# IMPORTANT VOCABULARY – READ THIS SECTION BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY

Madame – Mrs. Cochon de lait – Nickname for child

Monsieur – Mr./Sir Pyre – Large fire

<u>L'Abri</u> – Home of Desiree and Armand Aubigny <u>Layette</u> – Delicate baby items

<u>Corbeille</u> – Elegant, expensive gift <u>Espousal</u> – Engagement

<u>Quadroon</u> – 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 beneficient **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?

#### Section 3

- 14. What does Desiree desperately demand of her husband?
- 15. How does he react?
- 16. For what reason has Armand's behavior changed?
- 17. The name "La Blanche" is mentioned twice Section 2 and again in Section 3. Based on those references, who can we infer that she is?
- 18. Briefly summarize Desiree's letter to her mother.
- 19. Briefly summarize her mother's response.
- 20. When she shows the letter to Armand, how does he respond?
- 21. What was the "unconscious injury" that Armand thought Desiree had "brought upon his home and his name."?
- 22. What can we infer happens to Desiree?

## Section 4

- 23. Describe the "curious scene" that happens at Armand's home.
- 24. What was the last item to be thrown into the fire?
- 25. Who was the writer of the last letter found? Who was the recipient?
- 26. What does the last letter reveal?
- 27. What is the significance of this revelation?

Constructed Response - "Desiree's Baby"

Now that you have read the short story, "Desiree's Baby", do you believe that Armand truly loves Desiree? Remember R.A.C.E. strategy: Restate the question, Answer the question, Cite evidence from the text (direct quotes or paraphrase), Explain your answer (without using personal comments such as "I think").						