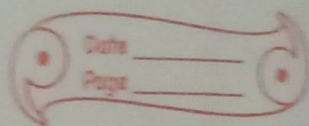


CHAPTER

Desiree's Baby



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

2. Ans - L'Abri was the name of the villa where Armand and Desiree lived after getting ~~married~~ married. As we know from the story, L'Abri 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 indulgent master.

3. Ans - Madame Valmonde was startled to see the baby because she instantly recognized 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 was growing fast.

4. 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 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 Desiree and her baby, and would often stay away from home. Moreover, He became harsh towards the slaves.

B1. Ans- This line tells us that the Aubigny's were very impulsive and passionate in nature. At the end of the story, we find out that Armand's father had also fallen in love with a black woman and married her. He went to the extent of ~~never~~ never letting his wife meet her own son to avoid social stigma but that did not stop him from being with his beloved. Similarly, in the beginning Armand had ~~also~~ also cared about Desiree's ~~obscure~~ obscure origin and married her.

2. Ans- Monsieur Valmonde loved Desiree and wanted the best for her. Due to Desiree's obscure origin, he had to ensure that Armand would take care of his daughter and respect

her just the same as a father, he didn't want her obscure part affect her marriage with Armand. I wanted to ensure that allowing Armand to marry her was the right thing to do.

3 Ans- Armand's father was a more ~~more~~ indulgent and kind master as compared to Armand. Under him, L'Abri was a happy place in contrast, under Armand, the slaves hardly smiled and L'Abri turned into a gloomy and sad looking place.

4 Ans- Looking at the boy, the similarity between him and the baby suddenly became apparent to Desirée. Before that moment, her love for the baby had blinded her to the discrepancies that everyone else had noticed. For the first time, Desirée saw the baby in a different light and was well and shocked at the realization.

5 Ans- The story doesn't mention whether Desirée was aware of her origin or not. However in her letter to Valmonde, she asked her to tell Armand that she was indeed white. This probably indicated that even though she knew that the Valmondes were not her real parents, she was not aware of her uncertain origin. In that case, Desirée's protest was understandably innocent and sincere.

On the other hand, if we assume that Desirée knew about the uncertainty regarding her birth, her protest was still most heartfelt. It was more out of her indignation at being questioned than out of uncertainty about the colour of her skin. She couldn't believe that Armand would doubt her honesty and desperately wanted him to believe her. Madam Volmonde, on the other hand, was more practical and knew that she couldn't truly vouch for her daughter's skin colour. However, that didn't change her love for Desirée and the baby, and she welcomed them with open arms.

6 ans - During the time the story is set in, white people considered the black people inferior to them and enslaved them. We know that Armand, unlike his father, thought that blacks were beneath him and treated them harshly. Thus, He thought that it was unfair that his own wife and child turned out to be black.

7 ans - Armand's mother never left her own country because she didn't want anyone especially her own son to know that she was black. She knew that if the secret

were to come out, her son would be subject of ridicule in the society and wouldn't be able to lead a normal life.

8 ans - Yes, Armand wanted Desirée to leave him and go. There are many lines in the story that support this. Firstly, when Desirée asked him, he clearly said that he wanted her to leave. It is also mentioned that he didn't love her anymore. A close reading of the story reveals that Armand was aware of the pain he was causing her, but he still didn't change his decision.