Questions and Topics for discussion

1. Who is the person the Guermantes would like Marcel to marry?

2. What poem supplies the motto for the yacht that Marcel intended to buy Albertine? Who is the poet?

3. What evidence does Françoise cite to support her conclusion that Albertine’s two rings came from the same donor?

4. How does Françoise react to Albertine’s death?

5. What sinister shape do Albertine’s boxes or suitcases remind Marcel of?

6. What are the two places that Marcel fears Albertine may have fled to? Why does he dread so those two places?

7. Why does Marcel think that Albertine is eager to marry him?

8. What are the parallels that Marcel sees between his love for Albertine and Racine’s tragedy *Phèdre*?

9. What emotion does Marcel characterize as “an amplifier of desire”?

10. What amount of money is Saint-Loup to offer as a bribe to Mme Bontemps?