

B) Let us read between the lines.

Q1) "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 to meet her own son to avoid social stigma, but that did not stop him from being his beloved. Similarly, in the beginning, Armand had also not cared about Desiree's obscure origin and married her.



Q2) Why do you think Monsieur Valmonde grew practical when it came to getting Desirée married?

Ans → Monsieur Valmonde loved Desirée and wanted the best for her. Due to Desirée'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. He wanted to ensure that allowing Armand to marry her was the right thing to do.

Q3) How was Armand's treatment of his slaves different from that of his father?

Ans → Armand's father was a 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.

Q4) Desirée looked at the baby and then at the boy fanning him, and let out a cry of shock. Why?

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

Q5) Desirée strongly protested the accusation of not being white. However Madame Valmonde did not. Why?

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, Desiree's protest was understandably innocent and sincere. On the other hand, if we assume that Desiree 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. Madame Valmonde, on the other hand, was more practical & knew that she couldn't truly vouch for her daughter's skin colour. However, that didn't change her love for Desiree and the baby, and she welcomed them with open arms.



Q6) Why did Armand think that "Almighty God had dealt cruelly and unjustly with him?" Do you agree?

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 the 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.

Q7) Why do you think Armand's mother never left her own country?

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 a



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

Q8) Did Armand really wanted Desiree to leave? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

Ans → 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 of the story reveals that Armand was aware of the pain he was causing her, but he still didn't change his decision.