

CHRIST KING HR. SEC. SCHOOL, KOHIMA
CLASS 12
SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

PROSE
CHAPTER-1
LETTER TO MY DAUGHTER

A. Answer the following question briefly.

1. Why was Nehru not taken to Bareilly station?

Ans: Nehru was not taken to Bareilly station, because he had become purdahnashins, a person who is supposed to stay behind a purdah or curtains and stay hidden from the public. He and other prisoners were instead taken to another little station in the wilderness. However he was delighted to feel the cold night air and see the phantom of trees, men and animals rush by the semidarkness after many months of seclusion in the prison.

2. Ans: According to Nehru in his letter, he says that when man was introduced to a new surrounding, he became confused and curious at the same time. Fearsome of what he must do, and he imagines that man must have looked and stared all around him and asked question helplessly, as there was no one with answers. But, he says that man has a wonderful thing called, "mind" and thus it helped him to experienced and learns slowly and painfully in his quest.

3. Ans: Nehru sees man, story as being more important than those of other being, because according to him man is full of curiosity and quest, always following and fending new traces in his quest. In trying to find the answer, man has considered religion, philosophy and science, which has given him many different answers.

B. Explain the following lines with reference to the context.

1. Ans: The given text is an extract from the letter, "Letter to My Daughter," written by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, a great politician and statesman, and a prolific writer.

Through the text, the writer is emphasizing on man's quest to find the ultimate answer or quest. The writer does not give proper statement of the ultimate quest of man but however leaves it to the imagination of his daughter to decide

He states that man has been on this quest since the beginning of times and believes that it will go on. Although different fields of thought has given man different kinds of answer, he says that there are many things yet to be answered. As mankind moves towards more development in his thoughts and becomes more advanced, he shall discover new trials to show him the straight way to the answer he is questing for.

The line "If there is such an end", perhaps leaves us wondering if the writer is not sure of the final result himself. But he is sure and certain that the answer lies very far ahead and is optimistic about it because he believes in the curious mind of an, which has helped him come so far through civilization and the test of time.

2. Ans: The given lines are an extract from the letter, "Letter to My Daughter," written by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. The give statements refer to the tie when he was being transferred from Bareilly goal to Dehradun through the wilderness to avoid exposure to the public, because he had become purdahnashins. They were driven fifty miles by car to a little station.

The written has been kept in seclusion in the prison for four months and his missed the natural views of the countryside. He expresses his joy and delight to have at least felt the cool night as they drove for the next prison. We can only imagine how the writer must have felt to be kept in a secluded small room devoid of fresh air or any natural view; hence the drive was a way to refresh his mind feeling the cool breeze.

He also tells us about the phantom of trees and men and animals, rushing in the semi-darkness as they drove by. The writer is fascinated and imagines them as phantoms because he cannot see them in their clear form and perhaps the speeding of the car must have made them sweep by so fast and so he feels like they were rushing. His secluded imprisonment and excites him as they drove by.

C. Answer the following questions in details.

1. Ans: Nehru says the goal in Dehradun is better than the one in Bareilly because the weather is comparably more favourably in Dehradun, which does not rise to 112 degrees like in Bareilly. The weather is moderate with plants greener than the former. The sight of mountains after mountains seems to please the narrator greatly. At night, the lights of Mussorie twinkling in the far distance appeals the on lookers with much delight.

2. Ans: The writer Nehru while writing the letter to his daughter wants to follow the path of educating his daughter about the quest of man and reflect back to the trails of how man has come this far. He expresses his nostalgic feeling towards his daughter and says that she has grown so much in the past years and wants to fill their relationship gaps by writing letters to her from the prison. Through Nehru is concerned and worries that his letter may become a burden to her, he says that he is obliged to place vivid images of the past one after another to make sense of how the world has changed. Which has developed and progressed step by step and apparently gone back some times? He wants her to see something of the old civilization and how they have risen like the tide and subside. He intends to educate her about her environment and rich heritage. On natural history and civilization. He wants to take her back to the origin of human civilization and about men ended or to understand the world around him.

