

Marguerite Poland  
Shades  
Chapter 5 & 6

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CHAPTER 5:

1. "The irritation Frances had felt with Victor six months before was tempered with something else: her own restlessness."
  - Explain the meaning of this "restlessness" in Frances. (4)
  
2. How would the following events at the "umngeni" have been viewed in a Victorian context, i.e. by someone like Emily Farborough or Helmina Smythe?
  - Victor shedding his shirt to fight Benedict. (2)
  - Frances holding Victor's shirt and watching the fight. (2)
  - Victor's outburst of temper upon losing the stick-fight with Benedict. (2)
  
3. "And Mr Brownley," said Helmina suddenly . . . "I believe he finds you very tiresome at times."
  - Why did Helmina tell this blatant lie to Frances? (4)
  - What effect does this lie have on Frances? (4)
  
4. When narrating the scene where Frances meets Victor at the river, the author only hints at what really happens. She leaves the rest to the imagination and ingenuity of the reader.
  - What does happen? How does Frances feel about what has happened? How does Victor feel about what has happened? (6)

CHAPTER 6:

5. "Did a spot of fishing . . ." God Almighty! What was there to fish for in that drought-raddled river?"
  - What does Walter think happened between Victor and Frances at the river? What affect does this knowledge have on Walter? (10)
  
6. The author enlightens us with an explanation of many of the emotional difficulties which Benedict faces at St Matthias Mission.
  - Explain these difficulties. (5)
  
7. Why does Father Charles forbid the "umngeni"? (6)

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