

CHAPTER 1 - THE LAST LESSON (SATQ)

Q1. What was Franz expected to be prepared with for that day?

Franz was expected to be prepared with the rules of participles for that day given by M. Hamel as homework to be learnt. But, he did know the first word of it. As a result he feared that M. Hamel would scold him.

Q2. Why did Franz want to spend his day out of doors?

Franz was aware of the fact that his teacher would certainly ask him to recite the rules of participles and he did not know the first word of it. Moreover, he was known to the cranky nature of this teacher. Keeping all the things in mind, he decided to spend his day out of doors.

Q3. What was Bulletin Board? What had been put up on it?

Bulletin Board was a kind of notice board that was famous for all the bad news such as; draft, lost battle, order of commanding officers & other bad news. But the latest information on the board was about the German rulers' order banning the teaching of French in Alsace and Lorraine.

Q4. What was the order that came from Berlin that day?

The order that came from Berlin that day was about the banning of French language in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Now, French was going to be replaced by German as a language.

Q5. What changes did the order from Berlin cause in school that day?

Plenty of changes could be seen on that day in the school. On entering the school, Franz noticed that the day was as silent as of Sunday's morning. There was no noise of opening and closing of desks, lessons being repeated, students were sitting silently in the class & the back benches which always remained vacant were occupied by the villagers & his teachers was wearing his unusual clothes that were green coat, frilled shirt and black silk cap.

Q6. What did the narrator observe while passing the town hall?

The narrator noticed a huge crowd standing in front of bulletin board. The sight troubled him because, for the past two years they had received all the bad news from there.

Q7. How was Franz treated by M. Hamel in the class?

Franz had expected a severe punishment & Scolding from M. Hamel before entering the class. But on entering, he was taken aback as M. Hamel asked him to take his seat and listen to the lesson carefully.

Q8. What was the thing that shocked everybody in the class?

The news of M. Hamel's departure shocked each and everybody in the class. M. Hamel himself announced this news in front of all the students and the villagers sitting in the class.

Q9. Why had the villagers occupied the back benches of the class that day?

The back benches were occupied by the villagers to thank their master for his forty years meritorious service. Moreover, they wanted to repent for their guilt for not being regular and serious towards their mother tongue and country.

Q10. How did the narrator recite the rules of participle? Was he disrespected in the class?

When narrator turn came to recite the rules of participle, he got mixed up & confused. He was, not at all, disrespected by M. Hamel as he didn't want to hurt or beat anyone before leaving the school.

Q11."We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with" what did M. Hamel mean by this statement?

Or

Who does M. Hamel hold responsible for the poor performance of the children in the class?

According to M. Hamel, both parents and he himself were responsible for the poor performance of the children. Parents wanted their children to work on the fields or at sawmill just for the sake of little amount and he sent children for watering his plants and for holidays when he had to go for fishing and outing. So he wanted people and him to reproach their doings.

Q12. How did M. Hamel bid farewell to the students and people sitting in his class?

M. Hamel was very much annoyed with the order that came from Berlin. He wanted to speak but his emotions and sentiments choked his throat. So he stood up, took a piece of chalk and write 'Vive La France' on the board as large as he could which means long live France. In this way, he bade farewell to the students and the people sitting in the class.

Q13. What did M. Hamel advise everybody to do?

M. Hamel advised all the students and people to guard their French language since it is the clearest and the most logical language of this world. In addition to this, he advised the people not to put off their work till tomorrow and to do them timely.

Q14. What made Franz learn his last lesson easily?

Franz who never took interest in his lessons was stunned by the wordings of M. Hamel of leaving the school forever. He paid slight attention to his chapters and succeeded in learning all what was taught by M. Hamel in the class.

Q15. How was M. Hamel's last lesson different from his previous classes?

M. Hamel who once used to be a very strict teacher was totally opposite to his character on his last day. He always carried an iron rod under his arm before that day. But on his last day, he neither scolded nor beat anyone for not doing their work on time. He showed his patience and regard for everyone sitting there on his last day.

Q16. "They can't make these pigeons sing in German" Why did Franz think so?

Franz thought about that because he had understood that rules can be imposed over the slaves not over the animals. According to him, Germans could insist them to speak German but they could not implement their rules over the innocent birds.

Q17. What was more tempting for Franz than going to school?

Franz wanted to spend his days out either by looking at the chirruping of the birds or Prussian soldiers drilling at the saw mill as he knew that his teacher would ask him questions on participles.

CHAPTER-1 THE LAST LESSON (LATQ)

Q1. Write a note on the character of M. Hamel as a teacher.

M. Hamel was a French teacher who had been teaching for forty years in the school of Alsace. He was a strict teacher who always kept an iron ruler under his arm in order to punish the children for not doing their work. He thought for the welfare of the children and their better future. He was disciplined and obedient to his duties. Having heard about the order that came from Berlin, he got so much depressed & emotional on his last day. He taught everybody the importance of his mother tongue and requested them to guard their language. He knew that was his last day in the school, yet he performed his duties seriously

and taught his last lesson in the class which shows how dutiful he was towards his duties. He held himself and the parents responsible for the poor performance of the people. All the students and villagers present in the class had tears in their eyes for not being sincere and regular in the class. After teaching them all the lessons, M. Hamel stood up and bade farewell to the students by writing "Vive La France" on the board which means 'live long France'.

Q2. How did Franz realize the importance of his mother tongue?

Franz was an irregular student who wished to live and spend his much of the time out of doors. He thought of skipping the classes as he was aware of the nature of his class teacher. He took his lessons as a medium of boredom. When he got to know about the order that came from Berlin, he got the land skipped under his feet. On reaching school, he learnt the lessons honestly and succeeded in learning all of them. Then, he realized that it was his fault that he never paid attention to his studies. When M. Hamel taught him about the importance of his mother tongue (French) that it is the clearest and the most logical language of this world & they should guard it, he repents over his negligence towards his mother tongue. On seeing M. Hamel emotions and his patriotism towards the country and its language, he realized the importance of his mother tongue.