



L 1 THE LAST LESSON

By Alphonso Daudet



Understanding the meanings in the context of the lesson

- In great dread of = In immense fear
- In unison = In agreement / harmony
- Counted on = Relied on
- A great bustle = A lot of activity
- Thumbed at the edges = Folded at the corners
- Reproach ourselves with = Criticise / blame our selves

Word- meanings

Drilling = Undergoing military training exercises

Rappings = Striking rapidly on a hard surface

Primer = An elementary book for teaching children

Reproach = Criticise ourselves Cranky = A bad tempered

Q I Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words:

a) Why is the order from Berlin called a thunder clap by Franz ?

Ans: The order from Berlin was called a thunderclap by Franz because it was a shock for him to know that the study of French language had been prohibited in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine and only German would be taught there. It was an unexpected development.

b) How did Franz react to the declaration that it was their last lesson /

Ans: Franz became sentimental. He knew very little about French. But suddenly, he suddenly he developed a strange fascination and love for this language. Only a while ago, his books seemed a nuisance to him but now these were his old friends.

c) How does Mr. Hamel prove to be an ideal teacher ?

Ans : Mr. Hamel proved to be an ideal teacher because he worked with Selfless dedications and rendered his 40 years of meritorious service. He made people conscious of the importance of their language and national identity.

Q II Answer the following questions in 100 to 150 words :

a) Franz's attitude towards the little school as well as Mr. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the takeover of his village by the Prussians

Ans : When Franz came to know that his village had been taken over by the Prussians, suddenly his attitude changed. Feelings of loyalty were aroused in him . He decided that now that he would pay attention to his lesson.

Love for his school and language suddenly became important to him. He felt that he would never miss his school from the very next day which was the contrast to his attitude to avoid the school earlier.

Even Mr. Hamel became a good teacher . Suddenly his lessons became interesting. Franz developed an interest in learning rules of participles.

Franz was genuinely upset that Mr. Hamel was leaving the village..

He had felt that hardly learnt to read and write.

He was sorry that he had wasted the time. He had enjoyed all the time outdoors. He had hated his books . He feared Mr. Hamel and his iron ruler. But suddenly his attitude changed. Mr. Hamel now seemed like a gentleman..The sudden threat of losing very identity sent shivers down his spine and he desperately wanted to learn as much as he could.

The subject was no longer difficult and Mr. Hamel was no longer was a cranky teacher.

b) Our native language is a part of our culture and we are proud of it . How does the presence of village elders in the classroom and Mr. Hamel's last lesson show their love for French ?

Ans : The imposition of German language over the French speaking population can't be justified at all. It is the worst kind of colonialism.

Mr. Hamel's love for French is genuine ,

The shocking order from Berlin arouses patriotic feelings in him.

He loves French as the most beautiful language in the world.

He regrets that the people of Alsace have not paid much heed to the learning of the great language.

He asks the people to safeguard it among themselves. It is the key to their unity and freedom.The people of Alsace and particularly the village elders suddenly realise how precious their language is to them. They come to attend the last class. Students like Franz are not immune to patriotic feelings. Franz feels sorry for neglecting the learning of French He hates the idea of German language being imposed on them.

He remarks sarcastically “ will they make them sing in German , even the pigeons ”

L 2 LOST SPRING

By Anees Jung



Understanding the meanings in the context of the lesson

- Looking for = Searching
- Perpetual state of poverty = Continuous state of being poor
- Slog their day time hours = Work very hard throughout the day
- Dark hutments = Number of dingy huts
- Roof over his head = Shelter Folded at the corners
- Imposed the baggage = Forced the burden on the child

Word- meanings

- Dingy = Dark and gloomy
- Transit homes = Temporary homes
- Squatter = A person who unlawfully occupies an unused land or building
- Desolation = A state of complete destruction.
- Stigma = A mark of disgrace
- Lament = Complaint
- Unkempt = Untidy
- Lineage = Ancestry

Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words:

a) Why had the rag pickers come to live in Seemapuri ?

Ans: Saheb's family came from Bangladesh in 1971 to live in Seemapuri, Delhi. They had come there because their homes and fields were destroyed by storms. They had nothing to live on.

He was always searching for a coin or Rupee or something valuable in the garbage dumps . He did this as he had no other work to do. The garbage dump was a treasure box for Saheb.

b) Describe the irony in Saheb's name ?

