

## Group Discussion Questions for “Desiree’s Baby”

### Group 1

1. Look at the names in the story: Desiree, La Blanche, L’Abri. What is the associated meaning of each name and how does that relate to the story?
2. Examine the character of Armand. Is he pitiable or not? What motivates him? What is his background? Does he have a choice at the end of the story regarding Desiree and the baby?

### Group 2

1. What does the fire symbolize at the end of the story? (There are several viable answers.)
2. Tied in with the fire symbolism, if we as readers see Armand linked to satanic images, what support from the text could we find?

### Group 3

1. Identify the 3 main colors in the story. Who is associated with each of the colors and what is the significance?
2. In this story, Chopin is encouraging a discussion of gender roles. Based on the character of Desiree, what conclusions can you draw about a woman’s place in society?

### Group 4

1. Argue whether or not Armand loves Desiree. Support your answer with specific textual references.
2. Project how you believe Armand will feel after the conclusion of the story. Why do you believe this to be true?

### Group 5

1. Argue whether or not Armand knew he was “tainted” before discovering the letter at the end of the story. Use specific examples from the text and draw some conclusions. Do you think he even knew about the letter before the end of the story?
2. Find a few examples of irony in the story.

## Group 6

1. Look for and find at least 2 examples of foreshadowing that prepare the reader for the ending.
2. How does Chopin use diction in her favor to evoke feelings of 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.