

COUSE CODE: AFE122 COURSE: THE USE OF ENGLISH COLLEGE: College of medicine and sciences

MATRIC NO.: 22/MHS02/007

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

The play Good Morning Sodom is an eccentric contemporary play that embodies the vices faced in the higher institutions in modern day Nigeria. In this play, the playwright brings to life the issues faced by university students especially those who recently left the comfort of parental guidance for the first time and are struggling with coping on their own. Although the characters in the play are mostly 200L and above, they still struggle with breaking free from the shackles of peer pressure which goes to show that no one is beyond being influenced by their peers. The playwright especially uses the characters of Keziah, Demola, K.K. (Nkanga Nwoko) and Stella to convey his major idea concerning the ills going on the university nowadays and how it can ruin the lives of people and in the case of Demola, even make them loose it. The playwright passes across so many messages in the course of the play some of which are;

❑ The Theme of Peer Pressure: The theme of peer pressure is a prevalent theme in the play. Peer pressure essentially entails the act engaging in an activity which causes the individual to act a certain way in order to feel accepted or valued by their peers. It -in lay man term- is influence from members of one's peer group to do certain things or behave a certain way. Like earlier stated, peer pressure is a very dominant theme in the play as it cuts across various parts of it. A prime example of peer pressure in the play was the case of the young man named Demola. Demola was a student from a prominent home who was sadly influenced negatively by his peer to commit a series of heinous and odious crimes like, rape a girl (whom he claimed to love), join a cult, do drugs, and even engage in acts of terrorism which ultimately led to his death. Demola was a misguided character, susceptible to peer pressure, which was why he could not resist it even when the crime committed was against his friend. Another instance which peer pressure can be found was in the case of Stella, a young girl who fell victim to rape by her pastor's children. Ironically, her father whom she came to the pastor's house with left her to go help the pastors wife while his daughter was being raped by the children of the people he was helping. This was an unusual case of peer pressure because despite the height of trauma experienced by Stella and her family they were still influenced by their peers in the church not to take action for their daughter but rather chose to inconvenience themselves by moving to another city to try and evade the ripple effect caused by the tragic event.

❑ The theme of Neglect: this is a vital theme in the play the characters mostly succumbed to peer pressure due neglect from parents or loved ones. Neglect simply put is a situation in which a person does not give enough care or attention to someone or something, or the state of not receiving enough care or attention. In this play, neglect is the antecedent to most of the disasters that transpire in the course of the play. This theme can be found in the scenario of Demola the

second year university student, who was morally adopted by another student (K.K. – Nkanga Nwoko) due to the unfortunate fact that his parents failed to perform their duty of being emotionally, socially and physically present and not just financially available. Due to their absence, another social figure stepped in to offer their son the guidance he needed and unfortunately for them it wasn't positive guidance he was offered which eventually led to series of mishaps. Another scene the theme of neglect can be found is with the case of Keziah. After it is discovered that she is pregnant, her father was gravely disappointed and choose to neglect his duty to his daughter and unknowingly punish her for something that was out of her control which drove Keziah to the brink of attempted suicide.

❓ Theme of Regret: this is another potent subject matter in the play. Towards the ending of the play the theme of regret can be seen permeating the characters in the play. Firstly, with K.K. (Nkanga Nwoko), who was given a life sentence and a fine of a hundred thousand naira. It was when he was due to dance to the tune of his music that he begun to have wishful thoughts and pitiful regrets of "how I wish" and would forever carry the guilt and regret of killing his friend as a result of petty rivalry. Regret can also be found with Demola's parents, in the play, they wish they could turn back the hands of time so as to restore their mistakes and get a do over with their son. They regret not paying adequate attention to what their child was doing which eventually cost them dearly. DR. Richards also exudes regret after pushing his daughter to the brink of attempting suicide. He expressed contrition for allowing his anger and personal preservation blind him and apologized appropriately to his daughter.

❓ Theme of suicide: this theme can majorly be found in the ending of the play where the protagonist of the play Keziah attempts to end her life because she felt it wasn't worth living in a world where she was made to feel regret, remorse and constantly apologize for something she had no control over. She couldn't bear to live in a world where it seems like her parents (dad especially) hated her. This is a highly powerful theme as the playwright strives to pass across a vital information to his readers. This message to be passed across educates the reader on the fragility of a person's state of mind, the fact that, parents should be more insightful and conscious of their child's mental state and welfare and, they shouldn't reprimand a child by ignoring them and making them feel worthless rather, they should correct their children with love.

