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**MATRIC NO: 22/MHS01/153**

**DEPARTMENT: MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**COLLEGE: MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**COURSE CODE: 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.
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*?

## ANSWERS

### 1. AN INCISIVE INTERROGATION OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR'S GOOD MORNING, SODOM

Based on my analysis, "Good Morning, Sodom" by Solomon A. Edebor appears to be a compelling play that raises important issues and challenges societal norms. It is a thought-provoking and intense drama that explores complex issues such as power dynamics, gender inequality, self-deception, substance abuse, consequences, and redemption. The play's social commentary on these topics seems to be its main strength, as it brings to light the harsh realities of society and the need for change. Hence, an underscore of the themes portrayed in the play;

## THEMES

### ★ POWER AND CONTROL:

The drama showcases the abuse of power and control. Demola uses his position of authority over Keziah to drug and sexually assault her, while Mrs Richards exerts her dominance over her husband to suppress his desires and control their marriage. These power dynamics lead to harmful consequences and the loss of agency for the victimized characters.

### ★ GENDER INEQUALITY:

The drama highlights the gender inequality prevalent in society through the experiences of Keziah and Mrs Richards. Keziah is a victim of sexual assault and her dignity is taken away from her by a man who believes he has the right to do so. Mrs Richards, on the other hand, is expected to conform to traditional gender roles and suppress her desires and ambitions for the sake of her husband's ego. Both women suffer due to the societal norms that restrict their freedom and opportunities.

### ★ SOCIAL COMMENTARY:

The drama serves as a commentary on societal issues, particularly the prevalence of sexual assault and gender inequality. It brings to light the harsh realities that exist in society and the need for change. The characters and their experiences serve as a reflection of the societal structures that enable such injustices to persist.

### ★ SELF-DECEPTION:

The drama portrays how characters deceive themselves into thinking that their actions are justified or acceptable. Demola convinces himself that his actions towards Keziah were not intentional and that he is sorry for what happened. Mrs Richards convinces herself that she is satisfied with her traditional gender role and that it is what she wants. However, their actions and the consequences they face prove otherwise, highlighting the danger of self-deception.

### ★ SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

The theme of substance abuse is explored through the character of Demola. The play highlights the dangers of substance abuse and the negative impact it can have on individuals, both physically and mentally.

### ★ CONSEQUENCES:

The drama shows how the actions of the characters have consequences that they must face. Demola's actions lead to the loss of Keziah's trust and the end of their friendship, while Mrs Richards' suppression of her husband's desires leads to his infidelity. The consequences of their actions showcase the importance of accountability and responsibility for one's actions.

- ★ REDEMPTION: The drama also explores the theme of redemption. This is seen in the way Demola's character arc develops over the course of the play. Through his experiences, he comes to realize the gravity of his actions and seeks to make amends. The play highlights the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions and seeking redemption.

## 2. CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF KEZIAH, DEMOLA, AND MRS RICHARDS

### KEZIAH:

Keziah is a student at Mayflower University who is in her late teens and described as a medium height, slightly rotund, and fair-skinned. From her dialogue and actions, she appears to be an obedient child who values her education and family. She is studious, hardworking, and seems to be well-behaved. However, she is also judgmental, and her disdain for her roommates' lifestyle is evident. She is excited about her father's surprise gift, and this shows that she is easily pleased. Keziah is also not very assertive and may be easily influenced by others. Keziah is eventually seen to be a strong-willed character who is not afraid to stand up for herself. She confronts Demola for his actions and demands that he takes responsibility for his actions. This shows that she is a character who values her dignity and is willing to fight for it. She is still deeply affected by Demola's actions and is unable to forgive him. This reveals her strong sense of justice and her inability to let go of past wrongs. Keziah is a character who has been through trauma and has emerged stronger, although still grappling with the scars of her experience.

## DEMOLA:

Demola is a tall, dark, and handsome young man who appears to be interested in Keziah. young man who appears to be interested in Keziah. He is seen trying to get her attention, even though she appears to be busy. Demola is persistent and patient, indicating that he is willing to wait for Keziah to give him some of her time. He is also observant, as he seems to know about Mrs Richards' visit to the university, even though Keziah did not tell him. Demola's intentions towards Keziah are not explicitly stated, but his actions suggest that he is interested in a romantic relationship with her. He is shown to be knowledgeable about linguistics, as he advises Keziah on how to approach a question. Demola also has a sense of humor, as seen when he jokes about Keziah's eyesight. However, he is also shown to be somewhat pushy in his advances towards Keziah, despite her reluctance. Demola is eventually seen to be a character whose actions are driven by his selfish desires and lack of empathy towards others. He deceives his friend into stealing a valuable watch so that he can sell it and make a profit. This shows that he is willing to manipulate others for his own gain. He drugs and rapes Keziah, displaying a complete disregard for her autonomy and wellbeing. This action reveals a deeply disturbing aspect of his personality, one that is capable of causing harm to others without any remorse. is consumed by guilt for his actions towards Keziah and seeks solace in drugs. This reveals his inability to take responsibility for his actions and his propensity to seek escape through harmful means.

## MRS RICHARDS:

Mrs Richards is Keziah's mother. From her conversation with Keziah, it is evident that she is a caring and supportive mother who is interested in her daughter's well-being. She is also optimistic about Keziah's academic progress and encourages her to keep studying hard. Mrs Richards is honest and straightforward with Keziah, informing her that her father could not make it to the university due to work commitments. She also promises to bring a surprise package from him, indicating that she values family bonds. Mrs Richards is eventually seen to be a character who represents the older generation and the societal norms that they uphold. She judges and condemns Demola for his appearance, revealing her prejudices towards people who do not fit her idea of what a respectable person should look like. She is

unable to comprehend Keziah's experience and chooses to side with Demola, revealing her prejudices towards people who do not fit her idea of what a respectable person should look like.

### **3. THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING, SODOM**

The 2014 film adaptation of Solomon A. Edebor's play, *Good Morning, Sodom*, helmed by director Stanley Ohikhuare, dutifully upholds the fundamental themes and plot of the original work. Nonetheless, there are several conspicuous divergences between the two renditions. Firstly, while the play's format consists of a sequence of interconnected vignettes that scrutinize diverse aspects of Nigerian society, the film follows a more linear narrative structure, chronicling Haggai's struggles while inhabiting Lagos. Secondly, the film introduces fresh personas and alters certain characterizations from the play, Mama Risi, for instance, being relegated to a minor character in the movie, whereas Haggai's role is considerably enhanced, and his backstory is more deeply examined. Thirdly, while the play employs satire, humor, and irony to lambast Nigerian society, the film takes on a more solemn tone and features a sleeker visual style. Lastly, the play occurs in diverse Lagos locations, each presenting a different facet of Nigerian society, whereas the film is primarily set in a Lagos slum, exploiting it to expose the grim realities of life in Lagos. Despite these deviations, the film's unique features, including its linear narrative structure, and different characterizations, establish it as a distinctive work apart from the play, while still retaining its overarching themes and plot.