

One Two academy

UNIT – 6

PARAGRAPH ANSWERS

PROSE – THE LAST LESSON

Prose	: The Last Lesson
Author	: Alphonse Daudet
Theme	: The importance of learning one's own mother tongue

Introduction

We appreciate the value of something only when we are about to lose it. “The Last Lesson” written by Alphonse Daudet is a story that reveals the value of the mother tongue.

The unusual events at school

The narrator, Franz was a student of Hamel. He was afraid of going to school as he had not learnt participles. He wanted to enjoy the beauty of nature, the bright sunlight, the birds chirping in the woods. When he passed the Town hall, he saw an unusual crowd in front of the bulletin board. Franz hurried off to school. He was not able to get to his desk because the school was unusually quiet. His classmates were already in their places. He had to open the door and go in before everybody. Other than students, prominent villagers, the former mayor, the former postmaster and several others were present in the class.

Hamel, the French teacher

M. Hamel was the French teacher of Franz. He was teaching French for forty years. He was dressed in his beautiful green coat and the little black silk cap, all embroidered which he normally wears on Inspection and prize days. The villagers were sitting quietly on the back benches. They wanted to pay respect and thank him for his service.

The last lesson

Hamel did not scold the boys for coming late. He said it was his last class because an order had come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine as they have now become German territories. Also, a new master would come the next day.

Hamel called Franz to recite the rule for the participles but he failed miserably. Hamel did not get angry. He blamed himself because he had often sent Franz to water his flowers instead of learning his lessons and when he went for fishing, he gave him a holiday.

Long live France

Hamel said that French was the most beautiful, clearest and logical language in the world. He advised them to guard the language. He said that when people are enslaved, language is the key to their prison. Hamel sat and was gazing at his garden outside the window, the walnut trees in the garden and the hopvine planted by him. When the church clock struck twelve, he stood up, very pale, from his chair. His words choked and he could not go on. Then he wrote 'Long Live France' as large as he could on the blackboard. Finally, he dismissed the class with a gesture of his hand.

Conclusion

Franz felt sorry for not learning his own mother tongue, French. "The Last Lesson" was all about the love for one's mother tongue, which should be loved, guarded and never forgotten.

Moral – " We never realise the worth of the things that we take for granted until we lose them "

POEM – NO MEN ARE FOREIGN

Poem	: No Men are Foreign
Poet	: James Falconer Kirkup
Theme	: Unity is our strength

Introduction

The poem "No Men are Foreign" was written by an English poet James Falconer Kirkup. The poet reminds us how all people are similar and part of the brotherhood of men. The poem reveals that we mustn't hate our brethren just because they belong to a different country or speak a different language.

All men are same

Men are separated in races, caste, culture, language, religion and nationality. But all human beings are the same. We walk in the same land and we will be buried under it. Each and every one of us is related to the other. We all are born in the same way and also die in the same way.

Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes

The same human body is found beneath all uniforms. The land and earth are the same for every one of us. The colour of our blood is the same. Human emotions are the same. We as humans do the same labour with our hands and look at the world with the same eyes.

Don't hate anyone

Waging war against others because they belong to a different country is like attacking our own selves. Others who are called enemies know the sunlight, water and air as we are aware of them. Like us they are fed by harvests made in peacetime. The hard work of other country's men does not differ from ours.

To hate our brothers, it is ourselves

Our leaders might want us to hate our brothers but when we hate our brothers, we hate ourselves. It is the human earth we impair. We all share the same dreams and aspirations. The fire arms and the dust outrage the innocence. We are similar to each other.

Conclusion

The poet concludes that we shouldn't have wars as it is unnatural to fight against ourselves. So, we should never conflict with each other and should remember that no men are foreign.

Moral – “ It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize and celebrate those differences ”

SUPPLEMENTARY READER – THE LITTLE HERO OF HOLLAND

Story	: The Little Hero of Holland
Author	: Mary Mapes Dodge
Theme	: The sacrifice of a little boy to save his country

Introduction

Holland is a country which is situated below the sea level. So, dikes were constructed around to prevent the entry of sea water into villages. Even a little hole in the dike could cause a great damage to the village. Every little child knows the dikes must be watched every moment.

Peter and his father

Peter was an eight year old boy who lived in Holland. Peter's father was one of the men who tended the gates in the dikes. The gates are called sluices. Peter's father opened and closed the sluices to allow the ships pass.

Hole in the dike

One day, Peter's mother asked him to take cakes to his blind friend. She asked him to return home before dark. He was happy to go there. While returning home, he heard water trickling from the dike. He saw a small hole in the dike. Water was flowing through it. He knew that the hole would become large and the whole village could be drowned. So, he thrust his finger into the hole to stop the water. He screamed for help. But, no one heard him. He was crouching on a stone. His head was bent and his eyes were closed. His fingers became numb. He rubbed his hand now and then. The little fellow stayed there all night keeping the sea out.

The brave hero of Holland

Next morning, a man going to work noticed Peter. He heard Peter's murmuring. He saw Peter clinging to the wall of the dike. He spread the alarm. The villagers rushed there and mended the hole with shovels. Holland was saved. Peter saved their lives from a great danger. So, he became the brave hero of Holland.

Conclusion

This is a true story of a little boy with a brave heart and passionate live for his village. Even at the cost of his own life, he stood guarding the village. With his selflessness and sacrifice he saved all lives and thus became a celebrated hero.

Moral – “ There is nothing nobler than risking and sacrificing one’s life for the country”

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