

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 her 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 shudder at the sight of L'Abri?

Ans L'Abri was the name of the village where Armand and Desirée 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 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 recognized the difference in colour of its skin. She knew that the baby was black. Desirée, however, was unmindful of this fact. She loved the baby dearly and was overjoyed that it was healthy and was growing fast.

4) What made Desirée believe that Armand was very ~~and~~ happy about the baby?

Ans Desirée 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 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, Ashmond'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. However, he became harsh towards the slaves.

Q7) '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?