

When mid-day bell rang M. Hamel stood up and tried to speak but was overwhelmed by emotions and so instead of speaking, he wrote "Vive La France!" on the black board, which meant "Long Live France". Finally, he asked everyone to go as the school was dismissed.

Important Question and Answers

1. The people in the story suddenly realize how precious their language to them.

What shows you this?

Why does this happen?

Ans -When the Prussian rulers ordered that French will no longer be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine, the villagers of Alsace realized the importance of mother tongue. They attended the last lesson of French and were ashamed of themselves as they didn't know to speak or write their own language properly. They regretted putting off learning French to next day. They also realized that they had been overpowered by the enemy soldiers because they did not know their mother tongue.

2. Franz thinks, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" What could this mean?

Ans – Franz was disheartened when he came to know that French will no longer be taught in schools of Alsace. His district was occupied by the Prussians and now German will be taught to them. Franz had compared his mother tongue with the voice of pigeons. According to him pigeons used to make 'coo' sound which is natural to them and the Prussians can't make them sing in German. In the same way he too is born with his mother tongue which is natural and no one can keep him away from it. Through this example Franz had expressed his feeling that language is a natural mode of communication and it cannot be imposed.

3. If this had been M. Hamel's first lesson, how do you think the school experience of the students might have been impacted ?

Ans – If "The Last Lesson" had been M. Hamel's first lesson the school experience of the students might have been different. The students would have loved the dedicated teaching style