3. Ans: The two main themes discussed by Nehru in the letter, "Letter to My Daughter", are religion and science where the writer tells his daughter that these elements are some of the matter that tries to give an answer to some of man's quest. He is optimistic that it has answered to the different quests of man in different ways; however, the writer explains the difference of its approach in answering to some of the question man.
According to the writer, religion has attempted to give complete and dogmatic answer and has often cared little of the curious minds of man, and sought to enforce obedience to its decisions catering to the spiritual needs of man's quest and tried to resolve the moral issues of man.
On the other hand, science gives a doubting and hesitating reply to the question of man. He says that since it is the natural tendency of science not to dogmatize, but to experiment, reason and rely on the mind of man, before proving the purest answer it needs to confirm on. The writer says that science has not been able to answer man's quest with assurance, but sees the quest taking a form of two lines, by looking outside and inside of him. The knowledge of nature in the modern world is a witness to this great progress.
The author states that by understanding nature more, man can utilize and harness its power even more and draw it to his own advantage, but this new power has been misused and mostly gone unknown of using its new powers properly. He says that science has been used chiefly to supply man with terrible weapons to kill his brother and destroy the very civilization he has built up with so much labor.

4. Ans: Man's quest according to Nehru is to understand the world him. The more man is curious, the more he takes the effort to know the things around him more gradually and thus make advancement. There is no such power where one rely upon one's own imagination to work the miracle. It is through our doubts and ignorance when we take an extra step to learn and explore the facts and signs which other companion may not know. Thus, the mind-the curious mind-with desire to find out and learn has been man's quest since the inception of mankind.

5. Ans: According to Nehru, the two man domains available to men in his explanation of nature are to look outside himself and inside as well, while trying to understand nature and himself. He points out old philosophers of India and Greece who talked about the providence of Nature and that man is part of nature.
These domains of nature's availability to man has served him to answer some of his use. When a man looks within himself he may discover his answer to the unseen things and explanations. This has helped man learn about the working principle of science and hence understands the ways of nature's behavior.
By looking out of him, man has been seen and understood the providence available to him provided by nature. It is from here that they starts to utilize and harness its power to his own advantage, and

hence won more power over it. The author is sad that man has used this harnessed power of nature for evil uses to create weapons and kill his brothers. He also says that in many circumstances man has failed to make use of the new power as he cannot fully understand the new power provided by nature, which has destroyed the very civilization that he has build with so much labor.

6. Ans: Science is considered to be the special province of nature. Since time immemorial, man is also considered a part of nature and man has looked outside himself as well as inside and has tried to understand nature. The quest of man is thus unique and simple for he was able to understand himself as well as nature. On fulfilling the quest of man, science began to make great progress in nature by spreading its wing further and coordinating science makes man look up with confidence to the most distant stars, and also relates to us the wonderful little things of nature in continuous motion and all the matters that exist on it.

D. Think and discuss.

1. Ans: The promise that Nehru made to his daughter was to write letters to her even though he is in the prison We can only imagine the psychological impact that was going through the mind of Nehru as a father, who could not even spend time with his loved ones, specially his daughter who needed her father's presence as a child growing up. Nehru must have going through an emotional turmoil because of his interment in the prison unable to be a role model to his daughter in person. However we see the determination of Nehru to keep writing to her as an influencing father through letters and words, in a way to keep in touch and help his daughters grow up seeing him as a role model.

By writing letters to her, he imagines her sitting beside him and gives him joy even to feel the imagination that is running in his mind at his secluded stay at the prison

He says that he will try his best to fulfill his promise because it is certain that he does not know how the situation or circumstances may turn up in the prison. Just as we see the writer being transferred from one prison to another. It can become difficult for him to concentrate or have the time to write letters. The personal emotion as well as the political pressure upon him must have been over whelming and can surely hamper his concentration of mind, especially during these times when Nehru was a needed by both his family and his countrymen.

2. Ans: Nehru was afraid that his letter had no purpose because he felt that the letters he was writing to his daughter would burden her. In a way, we can understand that Nehru as a father must have respected his daughter's decisions in life and would have wanted her to make her own choices for her life.

In the third paragraph of the letter he explains his reason for writing the letter that, when he writes more the less he likes it. It is unclear as to why he feels that, but perhaps he must have felt that he was influencing his daughter just with his mindset and the letters could be misinterpreted by her. As a prominent political figure and trying to be a father with physical absence must have made him go through wild imaginations, tormenting his thoughts about all the ideas he was presenting in his letters.

However we see his optimism that he can influence his daughter to love humanity and understand the ways of man and nature. He wants her to learn about the rich heritage of her countrymen and perhaps imprint a sense of patriotism within her.

