

13. The boy *who was lazy* was punished.
 14. *I*, who am your King, will lead you.
 15. *The flowers* which grow in our gardens are not for sale.
 16. They *who live in glass houses* should not throw stones.
 17. Of his poems this is the only one that *is worth reading*.

D. Rewrite the following sentences, using subject-verb inversion, without changing its meaning.

Example: If you were to interview the Prime Minister, what would you ask?
 Were you to interview the Prime Minister, what would you ask?

1. If you see John, please give him my best regards.

2. If you were to earn a huge salary, what would you do with the money?

3. If he hadn't squandered all his savings, he wouldn't be poor now.

4. If she were to get wind of the situation, she would definitely be devastated.

5. If you need assistance, please let us know.

6. If he is accepted for the job, he will go out and celebrate.

7. If I hadn't chosen to learn English, I wouldn't be doing this exercise right now.

8. If it hadn't been so strange, I would have remembered it.

9. If I were in your shoes, I would tell her the truth.

10. If he were promoted, his salary would double.

Unit 17

NOT FOR SALE

Kate Chopin

Désirée's Baby

By the end of the unit, the students will be able to:

- Analyze story elements: characters, events, setting, plot, theme, tone, point of view.
- Identify the speaker or narrator in a selection.
- Recognize the author's purpose and point of view and their effects on the texts.
- Identify universal themes present in literature across all cultures.
- Read a text to
 - make connections between characters, events, motives and causes of conflicts in texts across cultures.
 - distinguish between flexible and inflexible characters.
 - describe how a character changes over the course of story.
 - express justification for change in character.
- Use critical thinking to respond orally and in writing to the text (post-reading) to
 - give a personal opinion and justify stance related to viewpoints/ ideas and issues in the text read.
 - relate what is read to his or her own feelings and experiences.
 - explore causes and consequences of a problem or an issue and propose various solutions.
 - evaluate material read.
- Use critical thinking to respond orally and in writing to the text (post-reading) to
 - give a personal opinion and justify stance related to viewpoints/ ideas and issues in the text read.
 - relate what is read to his or her own feelings and experiences.
- Recognize the author's purpose and point of view and their effects on the texts.
- Use summary skills to extract salient points and develop a mind map to summarize a text.
- Write an extended narrative incident including action, spoken words, observations, thoughts, and feelings.
- Use the knowledge of roots, suffixes and affixes to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Use direct and indirect speech appropriately in speech and writing according to the required communicative function.

Désirée's Baby

As the day was pleasant, Madame Valmondé drove over to L'Abri to see Désirée and the baby.

It made her laugh to think of Désirée with a baby. Why, it seemed but yesterday that Désirée was little more than a baby herself; when Monsieur in riding through the gateway of Valmondé had found her lying asleep in the shadow of the big stone pillar.

The little one awoke in his arms and began to cry for "Dada." That was as much as she could do or say. Some people thought she might have strayed there of her own accord, for she was of the toddling age. The prevailing belief was that she had been purposely left by a party of Texans, just below the plantation. Madame Valmondé fond belief was that Désirée had been sent to her by a beneficent Providence to be the child of her affection, seeing that she was without child. For the girl grew to be beautiful and gentle, affectionate and sincere, — the idol of Valmondé.

It was no wonder, when she stood one day against the stone pillar in whose shadow she had lain asleep, eighteen years before, that Armand Aubigny riding by and seeing her there, had fallen in love with her. That was the way all the Aubignys fell in love, as if struck by a pistol shot. The wonder was that he had not loved her before; for he had known her since his father brought him home from Paris, a boy of eight, after his mother died there. The passion that awoke in him that day, when he saw her at the gate, swept along like an avalanche, or like anything that drives headlong over all obstacles.

Monsieur Valmondé grew practical and wanted things well considered: that is, the girl's obscure origin. Armand looked into her eyes and did not care. He was reminded that she was nameless. What did it matter about a name when he could give her one of the oldest and proudest in Louisiana? He ordered the basket of flowers from Paris, and contained himself with what patience he could until it arrived; then they were married.

Madame Valmondé had not seen Désirée and the baby for four weeks. When she reached L'Abri, she shuddered at the first sight of it, as she always did. It was a sad looking place, which for many years had not known the gentle presence of a mistress, old Monsieur Aubigny having married and buried his wife in France, and she having loved her own land too well ever to leave it. The roof came down steep and black like a hood, reaching out beyond the wide galleries that encircled the yellow stuccoed house. Big, solemn oaks grew close to it, and their thick-leaved, far-reaching branches

shadowed it like a pall. Young Aubigny's rule was a strict one, too, and under it his negroes had forgotten how to be gay, as they had been during the old master's easy-going and indulgent lifetime.

