



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 he had 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 ”

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.....”

SUPPLEMENTARY (Vistas)

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 write or read 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.