❓ Theme of Moral Decadence in the Society: this theme is the major picture the playwright was trying to paint when writing the play. He aimed to exemplify the apt degradation of

morality in the society. He wanted the readers to evaluate through his work the rot infesting the country's moral system starting from the leaders of tomorrow in the higher institution who cause havoc through their cultism and rape innocent girls in fealty to their misguided sense of kinship (in the cults), to the adults that lead our today and guide our spiritual lives who cover up evils and crimes committed in their own homes all to "save face" and not caring for the little girl whose life was ruined in the process. It is all a warped version of morality where looking the other way on a crime is taking for decency and self-preservation. This theme plays a vital role in the play as the playwright screams out with his pen the havoc this gross oversight is doing to our society.

❓ Theme of Drug abuse: this theme plays a major role in the play as one of the major characters Demola was introduced to drugs to evade the guilt he felt for raping someone he claimed to love. Drug abuse is a vice that entails the use of excessive, maladaptive and addictive use of drugs for nonmedical purposes. Drug abuse is a virus that has eaten deep into the heart of the society, particularly the youth causing irrevocable damage. Demola was an unfortunate victim of drug abuse as it thwarted his sense of reasoning and absolved him of the guilt he should have felt for things he did.

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

The playwright employs the use of various *dramatis personae* to pass across his message to his readers each with their own unique temperament and roles patterned perfectly to fit the subject matter of the play. Some of these personas include:

❓ Stella: the character of Stella was a very powerful and influential one in the story. She was a friend and roommate of Keziah and a victim of rape by the children of her pastor with whom her safety was entrusted. Ironically, her father was out helping the mother of the boys that had raped her. There are a lot of strong themes tied to her character and how her situation was handled after it happened. Her parents were subdued by peer pressure and did nothing about the grave injustice committed against her, she was a wounded soul whose story helped give Keziah hope for a brighter tomorrow. In all her misery, Stella's life story made Keziah realize that she too can come out of her misery that, no matter how far she may have come, God's mercies can still get her on track and it helped her cope with life better. Her character resonates with the thousands of rape victims around the world and their daily struggle to move forward from the dreadful experience they had.

❓ Demola: this character was one of the major characters in the play, the character of Demola can be seen as that of a misguided youth who fell into the hands of peer pressure and social vices that evidently led to his doom. Demola came from a rich home where his every whim was provided for him but actual attention and care were not given which

made him look for them elsewhere. His character serves to pass on the message of a lot of misguided youths in the society, who for lack of proper home training become a menace to the society and mostly ruin their lives and the lives of others if they aren't reformed on time. Demola was influenced and manipulated by the bad apples who were his friends to commit obscene and horrendous evils which karma made him pay for later on with his life.

❓ Keziah: this is the protagonist and (if I do say so) most influential character in the play. She is a strong-willed and intelligent girl who tried her hardest to shy away from the advances of Demola until she was eventually convinced by her friends to give him a chance. Keziah experiences a rollercoaster of events that builds her character. She comes from a good home, with good parents, and had a proper upbringing, with necessary values and morals. So, it came as a grave disappointment to her parents when they found out she was pregnant (even though it wasn't her fault). Keziah's character was undaunted and indefatigable as she kept on trying to move forward from her horrid experience but, she could only persevere for so long. She

attempted suicide as she couldn't continue to bear the cold treatment from her father for a crime she wasn't responsible for and fortunately she was rescued on time and neither she nor the baby died. Her character aided in passing across many of the major themes in the play to the readers.

Question 3: What are the points of divergence between the published book and the film version of Good Morning Sodom?

The play Good morning Sodom was written by Dr. Solomon A. Edebor and was later adapted into screen play. The movie (just like its written form) was an enamoring and captivating play which captured the major message the author was trying to pass across to his audience. Although, the screenplay is majorly a replica of the book, there are some areas of contrast between the book and the screenplay.

There was some minor divergence between the book and the screenplay like in movement one in the book when her driver Olumide was told to drive safely, he replied her while, in the screenplay he said nothing. Another one was the fact that an extra scene was added in movement three of students coming late to class while the lecturer was teaching and they were sent out which cannot be found in the book. Also, in movement three in the book, Ovie and Bunmi were seen walking out of the class while they conversed before Demola stopped Bunmi to ask about Keziah while, in the screenplay, Bunmi and Ovie were sat on a chair discussing what is presumed to be school work while Demola sat a chair behind them, then tapped Bunmi on the shoulder to ask about Keziah. These are all minor divergences between the written and screen play. A major difference was found in the scenes leading up to when Demola died. It was a general fact in the book that Demola's death was by accident as, K.K. was intending to shoot a rival cult member and accidentally shot Demola which puts him in a position to be convicted for second degree murder/ manslaughter. While, in the movie, Nkanga Nwoko's (K.K.) motives were different. Demola didn't die out of pure coincidence or misfortune rather, he was killed by K.K.

because, K.K. was also in love with Keziah which makes K.K. eligible to be charged with first degree murder. This is a major divergence as it causes a change in the view of K.K. and Demola's friendship in the eyes of the viewers and brings a new theme to the play, which is "The lengths man can go for love".