

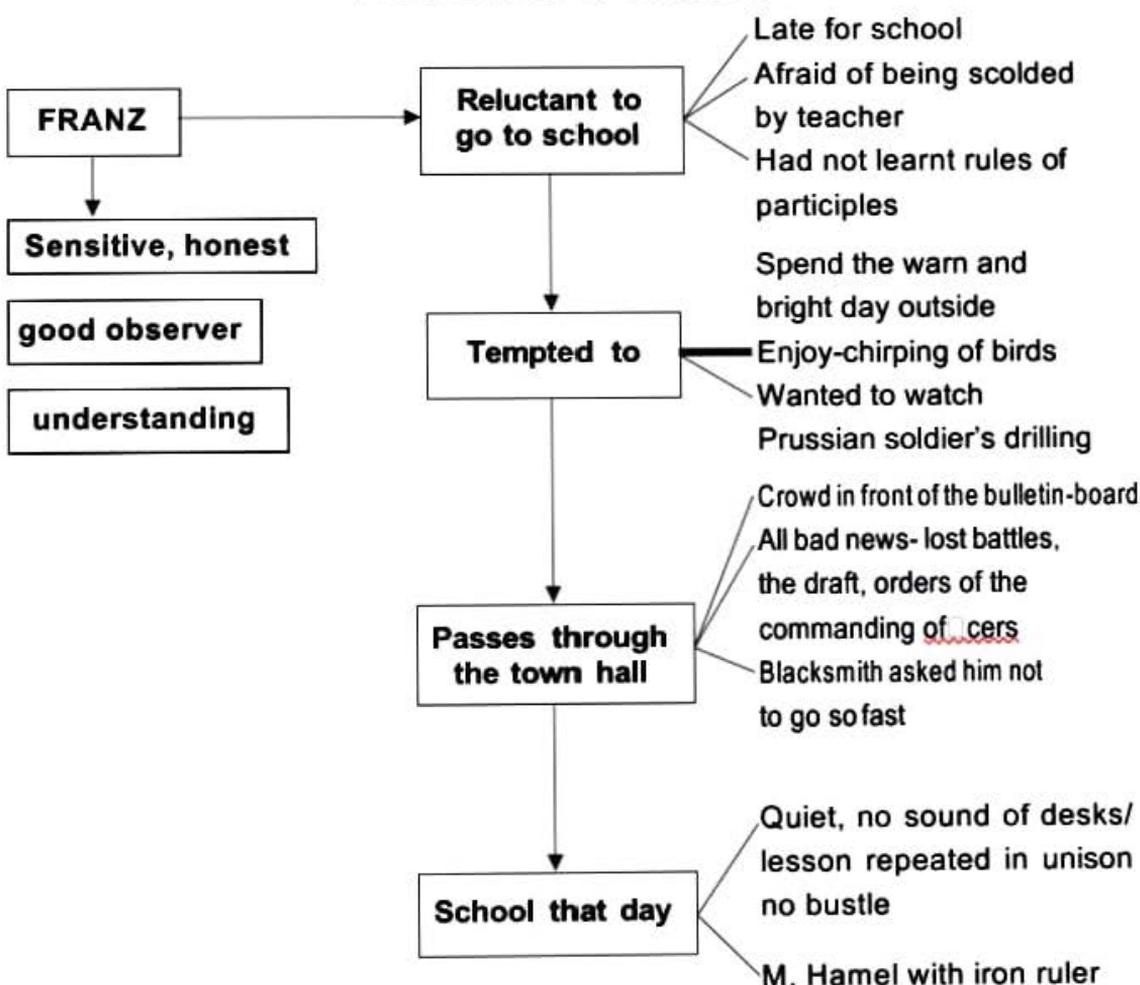
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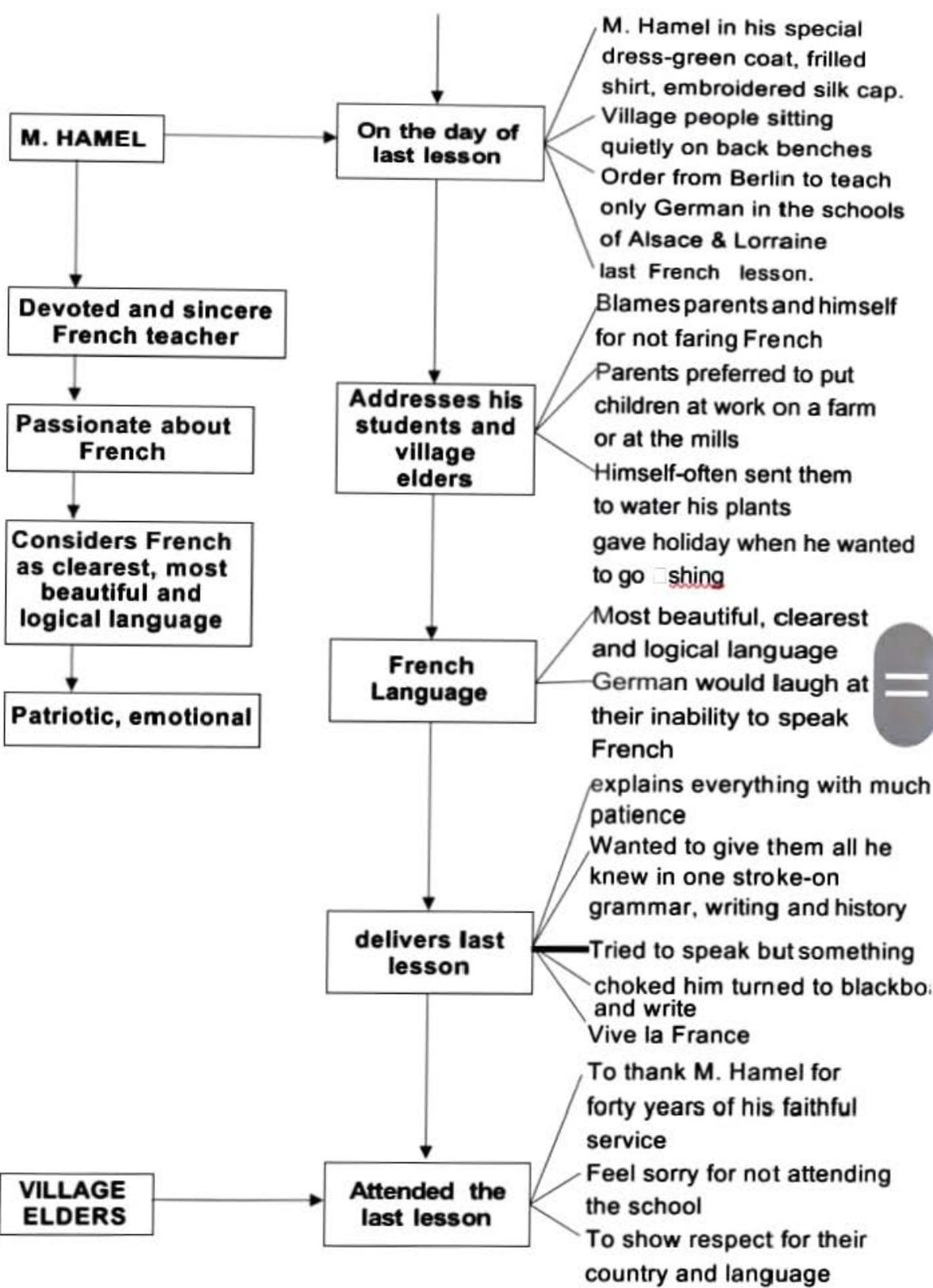
1. The last lesson

