

THE LAST LESSON



DS2

WORKSHEET - I

PERIOD - I

1. The narrator was in a great dread of being scolded because he was very late to school that morning and he was not even prepared for the lesson of participles ; which M. Hamel was going to ask questions on.
2. Franz found the classes to be a bit too noisy for his liking. So, on that morning when he woke up, he found the weather was pleasant and quite tempting. Thus, he decided to ditch the school and enjoy the weather.
3. The narrator saw a huge crowd in front of the bulletin board as he passed the town hall. The sight troubled him as for the past two years they had received all their bad news.
4. Usually, when the school began, there was a great hustle. The noise could be heard out in the school. Students opened and closed their desks and repeated the lessons loudly. The teacher would go on tapping the table with his ruler.

5. The whole school seemed so strange and solemn because everybody was very sad after knowing the order passed from Berlin to teach only German instead of French in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine.
6. M. Hamel was the most dedicated, hard working and a learned teacher of French. He served the school for about 40 years towards the cause of education. He had specific regard for his language and taught the students, the importance of their own language.
7. M. Hamel wore his special dress that he used to wear on inspection and prize days. He explained his lessons with unusual patience as if he wanted to teach them everything he has ever learned in their last French class.
8. Mr. Hamel made the people realize how they, the students and he had been responsible for not learning their language well by blaming everyone. He didn't blame his students alone for poor learning. He also held himself responsible for the same.

PERIOD - II

9. A person's native language is what connects them to their culture and country. It gives them a sense of pride and belonging. This is why conquerors try to subdue the people of a conquered territory by taking away the native language and imposing their own language. Throughout history, conquering nations have done the same. The Romans conquered many parts of Europe and replaced their languages with Latin. Muslim invaders imposed Arabic and Persian in the Asian countries, they conquered. In India, Urdu was developed as a mixture of Persian and Hindi and English was imposed by Britishers.
10. When Franz heard that he was going to attend his last French lesson, he was astounded. His books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, his grammar and his history of saints, were old friends now that he couldn't give up.
11. Franz was quite shaken on hearing the news that only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. When Franz wonders if the conquerors would even make the pigeons sing in German, it shows the extent of his concern regarding the loss of his native language. He was worried that the Germans would go to any lengths to establish their linguistic superiority.

12. When Franz looked up at M. Hamel, he noticed that he was looking at one thing first, then another and so on as if he wanted to fix his mind just how everything looked in that old school room.
13. Franz's attitude towards his master and the French language changed. As, M. Hamel announced that this was their last 'last lesson' because the Prussians took over the districts of Alsace and Lorraine, those very word changed his entire life, and word and proved to be a thundershock. His lessons of the Saints and history proved to be his friends now which he cannot leave. He became patriotic, and earned a new respect for his teacher, his language and his country.
14. M. Hamel was the most dedicated, hard working and a learned teacher of French. He served for about 40 years for the school and had an unbreakable attachment, towards the school. He was a Frenchman at heart, who took immense pride in teaching his mother tongue. He told the students that how important our native language is and one should always have respect for it.

15. After the lesson in history was over the babies chanted there ba, be, bi, bo ; old Hauser who was sitting at the back of the room had put on his spectacles .

16. When the order was issued from Berlin , everything was unusual . The order was issued that it was compulsory to teach German in all schools of Lorraine and Alsace . To M. Hamel , such order caused great disappointment as he was serving for the school since last 40 years . On that day , all the villagers and students realized the importance of their native language , French . They felt sorry for being undisciplined towards their own language and that they ignored the French classes for their own professional lives . At the last day , they realized their mistake and attended the last lesson with earnestness and sincerity .

PERIOD - III

17. The new order from Berlin , according to which German was to be taught in Alsace and Lorraine , aroused patriotic feelings in Frenchman . Every Frenchman came to attend the last lesson of Mr. M Hamel . He was the one who was feeling most patriotic at this juncture .

While teaching his last lesson, he aroused more patriotic feelings in the people of Alsace by appealing to hold fast to their mother tongue to be free from the Prussians. He told his people that French language was the most beautiful, the clearest and the most logical language in the world. He appealed to his countrymen to guard it and never forget it. He was emotionally attached to the school and all his students.

At the end, he became so emotional that he couldn't speak. At last he wrote 'Vive La France' and gestured the dispersal.

18. Mr. M. Hamel said farewell to his students and townspeople in a unique manner. He wore his best Sunday clothes that day. He gave his students the sad news and tried to teach them as much as he could. He didn't blame his students for poor learning but also held himself responsible. He was very patriotic and has huge respect for his mother tongue. According to him, the French language was the most beautiful. He was emotionally attached to the school and his students. At the end, he became emotional and was even unable to speak. At last he wrote 'Vive La France'.

19. Hamel blamed the parents for the neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz because their parents wanted them to work on farm to earn some money. Franz himself wanted to enjoy his time and thus, avoided going to school.
20. Franz feared a scolding at school as he had not prepared his lessons, on participles. Besides, the warm, bright weather, the chirping of birds and the sight of the marching Prussian soldiers also tempted him to stay away from school.
21. In honour of his last French lesson in the school, M. Hamel had put on his fine Sunday clothes. He had on his green coat, his frilled shirt and the little black, all embroidered silk cap that he never wore except on inspection and prize days.
22. He was an ideal teacher which can be seen from the fact that even on the last day he tried to teach as much as he could. He taught grammar and writing skills. He was emotionally attached to the school and all his students.

