

Level 5-2
The Last Lesson

Workbook

Teacher's Guide and Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

Franz was a student in Mr. Hamel's class at a school in Alsace. The country was now controlled by the Prussians. One day, a notice came from Berlin saying that French would no longer be used in classrooms. All classes would now be taught in German. Mr. Hamel told his class that this was his last day of teaching. Everyone was surprised and sad. Mr. Hamel told the students that they had to study hard and keep their French language. He said that if a country kept its language, then it could never be a slave to another country. Franz felt bad that he had not studied harder. Then Mr. Hamel had his final lessons in the class. The students all studied very diligently. They suddenly understood how important learning was. As class came to an end, Mr. Hamel looked very sad. Before he dismissed the class, he wrote on the blackboard in very large letters, "Vive La France!" Long live France!

2. Chapter Summary

► Chapter 1

Franz woke up late for school. But that was not his only problem. Today, his teacher, Mr. Hamel, was going to ask questions about participles. Franz knew nothing about participles because he had not studied them. On the way to school, he saw Prussian soldiers marching. As he passed the town hall, he saw a group of people standing around the town bulletin board. That was where bad news about the war was usually posted.

► Chapter 2

When Franz arrived outside the classroom, he sensed that something was wrong. There was no noise coming from the classroom. He was embarrassed as he went into the classroom late, but Mr. Hamel didn't scold him. After he sat down, he saw that Mr. Hamel was wearing his best Sunday clothes. But that was not the only unusual thing. In the back of the classroom were some of the town's adults. They all looked sad.

► Chapter 3

Mr. Hamel broke some bad news. He said that this was the last lesson he would give the students. That was because all schools in Alsace had been ordered to teach only in German. There would be no more French. Franz was sad. He wished that he had studied harder. He

felt sorry for Mr. Hamel. He realized that this was the bad news the townspeople had been reading at the bulletin board.

► **Chapter 4**

Then Mr. Hamel asked Franz to explain to the class about participles. Franz could not. He wished he had paid attention in class before, but now it was too late. Mr. Hamel didn't scold him, though. He told the class that it was very important to study hard. He said that they didn't know the French language because they didn't study hard.

► **Chapter 5**

Mr. Hamel told the class that French was the most beautiful language. They had to learn it and protect it and never forget it. He said that a nation could never be a slave to another nation as long as it kept its own language. Then Mr. Hamel took out a grammar book and began to teach. The students in the class had never studied as diligently as they did this day.

► **Chapter 6**

When the students practiced writing, Mr. Hamel just sat at his desk. Franz thought that he must be worried about his students and his country. There were sounds coming from upstairs, where Mr. Hamel's sister was packing their trunks. They had to leave the country the next day. Franz saw pain in Mr. Hamel's eyes. Everyone was sad.

► **Chapter 7**

Franz would never forget his last lesson in Mr. Hamel's class. He could still remember the sound of the Prussian trumpets, which reminded the students of the Prussian soldiers and why there would be no more French classes in Alsace. Before he dismissed the class, Mr. Hamel went to the blackboard and wrote in very large letters, "Vive La France!" Long live France!

B. Background and Themes

★ **Patriotism:** The students and the teacher wanted to keep their language, which was a part of their national identity.

★ **Diligence:** Mr. Hamel wanted to instill in the students a desire to learn and work hard.

★ **Love:** Mr. Hamel's great pain was caused by his love of his country and his students.

★ **Respect:** The adults gathered together with the students to show their respect for Mr. Hamel and his forty years of service.

Answer Key

Part A Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. It was a short story.
2. It is from France.
3. It is about a young boy at the time when Prussia took over Alsace.

► Characters

1. Franz: lazy, likes to play, young, sensitive
2. Mr. Hamel: smart, patient, hardworking, patriotic

While You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Chapter 1

A. Preview Questions

1. This student woke up late for school.
2. I think the teacher will scold him.
3. I think he is worried.

B. Review Questions

1. The teacher was going to question the class about participles, but the boy didn't prepare for it.
2. He felt that the outdoors on a day like this was heaven.
3. They were standing around the bulletin board and looking at it.

► Chapter 2

A. Preview Questions

1. He is standing outside the classroom.
2. He is the teacher.
3. He is talking to the class.

B. Review Questions

1. There was no noise coming from the classroom.
2. No, he did not scold Franz.
3. He was wearing his best Sunday clothes.

