

Unwanted - Unusual
Clearing up marshy part of a water body
Bayou - Shine
Furbishings - Furnishings
Espoused - Engagement

Questions / Answers

At (1) ans) Madame Volmonde vividly remembered the day when she first saw Desiree's 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. So, it was amusing for her to think that Desiree

2) ans) L'abui was the name of the villa where Madame and Desiree lived after getting married. As we know from the story L'abui was a sad looking place. The house looked gloomy and was shadowed by oak trees. The slates of the house looked mirthless under the strict

will of Asumand. However, it was a
convenient place under Asumand's father
as he was an easy-going and indulgent
man.

3/10/23) Madame Volmonde 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. Desires, however, was unmindful
of the fact. She loved the baby dearly
and was overjoyed that it was healthy
and was growing fast.

4/10/23) Desires was certain that Asumand
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 others who
made up excuses to skip work.

Byans) Certain incidents made Desiree realize that things were changing. There was a mysterious change among the slaves. Distant neighbours started paying visits to the house for no reason. However, Stumard's neighbour behaviour worried Desiree the most. He spoke to her with downcast 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 hostile towards the slaves.

P1)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 Stumard's father has 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 stigma, but that did not stop him from being with his beloved. Similarly, in the beginning, Stumard had also not cared about Desiree's

obscure origin and married her.

3) (ans) Monsieur Volmonde loved Desires and wanted the best for her. Due to Desires' 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. For offer her marriage with Armand she slave hardly smiled and L'abbe turned into a gloomy and sad looking place. wanted to ensure that allowing Armand to marry her was the right thing to do.

3) (ans) Armand's father was a more indulgent and kind master as compared to Armand. Under him, L'abbe was a happy place. In contrast under Armand, the slave hardly smiled and L'abbe turned into gloomy and sad looking place.

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

5) The story does not mention whether Desires was aware of her origins or not. However, in her letter to Volmonde, she asked her cousin Armand that she was indeed white. This probably indicated that she knew that the Volmondes were not her real parents. She was not aware of her uncertain origin. In that case, Desires' protest was undeniably innocent and sincere. On the other hand, if we assumed that Desires knew about the uncertainty regarding her birth, her protest was still most heartfelt. It was more out

of her indignation at being questioned
 then out of uncertainty about the
 colour of her skin. She couldn't believe
 that Demand would doubt her honesty
 and desperately wanted him to believe
 her. Madame Valmonde 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 Desires and
 the baby and she welcomed them with
 open arms.

(6Yans) During the time the story is set in,
 white people considered the black people
 inferior to them and enslaved them.
 We know that Demand, 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.

Ans) Aemond'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 a subject of ridicule in the society and would not be able to lead a normal life.

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