CHAPTER-2 KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

A. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Ans: According to Russell, Queen Elizabeth-1 in England, Henry 4 in France and Abraham Lincoln the president of America were the leaders who were able to mix knowledge and wisdom soundly.
2. Ans: The true aim of education is the ability to find an impartial solution, be it personal prejudice or public ways. It is also the ability to make a man aware about the need t integrate wisdom in our knowledge. We access it through education as wisdom is the integral part of education.

3. Ans: Wisdom is necessary in education because only knowledge leads to its misuse as one cannot perceive its true purpose in life. It may prove to be dangerous and may harm human kind. If one cannot take into account the capacity of an individual to suppress his personal ego and take into account all the facts and figures run them circumstances would greatly benefit him in the long run. In doing so, he will gain wisdom and produce fruitful results. The essayist emphasizes that one should take all these into account in order to be a productive individual and putting one's egotistical character only hampers one's way of gaining true wisdom.
2. Ans: In the essay 'Knowledge and Wisdom', Bertrand Russell holds the four factor that contributes to wisdom; they are, a sense of proportion, an awareness of ends of human life, choice of ends to be pursued and emancipation from personal prejudice.
The essayist tells his readers that the essence of wisdom is to free oneself from the confinement of the physical world and the emotional world and look beyond. Through people cannot avoid being partial, the wise man has a lesser degree of partiality than an unwise man. The writer says that we can start to learn wisdom by loving others and getting rid of selfishness. Give up our ego and start thinking of things beyond our immediate surroundings. This will avoid hatred and one can become wise.
3. Ans: According to Russell, wisdom should be taught as a goal of education. He takes the example and message parable of the 'Good Samaritan' who loved his neighbors. The essayist says that many a times we miss the message in this parable because we fail to love those who cause harm to the society. The only way is through understanding and not hatred. In brief, Russell tells us not to hate anybody.
The danger of hatred and narrow-mindedness can be pointed out in the cause of giving knowledge. He feels that knowledge and wisdom can be combined to see things in relation to other things of the other world. They should be encouraged to think of themselves as world citizens.
4. Ans: Russell says that Hegel's philosophy of history was lacking in wisdom, because he was only dealing with his personal facts and figure. He wrote with great knowledge about history, and made the Germans believe that they were a master race, abed this false sense of proudest made them go to war. Russell says that it is very necessary to combine knowledge with feelings.
When a person who is an intellectual, uses his knowledge to display his theory or principles without considering the feelings or the results of such ideas, it could lead to more harm than good. The author says that such persons have very narrow mind. It leads to false embodiment of the involved and may incite unwanted actions or situations. The essayist also pointed out that man who has knowledge and no feelings lack wisdom as it is needed both in public and private life, to decide goals and free ourselves from personal prejudices. Man in his attempt to achieve the impossible, may do harm to himself in the process.
5. Ans: In the essay, "Wisdom and Knowledge", by Bertrand Russell, he talks about the difference between the two and tells us how having only knowledge without wisdom can harm our progress in life. He defined knowledge as the acquisition of date and information, while wisdom is defined as the practical application and use of the knowledge to create value.
Russell tells us that wisdom is gained through learning and practical experience, not just by memorization. It does not come immediately with knowledge. To the essayist a wise person possesses both insight and foresight while a person may not necessarily do so. A clever person responds to the exterior change, quickly but a wise man penetrates the changes and makes the right decision. It takes a broad vision and an unbiased mind to make one wise and one can gain a lot of wisdom thoughts and feelings become less personal, they gain wisdom.
6. Ans: The author is convinced that wisdom must be an integral part of education, for a man/person can be widely knowledgeable but he may be lacking in the wisdom to understand that true purpose of life. Most people would agree that human beings are more knowledgeable now than we were in the past, mostly because of incredible progress in science and technology. But most people were a couple of thousand years ago. The basic idea is that knowledge and wisdom is not same thing. The path of wisdom is therefore is to act out of compassion and understanding and not out of fear and compulsion. People should be educated to see things in relation to other things of the world.

D. Think and discuss:

1. Ans: In the essay, "Knowledge and Wisdom," Bertrand Russell talks about how a very intelligent person's knowledge can become harmful when his knowledge is exercised without wisdom. The essayist takes the example of history and personalities to talk about how great people's knowledge has caused harm.

The essayist said that knowledge without wisdom can be harmful and even complete knowledge is not enough and should be combined with the total needs of mankind. By taking the illustration of Historian, Hegel who wrote with great knowledge but made the Germans believe that they were a master race, led to war. We begin to understand and comprehend how such potential knowledge has escalated to something so harmful.