The young mother was recovering slowly, and lay full length, in her soft white muslins and laces, upon a couch. The baby was beside her, upon her arm, where he had fallen asleep, at her breast. The yellow nurse woman sat beside a window fanning herself.

Madame Valmondé bent her portly figure over Désirée and kissed her, holding her tenderly in her arms. Then she turned to the child.

"This is not the baby!" she exclaimed, in startled tones. French was the language spoken at Valmondé in those days.

"I knew you would be astonished," laughed Désirée, "at the way he has grown. Look at his legs, mamma, and his hands and finger-nails,—real finger-nails. Zandrine had to cut them this morning, isn't it true, Zandrine?"

The woman bowed her turbaned head majestically, "of course, Madame."

"And the way he cries," went on Désirée, "is deafening. Armand heard him the other day as far away as La Blanche's cabin."

Madame Valmondé had never removed her eyes from the child. She lifted it and walked with it over to the window that was lightest. She scanned the baby narrowly, then looked as searchingly at Zandrine, whose face was turned to gaze across the fields.

"Yes, the child has grown, has changed;" said Madame Valmondé, slowly, as she replaced it beside its mother. "What does Armand say?"

Désirée's face became suffused with a glow that was happiness itself.

"Oh, Armand is the proudest father in the parish, I believe, chiefly because it is a boy, to bear his name; though he says not,—that he would have loved a girl as well. But I know it isn't true I know he says that to please me. And mamma," she added, drawing Madame Valmondé's head down to her, and speaking in a whisper, "he hasn't punished one of them — not one of them—since baby is born. Even Négrillon, who pretended to have burnt his leg that he might rest from work—he only laughed, and said Négrillon was a great scamp. Oh, mamma, I'm so happy; it frightens me."

What Désirée said was true. Marriage, and later the birth of his son had softened Armand Aubigny's imperious and exacting nature greatly. This was what made the gentle Désirée so happy, for she loved him desperately. When he frowned she trembled but loved him. When he smiled, she asked no greater blessing of God. But Armand's dark, handsome face had not often been disfigured by frowns since the day he fell love with her.

When the baby was about three months old, Désirée awoke one day to the conviction that there was something in the air menacing her peace. It was at first too subtle to grasp. It had only been a disquieting suggestion; an air of mystery among the blacks; unexpected visits from far-off neighbors who could hardly account for their coming. Then a strange, an awful change in her husband's manner, which she dared not ask him to explain. When he spoke to her, it was with averted eyes, from which the old love-light seemed to have gone out. He absented himself from home; and when there, avoided her presence and that of her child, without excuse. And the very spirit of Satan seemed suddenly to take hold of him in his dealings with the slaves. Désirée was miserable enough to die.

She sat in her room, one hot afternoon, listlessly drawing through her fingers the strands of her long, silky brown hair that hung about her shoulders. The baby, half naked, lay asleep upon her own great mahogany bed, that was like a sumptuous throne, with its satin-lined half-canopy. One of La Blanche's little quadroon boys—half naked too—stood fanning the child slowly with a fan of peacock feathers. Désirée's eyes had been fixed absently and sadly upon the baby, while she was striving to penetrate the threatening mist that she felt closing about her. She looked from her child to the boy who stood beside him, and back again; over and over. "Ah!" It was a cry that she could not help; which she was not conscious of having uttered. The blood turned like ice in her veins, and a clammy moisture gathered upon her face.

She tried to speak to the little quadroon boy; but no sound would come, at first. When he heard his name uttered, he looked up, and his mistress was pointing to the door. He laid aside the great, soft fan, and obediently stole away, over the polished floor, on his bare tiptoes.

She stayed motionless, with gaze riveted upon her child, and her face the picture of fright. Presently her husband entered the room, and without noticing her, went to a table and began to search among some papers which covered it.

"Armand," she called to him, in a voice which must have stabbed him, if he was human. But he did not notice. "Armand," she said again. Then she rose and tottered towards him. "Armand," she panted once more, clutching his arm, "look at our child. What does it mean? tell me."

He coldly but gently loosened her fingers from about his arm and thrust the hand away from him. "Tell me what it means!" she cried despairingly.

"It means, he answered lightly, "that the child is not white; it means that you are not white."

