

## THE LAST LESSON

### THEME

The lesson brings out the pain that is inflicted on the people of a territory by its conquerors by taking away the right to study or speak their own language.

### ABOUT THE LESSON-A glance

- M.Hamel is a devoted, committed and disciplinarian teacher who wants to inculcate passion for learning French language— Mother tongue
- Franz is not willing to go to school as he has not learnt rules of participles.
- He wants to enjoy fascinating beauty of Nature , brightness of sunshine, the birds chirruping in the woods ,Prussian soldiers( Germany, Poland and Austria) drilling.
- Bulletin board always gave news of lost battles, misfortunes, the drafts and orders of the commanding officers.
- Franz noticed tremendous changes in the school;
  - M.Hamel does not scold him and behaved softly and humbly.
  - The teacher wore special dress which he used to put on Inspection Prize days.
  - Instead of noisy classrooms everything was as still as Sunday morning ,no hustle and bustle in school.
  - Villagers including former Mayor and former postmaster occupied last benches – to pay tribute to M.Hamel for his forty years sincere and dedicated service.
- M.Hamel made the announcement that that would be the last French lesson and German teacher would replace him. German language would be taught in schools of Alsace and Lorraine
- Franz realizes that he does not know even his own mother tongue ,regretted why he had not taken his lessons seriously. He wonders sarcastically if Prussians could force pigeons to coo in German.
- M.Hamel realizes that the children, the parents and he himself are to be blamed for losing respect and regard for the mother tongue - French language.
- He affirms that always keep the mother tongue close to your heart as it is the key to the prison of slavery.
- M.Hamel advocates that French is the most beautiful , the most logical and clearest language in world
- becomes emotional , could not speak and wrote on the black board
- ‘Long Live France’