To avoid this, the author suggests that one should combine feelings with knowledge, become impartial, avoid personal prejudices and see the whole picture into consideration in order to make the potential a success and progress for humankind. The essayist also gives the example of science and technological advancement, both positive as well as negative results, where much has been utilized to create weapons rather than for the good of mankind sadly.

2. Ans: According to Bertrand Russell, in his essay "Knowledge and Wisdom", Wisdom can be taught as a goal of education in school, in fact he emphasizes on the issue, that wisdom should be taught in school along with knowledge and gives the readers the clues and principles to follow to certain aspects for applying wisdom in a wide range of subject.

He says that wisdom should be planted and nursed in one's mind. He tells his readers to love neighbors whether friends or enemy and not to hate anyone. The author also warns his readers about the danger of hatred and narrow-mindedness. He tells his readers to do away and be free from selfishness, and that Knowledge and wisdom can be combined in the scheme of education.

Wisdom can be learnt by thinking of other people's feeling and by giving up our ego. Even though it is difficult to completely get rid of selfishness, we can think of things beyond our immediate surroundings. Wisdom comes when we start loving others. The writer tells his readers that two persons may remain enemies because of their prejudices and dislike the other for imaginary faults.

CHAPTER-3 OF FOLLOWERS AND FRIENDS

A. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Ans: The essay "Of Followers and Friends" is an essay written by Francis Bacon, an eminent English philosopher during the 16th century.

In the essay, the author is not so much concerned with moral goodness in life as he is practical behavior that leads to success in business and government. He discusses in detail the dangers of collecting "Followers", those who may or may not be friends but who latch onto a person for their own gain, for the benefit of the person to whom they attach themselves.

He is warning of followers who align themselves with a person solely because they want to harm a third person. He points out, many disagreements among the political classes which would be the result of the false information designed to create disagreements. The author singles out followers such as spies, which he calls "espials", as particularly dangerous because they are efficient in gossips.

The most beneficial followers, according to Bacon, are those men—often soldiers—who fought for the nation and are therefore loyal and trusted. His most important warning is to avoid relying on a single person, he advises that the most safest course is to take advice of some few friends, but warns at the same time that friendship is those who are dangerous, those who are useful, but concludes that true friends are the best advisers and followers.

2. Ans: Bacon warns and advises the followers who align themselves with a person solely because it is their intention to harm the third person. It may be pointed out that many disagreements among the political class are the result of false information designed by these followers to create a disagreement.

3. Ans: According to Bacon, the policy of equality is good in the government as he argues that highly professional men are appointed to form the government, for support and guidance, who are professional and are equally ranked. However, he goes on to argue that by attributing them such honor makes them arrogant and the rest dissatisfied. He also suggests that appointing a person who is lower in rank will make him thankful and the rest officious.
4. Ans: Factional followers are dangerous ones, those which follow not upon affections to him who they range themselves, but rather upon the discontentment conceived against others to openly follow what is illegal and harmful for the companion.

C. Answer the following questions in details.

1. Ans: Bacon cautions the readers about certain followers or so called 'friend' and their association with us. The idea of costly followers as ones that increase connectivity but decrease individual effectiveness though making wings shorter is a type of warning that Bacon offers in his essay, Bacon is stressing that the individuals embrace a more choice to take into their inner circles. This context is that individuals must exercise a severe judgment and analysis in selecting whose will is associating with ours.
Faction's followers are also to be often considered before a person gets involved in the discontentment for they conceive thoughts against some other. The glorious follower assigns themselves with a person solely because it is their intention to harm the third person solely because it is their intention to harm the third person.
2. Ans: According to Francis Bacon, in his essay "Of Followers and Friends", he cautions his readers about the different kinds of followers that are collected during the process of life. He opens his essay by talking about one of those people who are "Costly Followers". He emphasizes that these people, slowly and gradually develop an unnecessary liking towards us, while the aim to get closer is quite narrow and selfish and only wants to extract their benefits. Get advices that such followers should be avoided as they are also wearisome and will harass anyone for their benefit.
"Ordinary Followers", according to the author are not like the "Costly Followers", however, they should only expect approval, support, recommendation and protection from wrongs
Another type of followers are known as "factional followers", according to the author they follow you not because they like you but they hate others more than you.
3. Ans: A person having a certain estate of men, and one who in person is himself and is assigned as a profession can be determined a trustworthy follower. They are those who know and honour the civil duties laid before him by state or authority and are well assembled even to face the different challenge that comes his way. No matter how well he sweeps of his duty, better than other, he does not take pride on his popularity. They are the most honorable person armored which many people lack and yearn for.
4. Ans: According to Bacon in his essay "Of Followers and Friends", it is harmful to have too many followers, because one cannot be fully aware of another's intention and their motive of befriending him. It could cost a lot of one's prestige and may become harmful emotionally and mentally.
Because of these unknown circumstances and consequences that could follow in the long run, the essayist warns us to be aware of every person that follows us. He vividly describes the different types of friends and warns us to be ware and learn to sort out motives these followers might be into. By learning to differentiate and separate them can be of great help to build up one's ambition of the motives others have as different types of people have their own ambitions too.
Having too many followers could wrongly influence one's emotion and may become blind to their selfish desires, by seeing how cleverly they can manipulate situations and makes you feel obliged to give them desire at one's own loss.

