

PROSE

Chapter - 1

THE LAST LESSON

-By Alphonse Daudet

1. What was Franz expected to be prepared with for school that day?

Ans- Franz was expected to be prepared with rules on 'participles' that day. M.Hamel his teacher, had already announced that he would ask question them on participles. Franz did not know even the 'first word' about them. He was assuming a rebuke from M Hamel on that day.

2. What did Franz notice that was unusual about the school that day?

Ans- Franz noticed something different about the school on that day. Generally, when the school began, there was a great hustle and bustle, which could be heard out in the street. Opening and closing of desks, lesson repeated loudly in unison created a lot of commotion but on that day everything was still and silent like that of Sunday morning. It was totally unusual and surprising.

3. What had been put up on the bulletin - board?

Ans- For the last two years every important news or public announcement was put up on the bulletin - board like the lost battles, the draft, the orders of the commanding officer etc. An order from Berlin that only German language would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Thus, current issues are generally put up on the bulletin board.

4. What changes did the order from Berlin cause in school that day?

Ans- The order from Berlin caused a great changes in the school that day. The whole school appeared so strange and Solemn. M. Hamel, the teacher was in his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt and little black silk cap. The back benches that were always empty, were fully occupied by the elderly village people. It was their last lesson in French. Now onwards, the schools of Alsace and Lorraine would teach only German language.

5. How did Franz's feelings about M. Hamel and school change?

Ans- Franz's feelings about M. Hamel and school were totally changed now when he came to know that M. Hamel was going to teach his last lesson in the school. It was a thunderclap for him. The order from Berlin aroused patriotic feelings in him. He felt sorry for not learning his lesson. He suddenly grew respect for M. Hamel. He even forgot all about his ruler and cranky nature.

6. The people in this story suddenly realise how precious their language is to them. What shows you this? Why does this happen?

Ans- The people in this story suddenly aroused patriotic feelings for the country along with their language. The order from Berlin imposed German on the French speaking people of Alsace and Lorraine. It made full of difference. The people of Alsace were earlier indifferent to their language. They develop a new-found love for French. M. Hamel declared that "French is the most beautiful and logical language in the world". All the village elders seated on the back benches. This shows people love for their own culture, traditions, country and departing language.

7. Franz thinks, will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons? what could this mean?

Ans- An order came from Berlin that only German language would be taught in the school of Alsace and Lorraine and M. Hamel announces that this is the last lesson in French language. Each and every one shocked. Further he said, it is the most beautiful and logical language in the world. Franz shows his dislike for German language by saying the statement sarcastically "will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons"? It means powerful German can impose German language on the French speaking people but they cannot impose German on the pigeons who are cooing on the roof. Though, they enslave people of Alsace and Lorraine but cannot have any authority over their feelings. They cannot compel even pigeons cooing in German.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Franz looked for opportunities to skip school to do what?

- (a) work on mills
- (b) go fishing
- (c) water the plants
- (d) collect birds eggs

Q2. What was Franz thinking on to enter the class as he was late?

- (a) M.Hamel's teaching on the blackboard
- (b) to get to his desk without being noticed in that commotion
- (c) Hauser helping him sneak in
- (d) to quietly walk in when everyone was preoccupied with participles

Q3. M. Hamel is introduced as a ruler-wielding teacher. This demonstrates that:

- (a) he is concerned
- (b) he is adamant
- (c) he is unfeeling
- (d) he is a hard taskmaster

Q4. Franz thinks- will they make them sing in German-

even the pigeons? What could this mean?

- (a) German would use brutal force over everyone
- (b) harsh orders will be passed
- (c) when people are deprived of their essence even the surroundings are affected
- (d) the Germans will rob France of its language

Q5. What does M. Hamel's motionless posture reflect?

- (a) the school is dismissed
- (b) sense of finality
- (c) changing order of life
- (d) feeling of nostalgia

Q6. What is the moral that the Alphonse Daudet wants to bring out?

- (a) not to put off things that one can do that day
- (b) old order changed to new
- (c) one should accept everything that happens
- (d) teachers should be respected

Q7. Why did Hamel blame himself?

- (a) not having taught them enough French
- (b) not being strict
- (c) giving students a holiday at times
- (d) not being responsible

Q8. Who sat on the back bench on the last lesson?

- (a) Franz
- (b) Prussians
- (c) the village people
- (d) The new teacher

Q9. What was M. Hamel going to Questions Franz about?

- (a) participles
- (b) adjectives
- (c) old primer
- (d) Ba be bi bo bu

Q10. For the last two years, where did all the bad news come from?

- (a) the Bulletin Board
- (b) Town Hall
- (c) school
- (d) M. Hamel's House

Q11. Don't go so fast, you will get to your school in plenty of time means ____

- (a) getting late
- (b) very early
- (c) not early
- (d) early enough

Q12. What did Mr. Hamel bring for his class on his last day in the school?

- (a) new pens
- (b) new notebooks
- (c) sweets
- (d) story books

Q13. What was Franz expected to be prepared for at school that day?

- (a) song
- (b) dance
- (c) essay writing
- (d) Participles

Q14. Why did the villagers come to meet M. Hamel in the school?

- (a) to complain
- (b) to say goodbye
- (c) to gossip
- (d) to show gratitude

Q15. Why was Franz surprised?

- (a) Because of village elders
- (b) Because of police patrolling
- (c) because of students' behavior
- (d) because of M.Hamel's kind and polite behaviour

Q16. What did Franz find on reaching the school?

- (a) People were dancing
- (b) school was closed
- (c) Police patrolling
- (d) strange quietness

Q17. The story 'The Last Lesson' highlights which human tendency?

- (a) Male Chauvinism
- (b) Procrastination
- (c) Courage
- (d) Cowardice

Q18. Who is the author of The Last Lesson?

- (a) Jane Austen
- (b) Rabindra Nath Tagore
- (c) None
- (d) Alphonse Daudet

ANSWER KEY

1- d, 2- b, 3- d, 4- c, 5- a, 6- a, 7- c, 8- c, 9- a, 10- a, 11- d, 12- b, 13- d, 14- d, 15- d, 16- d, 17- b, 18- d