

THE LAST LESSON

- Alphonse Daudet

BACKGROUND

Revolves around the **Franco- Prussian war** in which Prussia defeated France and annexed the territories of France that included Alsace and Lorraine

Reasons why Franz was tempted to not go to school:

- It was warm and bright
- Birds were chirping at the edge of the woods
- In the open field the Prussian soldiers were drilling
- He was not prepared for the test of participles

News that came from the bulletin board

- News related to the lost battles
- The draft, the orders of the commanding officers
- That day the news that came through the bulletin board was that French would be substituted by German in the schools of Alsace

How was the school different that day?

- There was no hustle- bustle
- No opening and closing of desks
- Lessons were not repeated in unison
- No rapping of ruler on the table
- All the students were already on their places
- M. Hamel was dressed up in a special attire (beautiful green coat , frilled white shirt and a little black cap)
- The teacher did not scold the child even when he was late
- Students were completely engrossed in the lecture

What a thunderclap these words were to me?

- Why was Franz in the state of shock?
- Why does he say that the books which appeared nuisance were old friends now?
- What had been put on the town hall that made Franz repent ?
- Why does M. Hamel say that “ I won’t scold you little Franz; you must feel bad enough”?

Whom does M.Hamel reproach?

- People of Alsace who kept on procrastinating
- Parents who sent their children to work on farms
- He himself asked the children to water plants instead of learning the lessons
- He often declared holiday whenever he wanted to go for fishing