Ans: Saheb's full name was Saheb-e-Alam . It means " the Lord of universe" . But the irony was that the poor boy was not even his own master. He was a rag picker and a refugee from Bangladesh whose family

had settled in Seemapuri after their fields were destroyed by storms and floods. Instead of being a lord, he wandered on the roads along with other barefooted boys like him.

c) 'It is a tradition to stay barefoot'What Is the attitude of rag pickers of Seemapuri towards wearing shoes ?

Ans : The rag pickers of Seemapuri do not have proper shoes to wear. They either , have mismatched shoes or have never owned a pair , in their lives. They stay barefoot. But they explain it as a tradition rather than due to lack of money.

d) "Survival in Seemapuri means rag picking ". Comment.

Ans. The statement is absolutely correct. Rag picking was the only through which the residents there earned their living.

Having no job, home or land , this was their only means to survive.

Q II Answer the following questions in 100 to 150 words :

a) In India we believe in prayers , when ever we are with a problem, we pray God. A son of a priest at Udipi, while going to school, prayed at the temple for a pair of shoes. Thirty years later we find his son well dressed in a school uniform . What has brought about this change – father's prayer or father having gone to school or both / Give a reasonable answer ?

Ans : It was indeed the fact that the father had gone to school and received an education because of which gave him opportunities to improve the quality of not only his life but also his family and children. Prayers alone cannot help us. We have to put in our efforts to make things better. The father going to school not only for school shoes but must have also made effort to get himself educated. The result was that he was able to get for his son whatever he could not have for himself.

b) What does Aneez Jung tell us about life at Mukesh's home in Firozabad?

Ans: Mukesh is a boy whose family is engaged in making bangles in Firozabad. But he aspires to be motor mechanic. Mukesh volunteers to take the author to his home. He proudly says that it is being rebuilt. The author along with Mukesh, walks down the stinking lanes which are blocked up with garbage. They walk past homes that remain sort of out-houses with walls falling into pieces. The doors are shaky and there are no

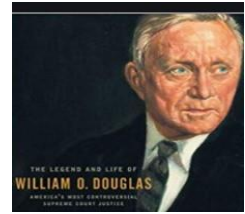
windows.

Mukesh stops at one such house and opens the unsteady iron door with foot and pushes it open. They enter a half-built shack or a rough hut. In one part of it, the roof is covered with dead grass . It contains a fire wood stove . A weak young women is cooking evening meal for the whole family. With eyes filled with smoke , she smiles. She is the wife of Mukesh's elder brother. When her father-in-law enters , she gently withdraws behind the broken wall and brings her veil closer to her face, Mukesh's father is a poor bangle maker. Despite long years of hard labour, first as a tailor then as a bangle maker, he had failed to renovate the house and send his two sons to school.

He could just teach them the art of making bangles. Looking at Mukesh's present conditions, his dreams seem next to impossible.

L 3 Deep water

By William Douglas



1 Read the given passage and answer the questions

a) It had happened when I was ten or eleven years..... but I subdued my pride and did it.

i) When did the writer decide to learn to swim ?

Ans : The writer decided to learn to swim when he was about ten or eleven years old.

ii) Where did he decide to learn swimming ?

Ans : He decided to learn in a swimming pool at YMCA

iii) His mother warned him against swimming in the Yakima River because many people _____ had drowned there

iv) The author hated to walk naked to the pool as he had

- (a) skinny arms (b) bony chest
(c) skinny legs (d) hairy legs

b) My introduction to the Y.M.C.A swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears . But in a little while I gathered confidence.....Hi , skinny! How 'd you like to be ducked? ”

i) What got revived in Douglas ' memory at the introduction to the Y.M.C.A swimming pool ?

Ans : the childhood fear of water got revived in the memory of Douglas.

ii) Who was with Douglas when mis- adventure at the YMCA pool happened ?

Ans : Douglas was alone at that time .

iii) the boy who threw Douglas into the pool was about

- a) twenty years old
b) eighteen years old
c) twenty one years old

d) fifteen years old

iv) What was the title given to the boy by Douglas?

Ans : Douglas called him a beautiful physical specimen

2 Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words

a) Why was the Y.M.C.A pool considered safe to learn swimming ?

Ans: Value points :

- Sadao's education was his father's chief concern
- He was sent to America at the age of 22 to learn all he could learn of surgery and medicine.
- Became an eminent surgeon and scientist
- Perfecting a discovery which would render wounds clean.

