

Class 12th English Flamingo Chapter 1 The Last Lesson

Question Answers Gujarat Board

Think as you Read (Textbook Page No. 7)

Question 1. What was Franz expected to be prepared with for school that day?

Answer:

That day Franz was expected to be prepared with participles because M. Hamel had said that he would question them on participles. Franz did not know anything about participles.

Question 2. What did Franz notice that was unusual about the school that day?

Answer:

Usually, when the school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street. But it was all very still that day. Everything was as quiet as Sunday morning. There was no opening or closing of desks. His classmates were already in their places. The teacher's great ruler instead of rapping on the table, was under M. Hamel's arm.

Question 3. What had been put up on the bulletin- board?

Answer:

For the last two years, all the bad news had come from the bulletin board. An order had come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The Germans had put up this notice on the bulletin board.

Think as you Read (Textbook Page No. 8)

Question 1. What changes did the order from Berlin cause in school that day?

Answer:

M. Hamel had put on his best dress – his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt and the little black silk cap, all embroidered. The whole school seemed so strange and solemn. On the backbenches that were always empty, the elderly village people were sitting quietly like the kids.

Question 2. How did Franz's feelings about M. Hamel and school change?

Answer:

Franz came to know that it was the last lesson in French that M. Hamel would give them. From the next day, they will be taught only German. Then he felt sorry for not learning his lessons properly. His books, which seemed a nuisance and a burden earlier were now old friends. His feelings about M. Hamel also changed. He forgot all about his ruler and how cranky he was.



Understanding the Text:

Question 1. The people in this story suddenly realise how precious their language is to them. What shows you this? Why does this happen?

Answer:

M. Hamel told the students and villagers that henceforth only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Those who called themselves Frenchmen would neither be able to speak nor write it. He praised French as the most beautiful, the clearest and most logical language in the world. He said that for the enslaved people, their language was the item to their prison. Then the people realised how precious their language was to them. This shows people's love for their own culture, traditions and country. Pride in one's language reflects pride in the motherland.

Question 2. Franz thinks, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" What could this mean? (There could be more than one answer.)

Answer:

This comment of Franz shows a Frenchman's typical reaction to the imposition of learning German, the language of the conquerors. Being deprived of the learning of mother tongue would mean cutting off all bonds with the motherland. Teaching the pigeons to sing in German indicates how far the Germans would go in their attempts of linguistic chauvinism.

Talking about the Text

Question 1. "When a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison." Can you think of examples in history where a conquered people had their language taken away from them or had a language imposed on them?

Answer:

Mother tongue helps a person to express his feelings and thoughts most lucidly and intimately. Conquerors try to subdue and control the people of the enslaved territory by enforcing many measures such as use of force to crush dissent and imposing their own language on them.

From time immemorial the victorious nations have imposed their own language on the conquered people and taken away their own language from them. The Romans conquered many parts of Europe and replaced the local languages by their own language – Latin. Later on Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French developed from Latin. The Muslim invaders imposed Arabic and Persian in the countries of Asia overpowered by them. In many Arab countries the local religion and language have disappeared. In India, a new language Urdu developed from the mixture of Persian and Hindi.

Question 2. What happens to a linguistic minority in a state? How do you think they can keep their language alive? For example:

Punjabis in Bengaluru Tamilians in Mumbai Kannadigas in Delhi Gujaratis in Kolkata

Answer:

The linguistic minority in any state is easily marked and faces the same discrimination as the religious, social or ethnic minorities. There is, however, a pronounced difference in the treatment meted out and the level of acceptance displayed by the majority community in that region/city. Some cities like Delhi, Mumbai are cosmopolitan in outlook.

The linguistic minority tries to preserve its identity through an intimate contact, interaction and preservation of their language in social get-togethers, family functions and festivals of their own region. Adherence to social customs and traditions in family gatherings/group meetings of women also promote the unity between members of the linguistic minority.

In short, they create a mini-Punjab in Bengaluru, mini-Chennai in Mumbai, mini-Bengaluru in Delhi and mini-Surat in Kolkata.

Question 3. Is it possible to carry pride in one's language too far? Do you know what 'linguistic chauvinism' means?

Answer:

'Linguistic chauvinism' means an aggressive and unreasonable belief that your own language is better than all others. This shows an excessive or prejudiced support for one's own language. Sometimes pride in one's own language goes too far and the linguistic enthusiasts can be easily identified by their extreme zeal for the preservation and spread of their language. In their enthusiasm, love and support for their own language, they tend to forget that other languages too have their own merits, long history of art, culture and literature behind them.

Instead of bringing unity and winning over others as friends, having excessive pride in one's own language creates ill-will and disintegration. The stiff resistance to the acceptance of Hindi as national language by the southern states of India is a direct outcome of the fear of being dominated by Hindi enthusiasts. The result is that 'One India' remains only a slogan.

