

The Last Lesson Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

Q1. Franz in “The Last Lesson” realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in “Lost Spring” yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education. [CBSE 2024]

Ans. Franz and Saheb offer contrasting perspectives on education that highlight the value and challenges of schooling. In “The Last Lesson,” Franz’s realization of the importance of school comes too late, as he is faced with the harsh reality of losing his opportunity to learn due to the German occupation. His regret underscores how education is often undervalued until it is threatened. Conversely, Saheb in “Lost Spring” yearns for school as a means of escape from the harsh life of rag-picking. His desire for education represents hope and a vision for a better future. Saheb’s longing illustrates how education is seen as a pathway to opportunity, reflecting its critical role in transforming lives. While Franz’s experience is shaped by loss and missed chances, Saheb’s perspective is driven by a yearning for change and improvement.

Q2. Explain the inference that can be drawn from the line : “Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?” [CBSE 2024]

Ans. The line suggests that the imposition of the German language on the French people is so complete that even the natural elements, like pigeons, would be forced to conform. It highlights the oppressive nature of the conquerors in erasing the local culture and language.

Q3. Why was M. Hamel dressed in formal clothes in school? [CBSE 2023]

Ans. M. Hamel was dressed in formal clothes in school because it was his last lesson before leaving Alsace. He wore his beautiful green coat, frilled shirt, and a little black silk cap, all embroidered. This attire was reserved for special occasions like inspections and prize days. M. Hamel’s formal dressing on this particular day symbolized the significance and solemnity of the occasion, marking the end of his forty years of faithful service as a teacher in Alsace.

Q4. Why was there a crowd in front of the bulletin-board? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. There was a crowd in front of the bulletin board because a news had been put up. It announced that as Prussia had annexed the French districts of Alsace and Lorraine, German instead of French would be taught in the schools there.

Q5. Who did M. Hamel blame for the neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. M. 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. M. Hamel blamed himself too for the neglect as he made the boys work in the garden which made them miss their lessons and whenever he wanted to go fishing, he gave them a holiday.

Q6. How did M. Hamel make his last lesson a special one? What did he emphasize in it? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. M. Hamel made his last lesson special by wearing a special outfit and talking about the French language at length. He told that it was the most beautiful language in the world the clearest and the most logical. He asked the students that they must guard it because when people are enslaved, the language is the only key to their prison.

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