Detailed answer

Sadao's father wanted his son to be a doctor. Sadao realised this dream by becoming one of the most known and respectable surgeons of the country . He was also working to perfect a discovery which would render wounds clean. He was so trustworthy as a doctor that the general had not sent him abroad with the troops as he wanted to keep Sadao around for his surgery.

b) What deep meaning did his experience at the YMCA swimming pool have for Douglas ?

Ans : Value points

- There may be danger to old general's life. Might need operation
- Sadao was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean.

Detailed answer

Dr Sadao was not sent abroad with troops for two reasons

- 1) He was working on a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean.
- ii) The general was in a condition where he might need an emergency operation. He could only trust Sadao as his surgeon

c) Which two incidents in Douglas ' early life made him scared of water?

Ans: Value points

- American professor and wife were kind hearted
- Anxious to do something for foreign students.
- Professor Harley invited students students to his place

- **Sadao found rooms too small**

Ans: Sadao had met Hana at an American professor's home. The professor and his wife had been kind people. They wanted to do something for their few foreign students. Sadao had almost not gone to professor Harley's house that night. But when he went there, he had found Hana, a new student for whom he had developed liking

Q 2 Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words:

a) What misadventure did Douglas experience at the YMCA swimming pool

Ans : The writer had to face an extremely traumatic experience at the YMCA pool. He used to go there to learn swimming. The pool was two feet at its shallow end and nine feet at its deep end. One day a strong boy picked him up and threw him at the deepest part of the pool. He sank to the bottom. But he decided to fight back. He thought of going down to the bottom of the pool and the floor and jump up like a cork. He tried to jump and come up gradually. But unfortunately, he could not succeed. Thrice, he tried to jump up but he sank again. As fear had gripped him, All his efforts went in vain. He was nearly drowned. He tried to breathe but swallowed water. He lay there in complete peace without any sensation or fear of death. But someone saved him.

b) Describe the efforts made by Douglas to save himself from drowning in YMCA swimming pool

Ans Do it yourself

c) What was General's plan to get rid of the American prisoner? Was it executed? What traits of the General's character are highlighted in the lesson "The Enemy"

Ans: The General plan to send his private assassins to kill the American prisoner and to let his body be removed by the professional killers. He told the doctor to keep the window of the soldier's room open so that assassins had no problem in entering his room and it would look natural also. According to the General, his assassins knew the trick of internal bleeding and no one would doubt the doctor.

No but it was not executed. Actually the general knew that if he would

send his assassin to kill the enemy soldier in the doctor's house then, the incident would be open and Dr. Sadao might get arrested on the charge of helping and sheltering an enemy soldier. This would put both the doctor and the General in a fix because there was no other surgeon who could operate upon the General except Dr. Sadao. So he didn't want to put the doctor into trouble. This shows that he was a self centred man who had neither compassionate feelings towards the soldier nor any humanitarianism feelings towards the doctor. All he was concerned about himself.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8el_zv4CYCM

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

By Kamla Das



Word- meanings

Sprinting = Running

Corpse = Dead body

Q1 Answer the following extract based questions :

a) Read the following lines and answer the questions that follows:

..... I saw my mother,
beside me ,
doze , open mouthed , her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with
pain.....

a) who is 'I' ?

Ans: Poet Kamla Das / poets / narrator / daughter

I here is Kamla das the poetess.

b) What did I realise with pain?

Ans : Realised with pain that mother nearing old age/ mom's death

Separation from mother

DA she realised with pain that her mother had grown old. She feared that Her mother would not live long.

c) Why was realisation painful?

Ans : Value points

- Mother's approaching death was a hard fact for her to accept.
 - Thought of separation from her mother made the poet sad
- DA :The realisation was painful because with it came the thought that She might not live for a very long time.

d) Identify and name the figure of speech used in these lines.

Ans : Value points

■ simile

■ ' ashen like that of a corpse'

b) Old familiar ache , my childhood's fear ,

**but all I said was see you soon,
Amma , all I did was smile and smile and smile.....**

a) What does the phrase , familiar ache mean ?

Ans : pain, fear / pain that mother was growing old / fear of separation .

DA : It means that the sight of her mother revived the poet's old, childhood fear / pain of being separated from her old and sick mother due to her aging and death.

b) What was the poet's childhood fear ?

