

## Exercise

1) Why was Madame Valmonde amused at the thought of Desirée and her baby?

ans → Madame Valmonde vividly remembered the day when she first saw Desirée as a baby. In her mind, Desirée would always be a little girl. So it was amusing for her to think that Desirée was all grown up and had become a mother herself.

2) Why did Madame Valmonde <sup>h</sup>sudder at a sight of L'Abri?

ans → L'Abri was the name of Villa where Armand and Desirée lived after getting married. It was a sad looking place. The house looked gloomy and was shadowed by Oak trees. The slaves of the house looked miserable under the strict rule of Armand. However it was a livelier place under Armand's father as he was an easy going and indulgent master.

3) Why was Madame Valmonde startled on seeing the baby? How was her reaction different from the way Desirée talked about the baby?

ans → Madame Valmonde was startled to see the baby because she instantly recognised the difference in the

colour of its skin. She knew that the baby was black. Desiree however was unmindful of this fact. She loved the baby dearly and was overjoyed that it was healthy and growing fast.

④ What made Desiree believe that Armand was very happy about the baby?

ans → Desiree was certain that Armand was happy about the baby because she knew that he wanted a boy. Moreover, she had observed a great change in his behaviour towards the slaves ever since the time the baby was born. He has stopped punishing them and was lenient even to the ones who made up excuses to skip work.

⑤ What were the incidents that made Desiree realise that things were beginning to change?

ans → Certain incidents made Desiree realise that things were changing. There was a mysterious change among the slaves. Distant neighbours started paying visits to the house for no reason. However, Armand's behaviour worried Desiree the most. He spoke to her with averted eyes and there was no love in his eyes. He

would avoid disease and her baby, and would often stay away from home.