**Do not write on this page. Mark all answers on your own paper.**

**Vocabulary**

bayou: Marsh near a river or lake.

cochon de lait: Suckling pig.

corbeille: French for wedding gifts or trousseau. Literally, the word means basket.

layette: Clothing for a newborn baby.

peignoir: Woman's negligee or bathrobe.

quadroon: Person descended from one black grandparent and three white grandparents.

unwonted: Unexpected.

Multiple Choice. Write the Letter Choice on your answer sheet. (5 points each.)

1. What changes in Armand’s behavior has Desiree noticed after her son was born?

A. The costs of the French corbeille and the baby’s layette has sent him into debt, and his mood has grown pensive and anxious.

B. Armand is so pleased with his son that he has stopped punishing his servants.

C. Armand cannot help talking about his son’s future and the prospect of more children.

D. Armand compares his son’s eyes to Desiree’s once a day.

2. Under what circumstances did Armand Aubigny fall in love with Desiree?

A. He met her in a Paris nightclub, and brought her home to America.

B. Aubigny had known her as a child, and had always been in love with her.

C. He rode by one day, saw her by a stone pillar, and was smitten.

D. Though she was his neighbor, he did not love her until they both met one year at Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

3. Why has L’Abri, the Aubigny mansion, come to seem a “sad looking place” to Madame Valmonde?

A. She believes that the house needs a woman’s touch.

B. She misses Desiree, and approaching her daughter’s new home reminds her of the past.

C. Aubigny’s habit of being strict with his servants has tarnished the house’s once-proud reputation.

D. She has a sense of foreboding about what will happen to Desiree now that she has married.

4. How does Desiree first learn that her baby is not completely white?

A. Madame Valmonde tells her when she first sees the baby.

B. Desiree compares her baby with the mixed-race son of her maid.

C. Armand tells her point-blank that neither she nor her baby is white.

D. La Blanche accidentally tells her while she is changing the baby’s diaper.

5. With whom does Armand think he is getting even by agreeing that Desiree should return to the Valmondes?

A. Madame Valmonde

B. his mother

C. God

D. Desiree

6. Which explanation of Desiree’s parentage does Madam Valmonde finally accept?

A. She had run away from her own parents.

B. She was the illegitimate child of Monsieur Valmonde and an octoroon maid.

C. She had been abandoned by the stone pillar by reckless Texans.

D. Providence had bequeathed Desiree to her, for she was childless.

7. Which of the following items was not burned at the end of the story in Armand’s bonfire?

A. the cradle Desiree’s baby slept in

B. letters Desiree had sent him before they married

C. the corbeille he had ordered for Desiree from Paris

D. a letter from Madame Valmonde attesting to Desiree’s white lineage

8. What happens to Desiree after she obtains Armand’s permission for herself and the baby to live with the Valmondes again?

A. Armand calls her back, and they are reconciled.

B. She leaves for some weeks, but Armand eventually apologizes.

C. She returns to Valmonde, and Armand does not see her again.

D. Desiree disappears.

9. What truth does Armand later discover in an old letter?

A. Desiree had had an affair with a slave.

B. His father was of African descent.

C. He is adopted and cannot know his own heritage.

D. His mother was of African descent.

10. What does Desiree do when Armand shuns her?

A. Shoots Armand, then the baby, then herself.

B. Begs him to take her back, even as a slave.

C. Walks into the bayou with the infant and they are never seen again.

D. Stabs her baby, then herself.

Short Answer. Two to three sentences. (5 points.)

11. What does the fire symbolize at the end of the story? (Explain why you believe the fire could be a symbol and provide an example from the story to illustrate this.)

**Five to eight sentences each. Use specific textual evidence to support your argument; opinions alone will not be sufficient. (10 points each.)**

12. Argue whether or not Armand loves Desiree. Support your answer with specific textual references.

13. How does Chopin use diction in her favor to evoke feelings of sympathy for Desiree throughout the story? And sympathy for Desiree and her child as they are walking into the bayou? Give specific words and explain how they are used to affect the reader.