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**THEMES**

### Impacts of negative peer pressure:

The play gives a view of the negative impacts of peer pressure. Negative peer pressure has always been harmful to youths as they always want to 'belong' or they are looking for 'easy' solutions to their problems. Keziah was influenced by her friends to give Demola a chance, which led to her losing her virginity. In the case of Demola, as shown in the seventh movement, it was K.K and Bentol that influenced his decision to drug Keziah and then sleep with her. He also went into drugs, joined a cult, and consequently lost his life all due to negative peer pressure. Youths must be aware of the consequences of indulging with such people.

### The menace of cultism:

Cultism is a thick thorn in the side of universities across Nigeria. The book highlights the activities that cultism in the university sphere, as well as the consequences of such vices on students and even their parents. The eighth movement showed Demola being initiated into a cult, which would later on lead to his demise. The fifteenth movement spreads light on some students who were expelled due to their involvement with cult activities. Nkanga Nwoko also known as K.K was sentenced to life imprisonment, wasting the hard efforts of his mother and leaving her with nothing. This should remind youths that their actions will not only affect them but their parents and family members as well.

### Lack of parental care and monitoring:

Parents should also be aware of what is going on in their child's life, they should advise them on the right thing to do. Demola's parents were unaware of what their son had been doing in school and were in for a shock when they heard it from K.K in the nineteenth movement. Demola's parents realize they left their responsibilities as parents in the hands of K.K and Bentol. It is shown in the twenty-first chapter that his father feels embarrassed for the situation Demola had caused and also offer to assist Keziah.

### The role of academic institutions in ensuring order and discipline amongst students:

The play also throws light on the role of schools in ensuring moral decadence is taken care of. The school did not hesitate to expel the notorious

students in the fifteenth movement. Students should also take note of the rules and regulations of their institution and adhere to them strictly.

The effects of sexual assault on girls:

The play covers two instances of sexual assault on two characters- Stella and Keziah.

In the sixth movement, Stella recounted how she was raped by the pastor's sons and their friends at a young age. She blamed God for what happened to her and withdrew from Him, deciding to live a promiscuous life. Until she had an encounter that made her forfeit her old ways and turn back to God.

Keziah is also raped by Demola, when she comes over to his room because of an 'assignment'. Demola drugs her and then sleeps with her. This shows that girls should be careful not to go to a guy's room alone as you don't know what might happen. She later becomes pregnant

Keziah's parents find out about the pregnancy and her father called her a disgrace to the family, to his name and everything they stand for.

The play highlights what some parents do to their children when they are in such cases. They push them away, and make them feel unwanted and unloved. This might lead to depression on such child and she might be led to take her own life, just like Keziah. It should not take such drastic measures before parents realize the right thing that should be done in this situation.

Fortunately, with the assist of her parents Keziah was able to continue her education.

# CHARACTERS

## Keziah Richards:

Keziah Richards is a student at Mayflower University, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richards. She is a serious student who is focused on her studies as is shown in the second movement where she says ‘As you can see, I am on my way to the library. I need to finish one of my assignments and I’m not through with my reading for tomorrow’s test.’

She is straightforward as well in conversations, she is seen as a no nonsense girl. She knows what she wants and is not swayed by words of flattery, although she became friends with Demola which later spelt disaster.

## Demola Diran:

Demola is also a student of Mayflower University, who appears to be all around Keziah. He persistently follows her around, checking on her form her friends and so on.

Demola is easily persuaded which made him a victim of peer pressure. K.K and Bentol gave him the idea to drug and rape Keziah, which led to Keziah hating him. Demola telling K.K “You know, none of these would have happened if not for you and Bentol”.

Because of the wrong company Demola was keeping, he fell into drugs and cultism and eventually died.

## Mrs. Richards:

Mrs. Richards is Keziah’s mother and husband to Dr. Richards. She is a loving and kind mother, always making sure her daughter is alright in school. She comes to her daughter in the health center to be at her side when she got the call from Stella that she had fainted.

Even when Keziah became pregnant, she was still willing to do what was best for her child. She disagrees with Dr. Richards who was considering an abortion for their daughter as there might be complications. And of course, she supports her husband decision to send Keziah back to school.

# POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING SODOM

Although the published version and film carry the same message, there are subtle changes in some scenes here and there. Some of them are:

## The cult initiation scene (Eight Movement):

This scene shows the initiation of some students into a cult called “Red Shadows”. This scene gives an idea of what happens during the initiation of new members in such groups. The point of divergence in this scene lies on who were initiated. In the book, Demola was part of the students initiated whereas in the film, Demola was already a member of the Red Shadows, though it doesn’t affect the fact that Demola was killed.

## Dr Richards’ apology (Twentieth movement):

In both the book and film, due to the way Keziah was treated by her father, she makes a rash decision and attempts to take her own life. Fortunately, Dr Richards made it to her in time. In the twentieth movement, Dr Richards apologises to his daughter, though the setting is different. In the book, the apology takes place in the hospital while in the film, this scene occurs in their house.

## The court scene (Seventeenth movement):

This scene shows where the deviants have to pay for their crimes. This point of divergence in this scene is not easy to miss. In the book, a lot of detailed is shown about the argument between the defense counsel and the prosecution counsel, reflecting what a case might look like in real life. Also, Mrs Nkanga collapses in this scene after hearing her son’s sentence. In the film however, the character of Mrs Nkanga is not there. Also, the back and forth between the defense and prosecution counsel is not brought into the light.

Demola's mother:

In the book, Demola's mother, Mrs Diran appeared in the nineteenth movement where she and her husband are talking to K.K. However, in the film, Mrs Diran is not there because in the film Demola's mother is dead.