

The Last Lesson -Alphonse Daudet

Bhupen Rb

Short Questions and Answers:

a. Why was Franz in great dread of a scolding?

Ans: Franz was in great dread of a scolding because M. Hamel had said that he would question them on participles and he did not know the first word about them.

b. What things tempted Franz to keep away from school?

Ans: The warm weather and the bright day, the sight of chirping birds and the Prussian soldiers drilling in the open field tempted Franz to keep away from school.

b. What sights did Franz see on his way to school?

Ans: On his way to school, Franz saw the chirping birds, the Prussian soldiers drilling in the open field and a crowd in front of the bulletin-board.

c. What did Franz see when he passed the town hall?

Ans: When he passed the town-hall, Franz saw a crowd in front-of the bulletin board.

d. What messages were put up in the bulletin board for the last two years?

Ans: The messages put up in the bulletin board for the last two years were about the lost battles, the draft and the orders of the commanding officer.

e. What did the blacksmith say to Franz?

Ans: The blacksmith told Franz not to go that fast and that he would get to his school in plenty of time.

f. How was the scene in the school in the morning of the last lesson different from that on other days?

Ans: On other days, there was a great bustle created by the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. However, in the morning of the last lesson, the usual commotion was missing and everything was as quiet as a Sunday morning.

g. What usual noises could be heard in the street when school began?

Ans: Usually when school began, the noises that could be heard out in the street were the sound of opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table.

h. What did Franz see through the window when he reached school?

Ans: When he reached school, Franz saw that his classmates were already in their places. M. Hamel was walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm.

i. Did M. Hamel get angry with Franz for being late? How did he react?

Ans: No, M. Hamel did not get angry with Franz for being late. Rather, he asked Franz very kindly to go quickly to his place and he also said that they were beginning without him.

j. How was M. Hamel dressed on his last day in school?

Ans: On his last day in school, M. Hamel was dressed in his best clothes that he usually wore on inspection and prize days. He wore his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt and a little black silk cap, all embroidered.

(Or)

Ans: On his last day in school, M. Hamel wore his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt and a little black silk cap, all embroidered.

h. What was the most surprising thing Franz saw in his classroom?

Ans: The most surprising thing Franz saw in his classroom was that the village people, including old Hauser, the former mayor, the former post master and several others besides, were sitting quietly on the back benches that were always empty.

i. Did Mr. Hamel get angry with Franz for being late?

Ans: No, Mr. Hamel did not get angry with Franz for being late. Rather he kindly asked Franz to go to his place and also mentioned that they were beginning without him.

j. What had been put up at the Bulletin Board?

Ans: An order from Berlin had been put up at the bulletin board. It said that only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine and that the new master would come the next day.

k. "This is your last French lesson." How did Franz react to this declaration?

Ans: Franz was shocked when he heard the words of M. Hamel. He cursed the Prussian soldiers. He also cursed himself for not learning his lessons. The books that he considered a nuisance seemed to be old friends now. He also felt sorry that he would never see M. Hamel again.

l. Why did the old men come to school that day?

Ans: The old men had come to school that day in order to thank M. Hamel for his forty years of faithful service. They had also come to show their respect for the country that was no longer theirs. Further, they were sorry that they had not gone to school more.

j. What happened when the clock struck twelve?

Ans: When the clock struck twelve, there were sounds of Angelus (midday prayer) At the same moment, the trumpets of the Prussian soldiers, returning from drill was heard. M Hamel had stood up to say something but something choked him. He took a piece of chalk and wrote in big letters, "*Vive La France!*"