Questions and Topics for discussion

1. Why does Charlus now hate Mme de Molé?
2. Why has Mme Verdurin’s salon suffered a setback because of the Dreyfus affair?
3. Why does Mme Verdurin exclude the Queen of Naples from the “nitwits” in front of whom Vinteuil’s masterpiece was performed?
4. What justifies Brichot’s statement that Charlus “combines a genius for anathema” with “a wealth of kindness”?
5. Charlus is “executed” by the Verdurins. How does this fit in with the “prisoner” theme throughout the novel?
6. In what way does Theodore of Combray resemble Morel?
7. What is the relationship between Theodore’s sister and Mme Putbus?
8. Why does Charlus say that society is finished?
9. What objet did the Queen of Naples forget at the Verdurins’?
10. Why does the Verdurins want their generosity towards Saniette to remain anonymous?