

A. Let us find the answers from the story.

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

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) Why did Madame Valmonde shudder at the sight of L'Abri?

Ans) L'Abri was the name of the villa where Armand and Desiree lived after getting 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 mirthless 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 Desiree talked about the baby?

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 unworried of this fact. She loved the baby dearly and was overjoyed that it was healthy and was growing fast.

Q) 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 ^{very} 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.

Q) 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 Desiree and her baby and would often stay away from home. Moreover, he became harsh towards the slaves.

B. Let us read between the lines.

Q) "That was the way all the Aubignys fell in love, as if struck by a pistol shot." What does this tell us about the Aubigny family?

Ans) This line tells us that the Aubignys 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 letting his wife meet her own son to avoid social stigmas but that did not

2) Why do you think Monsieur Valmonde grew practical when it came to getting Desiree married?

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 past affect her marriage with Armand and wanted to ensure that allowing Armand to marry her was the right thing to do.