A quick conception of all that this accusation meant for her nerved her with unwonted courage to deny it. "It is a lie; it is not true, I am white! Look at my hair, it is brown; and my eyes are gray, Armand, you know they are gray. And my skin is fair," seizing his wrist. "Look at my hand; whiter than yours, Armand," she laughed hysterically.

"As white as La Blanche's," he returned cruelly; and went away leaving her alone with their child.

When she could hold a pen in her hand, she sent a despairing letter to Madame Valmondé.

"My mother, they tell me I am not white. Armand has told me I am not white. For God's sake tell them it is not true. You must know it is not true. I shall die. I must die. I cannot be so unhappy, and live."

The answer that came was as brief:

"My own Désirée: Come home to Valmondé; back to your mother who loves you. Come with your child."

When the letter reached Désirée she went with it to her husband's study room, and laid it open upon the desk before which he sat. She was like a stone image: silent, white, motionless after she placed it there.

In silence he ran his cold eyes over the written words. He said nothing. "Shall I go, Armand?" she asked in tones sharp with agonized suspense.

"Yes, go."

"Do you want me to go?"

"Yes, I want you to go."

He thought Almighty God had dealt cruelly and unjustly with him; and felt, somehow, that he was paying Him back in kind when he stabbed thus into his wife's soul. Moreover he no longer loved her, because of the unconscious injury she had brought upon his home and his name.

She turned away like one stunned by a blow, and walked slowly towards the door, hoping he would call her back.

"Good-by, Armand," she moaned.

He did not answer her. That was his last blow at fate.

Désirée went in search of her child. Zandrine was pacing the sombre gallery with it. She took the little one from the nurse's arms with no word of explanation, and descending the steps, walked away, under the live-oak branches.

It was an October afternoon; the sun was just sinking. Out in the still fields the negroes were picking cotton.

Désirée had not changed the thin white garment nor the slippers which she wore. Her hair was uncovered and the sun's rays brought a golden gleam from its brown meshes. She did not take the broad, beaten road which led to the far-off plantation of Valmondé. She walked across a deserted field, where the stubble bruised her tender feet, so delicately shod, and tore her thin gown to shreds.

She disappeared among the reeds and willows that grew thick along the banks of the deep, sluggish stream; and she did not come back again.

Some weeks later there was a curious scene enacted at L'Abri. In the centre of the smoothly swept back yard was a great bonfire. Armand Aubigny sat in the wide hallway that commanded a view of the spectacle; and it was he who dealt out to a half dozen negroes the material which kept this fire ablaze.

A graceful cradle of willow, with all its dainty furbishings, was laid upon the pyre, which had already been fed with the richness of a priceless *layette*. Then there were silk gowns, and velvet and satin ones added to these; laces, too, and embroideries, bonnets and gloves; for the basket of flowers had been of rare quality.

The last thing to go was a tiny bundle of letters; innocent little scribbles that Désirée had sent to him during the days of their espousal. There was the remnant of one back in the drawer from which he took them. But it was not Désirée's; it was part of an old letter from his mother to his father. He read it. She was thanking God for the blessing of her husband's love: —

"But, above all," she wrote, "night and day, I thank the good God for having so arranged our lives that our dear Armand will never know that his mother, who adores him, belongs to the race that is cursed with the brand of slavery."

About the author

Kate Chopin (February 8, 1850 – August 22, 1904) was an American author of short stories and novels based in Louisiana. She is considered by scholars to have been a forerunner of American 20th-century feminist authors.

Glossary

Word	Meaning
avalanche(n)	a mass of snow, ice and rock that falls down the side of a mountain
avert(v)	to prevent something bad or dangerous from happening
Bayou(n)	a branch of a river in the southern US that moves very slowly and has many plants growing in it
brand(n)	a mark made with a piece of hot metal, especially on farm animals to show who owns them
canopy(n)	a cover that is fixed or hangs above a bed, seat, etc. as a shelter or decoration
clammy(adj.)	slightly wet in an unpleasant way
conviction(n)	
dainty (adj.)	
despairingly(adv.)	in a way that shows a loss of all hope
frowns(n)	to make a serious, angry or worried expression by bringing your eyebrows closer together so that lines appear on your forehead
headlong(adv.)	with the head first and the rest of the body following
hysterically(adv.)	in an extremely excited way and without any control, often with crying or laughter
imperious(adj.)	expecting people to obey you and treating them as if they are not as important as you
indulgent(adj.)	(usually disapproving) tending to allow somebody to have or do whatever they want
layette(n)	a set of clothes and other things for a new baby
listlessly(adv.)	without energy or enthusiasm
mahogany(n)	the hard red-brown wood of a tropical tree, used for making furniture
menace(n)	to be a possible danger to something/somebody

