

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY – READ THIS SECTION BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY

Madame – Mrs.

Cochon de lait – Nickname for child

Monsieur – Mr./Sir

Pyre – Large fire

L'Abri – Home of Desiree and Armand Aubigny

Layette – Delicate baby items

Corbeille – Elegant, expensive gift

Espousal – Engagement

Quadroon – Person who is of one-fourth African American heritage

Section 1

1. Who is Madame Valmonde and where is she going?
2. Where did Desiree “come from”?
3. Read this sentence: “In time Madame Valmonde abandoned every speculation but the one that Desiree had been sent to her by a beneficent **Providence** to be the child of her affection, seeing that she was without child of the flesh.”
 - a. What does “Providence” mean? Why is it capitalized?
 - b. What is the meaning of this sentence?
4. What 3 similes are used to describe how Armand felt the first time he saw Desiree?
5. What might these 3 similes have in common (besides the fact that they are similes)?
6. What do we know about Armand Aubigny’s parents?
7. How does the description of the plantation and of Armand’s treatment of slaves reveal his true character?

Section 2

8. What is Madame Valmonde’s reaction to the baby?
9. Why does Desiree think that Armand is proud that the child is a boy?
10. How does Desiree know the extent of Armand’s happiness?
11. How old was the baby when Armand’s behavior changed?
12. How did Armand’s behavior change?
13. Who/what had Desiree been staring at when Armand came into the room?

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