D. Think and discuss.

1. Ans: It is apt to say that first meetings are not good to judge a person as asserted by Bacon because we cannot make everything out of someone we have just met. He advises that one should not trust anybody at first hand as it is like giving them the extraordinary freedom to decide everything by themselves.

However it would be a long process to learn about them through experiences and events that will unfold with the passage of time. No one is capable of deducing another's characters by the first meeting; hence the essayist wants us to be aware of the persons who have selfish ambitions. In his essay he talks about the different followers with different intentions and ambitions. By pointing out the different types of followers it makes us aware of the persons that might cross our way of life.

He also advises that one should not trust anybody at first hand over all the confidence right after appointing him because they cannot digest too much respect and honor at one time. He says that these are people who, at first, don't have any courage to speak against anyone however, after getting authority tries to wound one's reputation of the one who is very great to them.

2. Ans: In Bacon's essay "Of Followers and Friends", we can say that his view applies in today's generation or age of social media. Although the essay was written in the 16th century, the morality and characters of man cannot be said to have changed, especially with globalization technologically, the world as we know has become small. The term "Global Village", applies specially that the world has gotten smaller and people in every parts of the world can get to know each other and communicate. Hence, it becomes a basic necessity to learn the intention and objective of the people following us.

We make friends through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, online gaming etc. and may also come across different types of people. It becomes necessary that we deduce the ones who are true and loyal. It has become almost impossible to truly know someone, as true personality is hidden behind the walls of the screen.

By heeding to the advice and information given by Bacon, we will be able to somehow filter out people by Bacon, we will be able to somehow filter out people we feel is a hindrance to our healthy lifestyle; however, the skill of deducing people's character will have to be learnt by experiences and with passage of time.

CHAPTER-4 THE LAST LESSON

A. Answer the following question briefly.

1. Ans: Franz was surprised on reaching the classroom because the back benches were seated with the village people like students, which was usually empty. Old Hamster, the former major, the former post master and several others were also seated. That particular morning was also unusually quiet.

2. Ans: The elders attended the class that day because it was the last day as the order has come from Berlin that all the schools in Alsace and Lorraine should be taught in German from the next day onwards. They wanted to show their respect to M. Hamel who has been teaching them for more than forty years.

3. Ans: M. Hamel was leaving because the order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. New teachers would be arriving by the next day and hence there would be of no need for French teachers.

4. Ans: M. Hamel, instead of scolding Franz when he forgot the participles said that he should feel bad enough for himself. He pointed out their procrastination about studying that they had always thought there was a lot of time and would study the next day. He said with sadness that their time is up and how it has come to an end. He also expressed with disappointment that they cannot be called as Frenchmen or pretend to be one without knowing how to neither speak nor write their own language. However, he tells Franz that he was not only the one to feel worst about, but that everyone has a great deal of reproach to themselves.