Ans : her mother would get old / die / final separation from mother.

DA : Her childhood fear was of being separated from her mother.

c) What do the first two lines tell us about the poet's feelings for her mother?

Ans : Loved her / pained at seeing her mother growing old / fear of losing her mother.

Detailed answer :

The first two lines tells us that she wanted to console herself with the thought that her mother would be fine and she would meet her the next time as she was pained to see the mother growing old.

d) What does the repeated use of the word 'smile ' mean?

Ans: Value points Hides her feelings from her mother / reassures herself that mother will be fine

Detailed answer:

The repeated use of the word 'smile' shows that in spite of her fear , the poetess tried to keep a cheerful look to hide her feelings from her mother.

Q 2 Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words:

a) How are the young trees described as ' sprinting' ?

Ans: The young trees running spiritedly in the opposite direction stand in sharp contrast to the poetess's aged and pale looking mother. The trees symbolizes youth and life, where as old mother represents old age and is moving towards the grave. They symbolize the quick passage of time that has brought old age to her.

b) Why has the mother been compared to the late winter moon '?

Ans: The mother has been compared to the ‘ late winter moon ‘ because she has become pale like the moon in the winter. She is dull and lifeless.

c) What is the significance of parting words of the poetess and her smile in ‘My Mother At the Age Of Sixty-six ‘?

Ans : Value points :

- Optimism
- A hope to see her mother again
- Reassuring her mother
- Hiding her anxiety and fear
- Emotions hidden behind the smile
- True feeling of lose and pain of separation

Detailed answer:

The poetess’s parting words signify hope and a promise of meeting her mother again . She wants to leave a smiling face behind for her mother, so as not to let her mother know about her feeling and emotions towards her.

Q 3 Answer the following questions in 100 to 150 words

a) Give the theme of ‘ Kamla Das’ poem ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’

Ans : The mother of the poetess is not very old . She is sixty-six .But due to her illness or so she looked pale and ash coloured like a dead body.

The poetess is in a hurry to catch her flight. She is deeply concerned about Her aged mother. She is not sure that she will find

b) What are the main ideas combined in the poem ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’

Ans : In this poem the poetess specifies how her mother looks at the age of sixty-six She also spells her pain on seeing her in such a deteriorating condition. It was the morning of her last Friday at home when she looked at her mother while driving to the airport. The poetess was not only pained but shocked to see her sleeping with her mouth open. She became all the more troubled when she looked pale , shrunken and weathered like a corpse . To distract herself from this thought of pain and trouble , she looked outside and saw young trees and children . She realised in them life, vigour and vitality.

Then at the airport’s security check. The same kind oldness was visible on her pale body. She compared her to the late winter’s moon and realised that it was due to old age. The poetess smile at her to see her again and took

leave of her. The poem exemplified the pain inflicted by old age and separation

Poetic devices :

Simile

“..... face ashen like that of a corpse
..... pale as a late

Personification

“ Young trees sprinting “

Metaphor

“ merry children spilling out”

Irony

The green trees racing (inanimate) while the mother like a corpse ”

Contrast

“ The world replete with activity contrasted with the near lifeless mother”

Tautology

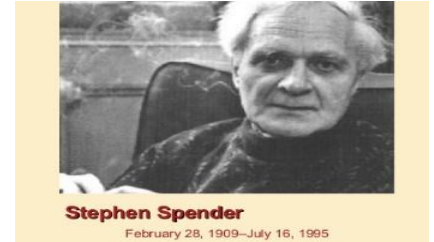
“ I looked at her again at her , wan, pale”

Repetition

“Smile and smile and smile.....”

L 2 AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN A SLUM

Stephen Spender



Q1 Read the given extract and answer the question that follows:

**A] Far far from gusty waves these children's fatless weeds,
Like rootless weeds the hair torn round their pallor,
The tall girl with her weighed-down head.**

a) Who are these children?

Ans: These children are from deprived and poor sections of the society.

b) What has possibly weighed –down the tall girl's head?

Ans: The tall girl is probably undernourished as well as unconfident.

c) Which is the figure of speech used in the first two lines?

Ans: Simile (like rootless weeds) and Alliteration (far from)

d) What does the word 'pallor' mean?

Ans: The word 'pallor' means 'unhealthy pale faces'.

B] At back of the dim class

**One un-noted, sweet and young, his eyes live in a dream
Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this,**

a) Why was the class dim?

