

## Class 12 English

### Chapter one Title Last lesson.

**About the author:** Alphonse Duet was a French Novelists and short story writer. The last lesson is set in the days of the Franco\_Prussion war in which France was defeated by Prussia led by Bismarck. Prussia then consisted of what now are the nations of Germany, Poland and parts of Austria. In this story the French districts of Alsace and Lorraine have passed in to in the hands of Prussian. The story deals with the theme of language imposition and language loyalty .The story high lights pain that is inflicted on the people of a territory by its conquerors by taking away their right to study or speak their own language

Answer the Following questions

1. Why do you think was little Franz afraid of being scolded?

Ans. Franz was afraid of being scolded that day especially because M.Hamel the teacher had said that he would question them on participals.Franz a frankly admits that he was totally ignorant about the topic. His exact words are:"I did not know the first word about them "secondly he had stated very late that morning.

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

Ans. Usually when school began there was a great bustle. Which could be heard out in the street? But it was all very still that day. , Everything as quite as Sunday morning. There was no opening and closing of desks.His class mates were already in their places.. The teacher's great ruler instead if rapping on the table, was under M.Hamel, arm.

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

Ans. For the last two years all the bad news had come from the bulletin-board. An order had come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The Germans had put up this notice on the bulletin –board.

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

Ans. M.Hamel had put up his best dress-his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt and the little black shirt silk cap., all embroider. The whole school seem so strange and solemn. On the back benches that were always empty..., the elderly villages were sitting quietly like the kids.

5. How did Franz react to the declaration "This is your last French lesson"?

Ans. The words appeared start tiling and unexpected like a thunder clap. he now understood why there was a crowd at the bulletin board ,why the village people had come to the school., why the teacher was dressed in his Sunday best why there was saddens and silence in the school.

6. `Why was Franz scared that day? What did he see on his way to school and how did he get to his desk?

Ans. Franz was not goods at learning. he would rather take the day off and waste time in searching for birds eggs or going sliding on the Saar.franz was scared that day because M.Hamel had said that he would question them on participles .Franz did not know anything about participles.. He found that the day was warm and bright. The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods. The Prussian soldiers were drilling in the open fields. There was a crowd in front of the bulletin- board near the town- hall. Franz found school room unusual quite. So he had no option but to open the door and go in before everybody..He was frightened of the teacher but M.Hamel spoke very kindly to him and asked him to go to his place quickly. Franz jumped over the bench and sat down at his desk.

7. What order has been received on that from Berlin that day? What effect did it have on the life at the school?

Ans. An order had been received from Berlin that only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. This order had far reaching effects on the life at school.M.Hamel who has been teaching French at the village school for the last forty years would deliver his last lesson that day. it was an honour of the last lesson that M.Hamel ,the teacher had put on his best clothes. Old men of the villagers' were sitting quietly at the back of the class room.. They were sad as well as sorry for they had not gone to school any more. They had come to thank the master for his forty years service .and to show respect for the country. That was theirs no more. . The teacher addressed the students in a solemn and gentle tone. He asked them to be attentive and explained everything quite patiently. He appealed to them to preserve French among them..During slavery it would act as key to the prison. He felt so over whelmed by emotion that he could bid farewell properly.

8. Comment on the appropriateness of the title "The last Lesson".

Ans. The story has an appropriate and suggestive title. It is the centre of the attention throughout and the whole story revolves around it. The beginning of the story serves as a preparation for it. The unusual quietness at school. Presence of village elders and the teacher in the Sunday best dress—all point out unusual and unique occasion—the last lesson in French in a French village school. in a district conquered by the Prussian. While delivering the last lesson, the teacher wants to transmit all his knowledge in one go. He explains everything with patience and the students as well as the villagers listen attentively. As a teacher he was unable to express his emotions because of his choked throat, he ends the lesson by writing ‘Viva La France’ on the black board. He makes a gesture with his hand to indicate that the school is dismissed and students can go home.

9. What impression do you form of M.Hamel on the basis of your study of the story “The last Lesson”?

Ans. M.Hamel is an experienced teacher who has been teaching in that village for forty years. He imparts primary education in all subjects. He is a strict task master and students like Franz who are not good learners, are in great dread of being scolded by him. The latest order of Prussian conquerors upsets him. He has to leave the place forever and feels heartbroken. He feels sad but exercises self-control. He has the courage to hear every lesson to the last. His performance during the last lesson is exemplary. He is kind even to a late comer like Franz. He uses a solemn even a gentle tone while addressing the students. He has the logical mind and can analyse the problem and deduce the reasons responsible for it. He knows that emotional hold of a language over its users. He is a good communicator and explains everything patiently. Partings are painful and being human, M.Hamel too is no exception. He fails to say good bye as his throat is choked. On the whole he is a patriotic.