stella was discussing her past with Keziah, it was said she was in her room during the morning hours when Emmanuella came to minister to her on God's love. It was very different in the film as Stella met Emmanuella at the laundry ground when she was retrieving here dried clothes.

5)In the film Demola's room was not as beautifully decorated as it was described to be in play. In the play, Demola was said to be lying on his bed, in the film he sat.

6)Some chants that where heard in the film during the Red shadows cult meeting weren't the exact ones in the play. Additionally, in the play Demola was said to be kneeling at the centre of cult members, blind folded, ready to be initiated into the occultist brotherhood. However, in the film he is seen standing at a corner.

7)According to the play when Keziah discovered Demola's dead body she withdrew from the crowd before fainting, while in the movie she passed out within the crowd of students.

8)In the play three cult members were arrested, but in the movie four members were arrested.

9)In the movie only 2 men burnt Stella's clothes, instead of 4 men as it was in the play

10)The DPO was described as a female in the play but appeared as a male in the movie.

11)During the court gathering in the play, Kk's mother was present at the court and later passed out and was rushed to a hospital, but in the film his mother wasn't present.

12)In the play ENGR. Diran visited the Richard's along side his wife, where as she wasn't present in that scene in the film.

13)Keziah's daughter was named Mouritha in the play, however, she was named Heritage Demola-Diran in the film.

Minor differences

- 1) The lines in the play are slightly different for those in the film. For example In the second movement pg. 18 In the play Keziah tells Demola she was heading for the library to finish an assignment and read for her test tomorrow. In the movie that conversation was cut out. Another example was when Keziah was in Demola's room and she brought out her new phone. This surprised him and

In the film Demola said "omo you are a big girl" and in the play of he just asks her if I was an "apple or android" phone .

2) Apart from lines being cut there were minor differences in the outfit of the cast from the film. For example in Stella's revelation, the man that saves her is described to be dressed in khaki shirt and short with a cap, in the film he is dressed in traditional attire/Ankara.

In the film, the whole conversation between the prosecution counsel and defence counsel was skipped to the scene of the judge's judgement.

3)

3) In the play Keziah gains admission as a transfer student. That was not shown in the play.

4) In the sixteen movement of the play Mrs Keziah is seen in the kitchen, in the film she is not shown there.

5) In the film, there was an additional scene showing Mrs Richard comforting Keziah, which was absent in the play.

6) In the play (page 36) the line "who are you? Where are you taking me to? Leave me alone "was skipped in the film, as she screamed "help me, help me I don't want to die"