The lesson highlights the importance of mother tongue that helps the people of a country to come together for a bigger cause. It's human tendency to procrastinate (to postpone things for tomorrow) and realise the importance of things when they are snatched. M. Hamel the French Language teacher ignites patriotism among the students and refers mother tongue as a key to their freedom

- fears that even the pigeons would have to coo in German
- understands feelings of Hauser
- a good observer, notices changes

Lesson at a Glance





- empathizes with M. Hamel
- understands M. Hamel's emotions, accepts him with his faults.
- The Last Lesson – becomes the most memorable lesson for him.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each :-

1. Why was Franz reluctant to go to school?

Ans. His French teacher said that he would ask questions on participles. He had not prepared and learnt the rules about participles.

2. Why had M. Hamel put on his fine Sunday clothes?

Ans. The order from Berlin stated that only German would be taught in schools and not the French language. M. Hamel knew that it was his last French lesson. It was in the honour of the last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes which he put on inspection and Prize Distribution Day.

3. Why were the villagers sitting there in the back of the classroom?

Ans. The villagers - Old Hauser, postmaster and several others were there in the classroom because it was their way of showing respect for their country and thanking M. Hamel for his forty years of faithful service. They too felt sorry that they had not been to school.

Additional Questions:

1. For Franz, what was more tempting than going to school and why?
2. Why was M. Hamel sad and emotional on his last day at school?
3. How were the parents and the teacher responsible for the lack of interest for studies among students?
4. What is the significance of the last words written on the Black board by M. Hamel?
5. How does M. Hamel appreciate their mother tongue? Why?
6. "These words were thunderclap for me." What was the impact of those words on little Franz ?
7. What changes did the order from Berlin cause in the school?

Long Answer Questions / Extrapolation Question

1. Our language is a part of our culture and we are proud of it. Describe

how regretful M. Hamel and the village elders are for having neglected their native language.

Ans. Value Points

- according to the latest order from Berlin, only German was to be taught in the schools of Alsace & Lorraine
- this affected everyone badly as everyone was repenting on having wasted the time and not learning French
- M. Hamel felt guilty for sending his students for his personal tasks
- the parents of the students never bothered and sent children to work on a farm or at mills
- elders showed regret too – they neither learnt French themselves nor did they encourage their children
- of course, M. Hamel, villagers and even Franz - all were honest enough to accept the mistake of neglecting French language

2. Write a Speech for your morning assembly on the topic "Significance of language / Mother Tongue in our Life"

Value Points

- language empowers countrymen, binds together
- Better understanding of the Subject-matter
- used as a weapon to fight a cause, shows strength of nation
- better expression
- everyone should feel proud of one's mother tongue.

For practice

1. Write an article on 'The Need of Patriotic Feeling' among the youth as we feel modern youth lacks in patriotic spirit for motherland.
2. How did M. Hamel make his last lesson a special one?
3. Describe the atmosphere in the class on the day of the last lesson.