Ans: The class is dim because it is a classroom in slum, which is not well-lit or maintained properly.

b) What was he doing?

Ans: The young child is different as he does not seem burdened by the poverty around him, while the other children. He seems happy and his eyes are hopeful of a better world.

c) How is the young child different from others?

Ans: The young child is not paying attention in class. Instead, he is looking out, watching a squirrel play, and wishing he too was out.

d) **What is a tree room?**

Ans: A tree room is a small hole in the tree in which the squirrel may live or play.

❖ **Answer the following questions in 30 – 40 words:**

1) **How is the atmosphere inside an elementary slum classroom different from the one outside it?**

The children sitting inside the elementary classroom are sick and under-nourished. The atmosphere and surroundings are pale and morose. The world outside is filled with beauty and luxuries.

2) **How does the poem, ‘An Elementary School: Classroom in a Slum’ portray the children?**

The poem portrays the children in a very pathetic manner. They are undernourished and diseased. The poet compares their unkempt and dull hair to rootless weeds. One of the girls is sitting with her head weighed down probably burdened with the miseries of poverty. A boy had inherited his father’s diseases and another was sitting unnoticed with a yearning to play outside.

3) **To whom does the poet in the poem “An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum” make an appeal? What is his appeal?**

The poet makes an appeal to the governor, inspector and visitors. He appeals to them to come to the rescue of the slum children, to take them out of the slum and show them the outside world and save them from their miserable condition.

❖ **Answer the following questions in 100 – 120 words:**

1) **What message does Stephen Spender convey through the poem?**

The theme of Spender's poem is to highlight the plight of the slum children. Their dark homes and neglected schools are like tombs for them. They are far away from the sunshine of knowledge and a normal civilised life. They need to be removed from their unhealthy surroundings. The poem reflects the rage of the poet against the sub-human conditions of millions of slum children.



SUPPLEMENTARY

L 1 The Third Level

by Jack Finney



Q 1 Answer the following questions in 30 – 40 words:

A) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?

Yes, I think the third level was a medium of escape for Charley. He had a strange day-dream wish to escape from his present worries. He wanted to escape into the past. He believed that in the old days, life was peaceful. People in his grandfather's time lived a carefree life. All those charms were lost. The present day world is full of worries, wars, tension and haste. Charley was always lost in his own thoughts. He was unaware of his surroundings. One day he found himself in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel and some other time he came up in an office building. Another day, he reached the third level.

1) What did the psychiatrist think when Charley told him about the third level?

There were only two levels at the Grand Central Station. When Charley told the psychiatrist that he had been to the third level, he believed that Charley was day-dreaming. He was trying to escape from the worries and tensions of the present day world.

2) 'The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress'. What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?

The past has always been alluring. Men always believe that the past was pleasant, without haste and worries. People lived carefree lives. So, we try to escape from the present realities to the imaginary past. We do so in different ways. But it is our imagination that plays the major role. We read or hear charming stories about the past. Sometimes we read stories of love and adventure. Some people pursue some hobbies like music, stamp collecting, painting, reading religious scriptures.

❖ **Answer the following question in 100 – 120 words:**

1) Philately helps in keeping the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future?

➤ Man has always been interested in the past. He looks back and is eager to know how life was like in old times. Not only the past of

mankind, but even the distant past of the earth is alluring. Scientists spend fortunes and precious years of their lives to look for fossils to reconstruct the conditions under which those extinct animals lived. Pyramids are ransacked to learn about pharaohs and their times. We preserve ancient monuments to keep the past alive. Our history books tell us about lost civilisations. Coins, pottery, artifacts, statues, temples and other things tell us about the past. These are preserved and displayed in museums. Man is seldom satisfied with the present. So, he looks 'before and after'.

2) Do you see an intersection of time and space in the story?

- Imagination of people like H. G. Wells ran riot. He believed that it was possible to travel in time as we can travel in space. He thought that a machine could be invented that could carry us back into the past or the future. If we went into the past, we would find the place different from what it looks like today. Sam, for example, travelled to Galesburg which was not like as it is today but as it was in 1890s. Similarly, when Charley reached the third level, everything was as it was in 1894. The ticket-booth, the men there, people with sideburns, women dressed in old fashioned garments, the naked flames and even the currency notes were of 1894. There is indeed an intersection of time and space.