muslin(n)	a type of fine cotton cloth that you can almost see through, used, especially in the past, for making clothes and curtains
negro(n)	a member of a race of people with dark skin who originally came from Africa
of her own accord	without being asked, forced or helped
pall(n)	pall of something a thick dark cloud of something, a cloth spread over a coffin
plantation(n)	a large area of land, especially in a hot country, where crops such as coffee, sugar, rubber, etc. are grown
portly(adj.)	(especially of an older man) rather fat
providence	God, or a force that some people believe controls our lives and the things that happen to us, usually in a way that protects us
quadroon(n)	a person who is one-quarter black by descent.
rivet(v)	to hold somebody's interest or attention so completely that they cannot look away or think of anything else
satin(n)	a type of cloth with a smooth shiny surface
scamp(adj.)	a child who enjoys playing tricks and causing trouble
scribbling(n)	writing or drawings produced carelessly or hurriedly.
shod(v)	past simple and past participle of shoe/Wearing or protected by shoes.
shudder(v)	to shake because you are cold or frightened, or because of a strong feeling
sombre(adj.)	sad and serious, dark in colour
speculation(n)	the act of forming opinions about what has happened or what might happen without knowing all the facts
stubble(n)	the lower short, stiff part of the stems of crops such as wheat that are left in the ground after the top part has been cut and collected
stuccoed(adj.)	covered with a type of plaster called stucco

suffuse(n)	(especially of a colour, light or feeling) to spread all over or through somebody/something
sumptuous(adj.)	very expensive and looking very impressive
toddling(n)	when a young child who has just learnt to walk toddles, he/she walks with short, unsteady steps
totter(v)	to walk or move with weak, unsteady steps, especially because you are drunk or ill
unwonted(adj.)	not usual or expected

Reading Comprehension

- Write down the central idea of the lesson 'Desirée's Baby'?
- Why did Armand not consider Desirée's origin before marrying her?
- Write a brief character sketch of Armand Aubigny.
- Why did the behaviour of Armand Aubigny change towards Desirée as the story proceeds?
- Why was Desirée assumed a reason for his child not being white?
- What is the meaning of the phrase "he was reminded that she was nameless" in the context of Desirée's Baby?
- Suggest another ending for the story, 'Desirée's Baby'?

Writing Suggestions

Write a summary of the story, Desirée's Baby giving it a proper beginning, middle and end.

Oral Communication

We are definitely not addicted to racism in terms of "black" and "white" but we certainly follow some other kinds of racism. Make two groups in the class and thoroughly discuss these various versions of racism in our society.

Vocabulary and Grammar

1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words given in brackets.

- The conference was held at a hall.
a) special b) spacious c) specious d) sociable

2. That he is very _____ should be evident from the number of friends he has.
a) sociable b) social c) societal d) society
3. The gangsters made a _____ attack on the hapless refugees.
a) timid b) bold c) valiant d) cowardly
4. People from villages are migrating to _____ areas.
a) urban b) urbane c) rural d) rustic
5. This drug is not to be taken _____.
a) verbally b) physically c) orally d) generally
6. The terrorists could not _____ the army advance.
a) withstand b) withheld c) withdraw

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words in brackets.

It has been _____ (observation) that drivers have become more careless and rash these days. The traffic police committee has _____ (decision) to take this disregard for traffic rules very seriously. CCTV cameras will be monitored at all times, and the traffic offenders will be _____ (catch) immediately by the police at the next junction. It has _____ (be) decided to _____ (penalty) the first instance of law break with a fine and the second with the _____ (cancel) of the driving license.

B. Direct-Indirect speech.

Look at the following two sentences:

- John said, "I am unwell now". - Sentence [1].
- John said that he was unwell then. - Sentence [2].

Sentence [1] is said to be in Direct speech and sentence [2] in Indirect speech.

We can see that there is no change in meaning, but there is a change in form.

First, the inverted commas have been removed.

Second, the pronoun 'I' in sentence [1] has been changed from 1st person to 3rd person.

Third, the auxiliary verb 'am' which is in the simple present tense, in sentence [1] has been changed to 'was' which is in the simple past tense.

Fourth, the adverb 'now' has been changed to 'then', i.e.; a word showing closeness in time is changed to a word showing distance.