B. Explain the following lines with references to the context.

- 1. Ans:** The given line is extracted from the story, "The Last Lesson", by Alphonse Daudet, a famous French short-story writer and novelist. Here the writer is talking about Franz's feelings that he would remember that last day, he apologized that he was not interested in learning the lessons, history etc of French and always procrastinated about getting serious with his lessons. He was shocked to learn that it was his last French class, and feels disappointed and suddenly shows his respect to M. Hamel for his sincerity and hard work of 40 years. He felt ashamed for not being able to even recite the lesson of participles when his turn came. In the last lesson they realized the importance of learning their mother tongue and embrace to guard of learning their mother tongue and embraces to guard the French language and felt that only language is the key to escape from the prison of slavery.
- 2. Ans:** The given line is an extract from the story, "The Last Lesson", by Alphonse Daudet. In the story, the writer talk about the last lesson on French languages as the German language was to be taught from the next day onwards, with regard to the order from Berlin. The story moves along with Franz as the main protagonist of the story, who had been procrastinating about learning his lessons sincerely, but regrets so much with disappointment when he learns that it was the last class and their teacher M. Hamel would be leaving them after serving as a school teacher for nearly 40 years. The story revolves around the importance of language and Alphonse cleverly depicts it in a catchy manner through his narration using the situation of a political shifting of power from France to Prussia. The context expresses a vision of hope through which language can act as a way of escaping captivity when they are dominated by another countryman. The writer through M. Hamel tells the students and villagers to gather in his class to hold on to their language and promises them freedom through language. The language barrier that exists between different civilizations may perhaps lit up a patriotic feeling among the captives, as a language itself bring about political as well as geographical unity. The writer is optimistic that so long as the French people hold on their language and does not betray their mother tongue, their hope of being free again would lit up. When M. Hamel writes "Vive La France", on the board, this itself signifies the uniqueness of one's language and sparks a sense of belongingness to one's country and fellowmen.

C. Answer the following question in details.

- 1. Ans:** Apart from the rest of the students, Franz is believed to have understood the lesson that day without any difficulty. He never listened to the lessons carefully and on the other had the teacher never explained with patience. M. Hamel went on to talk of French language. He asked the people to guard it among themselves and never forget it. As long as they have the key to freedom, it seemed as if M. Hamel wanted to give it to the students and the elders, all he knew before going away. He wanted to put in all into their heads at one stroke. So, the lesson was easily understood on the last day of the class.
- 2. Ans:** M. Hamel was a French teacher for years in Alsace school. He is generally considered as a very strict teacher with an iron ruler under his arm. On his last day at school, he professed his love for language and says that French is the clearest, most beautiful and one of the most logical languages that ever exist. He stays with his sister and is believed to have a very beautiful handwriting. Hamel also maintains a good garden around the school. He is a man who is truly respected by villagers and was specially respected by the elders who came to attend his last class. He is inspired the student and people greatly about the importance of mother tongue and how it comes as a key to their prisons. M. Hamel presented himself on the last day of his class wearing his Sunday and inspection dress. What makes him even more lovable is the proud feeling in him being a French man as he depicts it by emotionally writing-viva la France before dismissing the class.

3. Ans: The story “The Last Lesson”, by Alphonse Daudet is based on a historical event where France was defeated by the Prussians. The order has come from Berlin that all French schools must be taught in German language. The story is set in the event unfolding as the last class in one particular class attended by Franz accompanied by his fellow classmates and some villagers, who came to pay their teachers, M. Hamel.

M. Hamel was rather calm that morning and the whole class was unusually quiet than the other regular days. He was not angry at Franz when he entered the class late and calmly told him sit down. He began his lesson on the French language and told Franz to recite on the participles, which he failed. He was not disappointed at Franz or any of the classmates but was rather disappointed that they had not learnt the French language properly. He told them that language was the only key to set them free from the prison of slavery and encouraged them to hold on to their mother tongue. He went on to talk on the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world—the clearest, and the most logical.

Everyone attended attentively and listened very carefully to every word M. Hamel said and were filled with sorrow and remorse that they had always procrastinated about learning their language properly, but that it was the last class.

4. Ans: M. Hamel told the students and villagers that henceforth only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Those who called themselves Frenchman would neither be able to speak nor write it. He praised French as the most beautiful, the clearest and the most official language in the world. He said that for the enslaved people their language was the key from their prison. Then the people would realize how precious their language was to them. This shows people’s love for their own culture, traditions and country. Pride in one’s language reflects pride in motherland.

D. Think and discuss.

1. Ans: Linguistic Chauvinism means the strong and unreasonable belief that your own country and language is the best and important. Man finds himself in the confinements the story “The Last Lesson” is all about linguistic chauvinism. Acquisition of power by the Prussians made the Prussians so domineering that they imposed even their language on the others [The people of Alsace]. The rulers wanted to dominate even on the minds and hearts and wanted them even to think in their language, thereby causing the loss of their national identity. The story thus highlights linguistic chauvinism, which is becoming a major cause of war and political disturbance in the world

*****The End*****