Working with Words:

Question 1. English is a language that contains words from many other languages. This inclusiveness is one of the reasons it is now a 'world language'. For example:

petite – French

kindergarten – German

capital – Latin

democracy – Greek

bazaar – Hindi

Find out the origins of the following words:

tycoon, barbecue, zero



tulip, veranda, ski

logo, robot, trek

bandicoot

Answer:

Word Origin

Tycoon – Japanese

Tulip – Persian

Logo – Greek

Bandicoot – Telugu

Barbecue – Spanish

Veranda – Portuguese

Robot – Czech

Zero – Arabic

Ski – Norwegian

Trek – South African Dutch

Question 2. Notice the underlined words in these sentences and tick the option that best explains their meaning:

(a) “What a thunderclap these words were to me !”

The words were :

(i) loud and clear.

(ii) startling and unexpected.

(iii) pleasant and welcome.

Answer:

(ii) startling and unexpected.

(b) “When a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison.”

It is as if they have the key to the prison as long as they

(i) do not lose their language.

(ii) are attached to their language.

(iii) quickly learn the conqueror’s language.

Answer:

(ii) are attached to their language.

(c) Don’t go so fast, you will get to your school in plenty of time.

You will get to your school.

(i) very late.

(ii) too early.

(iii) early enough.

Answer:

(iii) early enough.

(d) I never saw him look so tall.

M. Hamel

(i) had grown physically taller.

(ii) seemed very confident.

(iii) stood on the chair.

Answer:

(ii) seemed very confident.

Noticing Form

Read this sentence:

M. Hamel had said that he would question us on participles.

In the sentence above, the verb form 'had said' in the first part is used to indicate an 'earlier past'. The whole story is narrated in the past. M. Hamel's 'saying' happened earlier than the events in this story. This form of the verb is called the past perfect.

Pick out five sentences from the story with this form of the verb and say why this form has been used.

Answer:

1. For the last two years all our bad news had come .from there.

Reason: The 'coming' of bad news happened earlier than the bulletin in the story.

2. Hauser had brought an old primer.

Reason: The event of 'bringing' happened earlier than Franz noticed it.

3. That was what they had put up at the town hall!

Reason: The 'putting up' of bulletin happened earlier. Now it is recalled.

4. They had not gone to school more.

Reason: The action of 'not going' happened much earlier.

5. The hop vine that he had planted himself twined about the windows to the roof.

Reason: The 'planting of hop vine' happened earlier than its twining about the windows.

Writing:

Question 1. Write a notice for your school bulletin- board. Your notice could be an announcement of a forthcoming event, or a requirement to be fulfilled, or a rule to be followed.

Answer:

AMRUT PUBLIC SCHOOL
Shahibaug, AHMEDABAD
NOTICE

25 July 2020

SPORTS DAY

The school has decided to celebrate its Annual Sports Day on 25 July 2020. All those interested to participate in the various sports activities are requested to give their names to their respective class teachers latest by 6 July 2020 in the following format.

Name : Class & Section :
Activity 1 : Activity 2 : Activity 3 :

A copy of the list of sports activities has been sent to your class teacher. Please note that no student is allowed to participate in more than three sports activities.

Rahul Pancholi
Head Boy

Question 2. Write a paragraph of about 100 words arguing for or against having to study three languages at school.

Answer:

India is a land of diversity. Nonetheless, unity is a necessity. Language is a means of communication. It is one of the ways through which we can understand each other. Most Indian languages originated from Sanskrit, as such many common words are found in these languages. Regional languages play vital role in the development of a child. They cannot be neglected. External invasions in the past have brought in the influence of foreign languages. English to a certain extent can be considered as international language.

A larger percentage of Indian people understand Hindi language. When people migrate from one part of India to another a common language proves to be helpful in communication. Though we accept Hindi as a national language sometimes politics corrupts the minds of citizens. The three-language formula has proved to be beneficial. It is very helpful for students to adjust themselves in the society not only in India but other countries also.

Question 3. Have you ever changed your opinion about someone or something that you had earlier liked or disliked? Narrate what led you to change your mind.

Answer:

After completing my high school I joined the higher secondary section. All the students were strangers to each other. During my first month, I came across one boy named Arvind. Gradually I developed liking for him. I felt he was a very courageous boy. He was very



straightforward in his dealings with teachers. His impolite behaviour was taken by me as an act of courage. He always looked down upon the students of opposite sex.

He was never good at his studies and affirmed that it was not necessary to score marks in the eleventh class. One day I saw him smoking in the washroom. Having liked Arvind and being influenced by him I scored very less marks in the first terminal examination. Since I had scored very high marks at the tenth standard level, my parents were shocked to see my poor performance.

My parents wanted to know the reason for my poor results. They came to school and spoke to the teachers who gave them the correct picture of the situation. My parents then made me understand that I was on the wrong track. I realised my drawback. My liking for Arvind was converted to dislike. I now feel relieved and am back on the right.