The word 'that' has been added after the reporting verb 'said'.

So, we change the person of the pronoun and the tense of the verb and the adverb when we change from Direct to Indirect.

What do we mean by "Person" of a pronoun?

We know that there are three person[s] where a pronoun is concerned. They are the 1st person, the 2nd person and the 3rd person.

- The definition of the 1st person is 'Person speaking'.
- The definition of 2nd person is 'Person spoken to'.
- The definition of 3rd person is 'Person spoken of/about'.

Why can't we have a 4th Person?

It is because in a conversation there can only be a 'person speaking', 'a person spoken to' or a 'person spoken of'. There cannot be a fourth 'person'.

Let us suppose that there are two people 'A' and 'B'. If A says to B "I want to go there", he is the 'person speaking' and he refers to himself as 'I', so 'I' is the first person.

Suppose he asks B "Do you want to come?", B is the 'person spoken to' and he is being addressed as 'you', so 'you' is the second person.

Suppose 'A' leaves and 'C' comes along and B tells C what A told him, saying, 'He wanted to go there'. 'A' is the 'person spoken of' and so 'He' is the third person.

Person	Singular	Plural
1 st	I	We
2 nd	You	You
3 rd	He, She, It	They.

We will list the remaining pronouns according to their person:

Person	Singular	Plural	Accusative case
1 st	me	us	
2 nd	you	you	
3 rd	him, her,	them	it.
Person	Singular	Plural	Possessive case [nominative and accusative]
1 st	my, mine	our, ours	
2 nd	your, yours	your, yours	their, theirs
3 rd	his, his, her, hers	Its, its	

Person	Singular	Plural	Emphatic and Reflexive
1 st	myself	ourselves	
2 nd	yourself	yourselves	
3 rd	himself, herself itself	themselves	

So in sentence [1] above we change the pronoun from 1st person 'I' to 3rd person 'He'.

Auxiliary Verbs

There are two forms of the auxiliary verb: the primary auxiliaries and the modal auxiliaries.

The primary auxiliaries are: 'to be' - is, am, are, was and were.

'to do' - do, does and did.

'to have' - have, has and had.

The modal auxiliaries are: can could, will would, shall should, may might, must, need and dare.

A regular verb like 'sit' has the present tense form 'sit' and the past tense form 'sat'.

Just as a regular verb has these two forms, the auxiliaries also have two forms.

The present tense forms of 'to be' are: is, am and are.

The past tense forms are: was, were.

We can compare two sentences to find out the 'tense' of an auxiliary verb

Form simple sentences using the auxiliaries:

➤ {1} I am here, and

➤ {2} I was here.

We see that the second sentence is in the past tense and the first sentence is in the present tense.

Similarly, by forming simple sentences, we can find out the tense of any of the auxiliaries.

So, we change from the present tense to the past tense when changing to Indirect speech in sentence [2] above.

Adverbs are words showing 'where' and 'when' something happened. Some adverbs are 'here' which changes to 'there', 'today' which becomes 'that day', 'tomorrow'...

which becomes 'the next day' and so on.

In short, we change the pronouns, the verbs and the adverbs when we change from Direct to Indirect speech.

Interrogative sentences:

Look at the following question:

➤ He said, "Are you here?"

In this sentence, the auxiliary verb 'are' comes first and then the subject 'you'.

When we change the sentence into Indirect speech the positions of subject and verb are interchanged, as in:

He asked whether he was there.

Once again the pronoun is changed to third person and the verb is changed to the past tense.

The reporting verb can be asked or inquired to name but two.

The word 'whether' is placed after the reporting verb. It can also be replaced with its equivalent 'if'.

Exclamatory and Imperative sentences:

An exclamatory sentence shows strong emotion. A reporting verb for an exclamatory sentence can be 'exclaimed'. For an Imperative sentence which shows a command or a request, the reporting verbs can be 'ordered', 'requested' etc. Often the subject is implied in Imperative sentences:

"Sit!" said the teacher to the students. Here the subject is: [You] Sit. So the sentences in Indirect becomes, The teacher told them to sit.

So, let us look at some sentences which are changed into Indirect speech using the above rules:

➤ "You're going to write, aren't you?" asked Sophia.

'Is that nothing? I've promised myself that you're going to write your stories and become famous. And while you're writing, I'll stand behind you and read over your shoulder.' he said to her.

Sophia asked whether he was going to write. He asked her if that was nothing? He had promised himself that she was going to write her stories and become famous. And while she was writing, he would stand behind her and read over her shoulder