

B. Let us read between the lines

1. "That was the way all Aulignys fell in love, as if struck by a pistol shot. What does this tell us about the Auligny family?"

= This line tells us that the Aulignys 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 son to avoid social stigma, but that did not stop him from being with his beloved. Similarly, in the ~~beginning~~ beginning, Armand had also not ~~cared~~ cared about Desirée's obscure origin and married her.

2. Why do you think Monsieur Valmonde grew practical when it came to getting Desirée married.

5' Desirée strongly protested the accusation of not being white. However, Madame Valmonde did not. Why?

= The story does not 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 greatly 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 ~~more~~ 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. 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 Desirée and the baby, and she welcomed them with open arms.

6. Why did Armand think that 'Almighty God had dealt cruelly and unjustly with him? Do you agree?

= During the time the story is set in, white people considered the black 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. Why do you think Armand's mother never left her own country?

= 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 a subject of ridicule in the society and would not be able to lead a normal life.

8. Did Armand really want Desiree to leave? Support your answer with evidence from

the story?

= Yes, Armand 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 also mentioned that he didn't love her anymore. A close reading to the story reveals Armand was aware of the pain he was causing her, but still didn't change his decision.