► Chapter 3

A. Preview Questions

1. I think they are in the classroom.
2. I think he is asking Franz why he was late.

3. I think he is saying that he is sorry.

B. Review Questions

1. He told them that it was his last day of teaching their class.
2. He had taught in the village for forty years.
3. He thought that they were there as a way of thanking Mr. Hamel.

► Chapter 4

A. Preview Questions

1. I think he is talking about participles.
2. I think he has to tell the class what he knows about participles.
3. I think he feels nervous and embarrassed.

B. Review Questions

1. He asked Franz to tell the class what a participle was.
2. It was beating fast.
3. He wished he had studied participles.

► Chapter 5

A. Preview Questions

1. I think they are students and older townspeople.
2. He is teaching them writing.
3. I think it is for ink.

B. Review Questions

1. He said it was the most beautiful language.
2. He was surprised because he could understand more easily now.
3. They practiced writing.

► **Chapter 6**

A. Preview Questions

1. I think he is thinking about Alsace's fate.
2. I think it is the school's garden.
3. I think Mr. Hamel rings the bell at the beginning and end of class.

B. Review Questions

1. He just sat at the front of the room.
2. It was Mr. Hamel's sister packing their trunks.
3. They studied history.

► **Chapter 7**

A. Preview Questions

1. I think he is crying.
2. I think the little girl is saying goodbye to him.
3. I think Franz is going to say he is sorry that he didn't study hard.

B. Review Questions

1. They heard the sound of Prussian trumpets.
2. He suddenly turned pale.
3. Vive La France! Long live France!

Mini Quiz

a. If anything can go wrong, it will.

→ We have to be careful in planning and doing things because there is always a chance that something bad will happen.

b. Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

→ If we put off the things that we need to do or want to do until a later date, we might miss the opportunity to do them. Franz did not like to study, because he didn't feel it was important. Then one day when he found out he would not have a chance to study with his wonderful teacher anymore, it was too late. He realized then how important it was to do the necessary things when he was able to do them.

c. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

→ It is human nature for people to wish for things they cannot have, but it is no use just wishing.

After You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. B: He looked as if he had seen a ghost.
5. A: The teacher loves her students as if they were her own children.

► Challenge

1. Franz woke up late for school.
2. There was only silence in the classroom.
3. Mr. Hamel asked Franz to tell the class about participles.
4. Mr. Hamel was worried about his students and his country.

Part B Skill Focus

Vocabulary Preview

A.

1. b, d, g

2. a, c, h

B.

1. angel

2. marched

3. miracle

4. gesture

5. punishment

6. scold

7. wonderful

8. trunk

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Chapters 1–2

A.

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T

B.

1. He is Franz.
2. He is a student.
3. He doesn't know participles.
4. He is going to school.

C.

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. d 5. d 6. c

► Middle: Chapters 3–5

A.

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F

B.

1. Franz
2. Franz
3. Mr. Hamel
4. Mr. Hamel

C.

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. a

► End: Chapters 6–7

A.

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

B.

d → a → c → b

C.

1. c 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. c

Think and Write

Franz	Both	Mr. Hamel
a student	lived in a village	a teacher
late for school	spoke French	loved the French language
didn't study hard	wore a cap	kept a garden
didn't know participles		cared about the students

* Extra: spoke German

Vocabulary Review

1. I quickly got dressed and **ran** from the house.
2. Birds and Prussian soldiers were much more **interesting** to me than participles.
3. I saw many people standing **in** front of a bulletin board.
4. I hoped to use all the morning classroom noise to hide **my** entry.
5. He **was** wearing a green coat and a black cap.
6. This must have been the bad news they **were** looking at.
7. A nation can never be a slave to another nation as long **as** it keeps its own language.
8. As I sat **thinking** about Mr. Hamel, I heard sounds above the classroom.
9. He stood up, and **at** that moment, he looked so tall and strong.
10. Then the **most** wonderful thing happened.

Summary

A.

2	3
1	4

B.

(Answers may vary.)

1. Franz stood outside the classroom window.
2. After the grammar lesson, they practiced handwriting.
3. Mr. Hamel had cared for the garden and the students like a father.
4. Mr. Hamel made a gesture with his hand, and class was finished.

Book Report

Story 1. participles 2. sadness 3. sorry 4. trumpets 5. gesture