The Last Lesson

- **Patriotism and Nationalism:**

M. Hamel's passionate defence of the French language highlights its importance as a symbol of resistance against oppression. His declaration 'Vive La France!' serves as a rallying cry, evoking a deep sense of patriotism and the desire to preserve one's heritage. The students' emotional ~~responses~~ responses to M. Hamel's lesson reflect an awareness of their cultural identity, reminding readers that language is not just a tool for communication but a vessel for history, tradition and belonging.

- **Education as empowerment:**

M. Hamel's final lesson is a culmination of years of dedication to teaching and highlights the transformative power of education. As he speaks, it becomes evident that education is not merely a means to an end but a way to connect with one's identity and heritage. M. Hamel's emphasis on the beauty of the French language serves as a reminder of its cultural significance.

THEMES

The story brings out the importance of ~~mother tongue~~ learning one's mother tongue. It is only through our mother tongue that we preserve our culture, our identity and even our freedom.

Closely related to this is another theme. The writer points out that it is unwise to postpone learning of things for one reason or the other. The people of Alsace in France do not pay attention to the ~~stu~~ study of French language in their school. But when France is defeated by Prussia and the Prussian rulers order that French will no longer be taught in the schools in Alsace, they realise their folly.

The story also reflects on the cruelty of war which makes the victorious people arrogant, proud and insensitive to human feelings. The victory turns their heads and they dictate things in an autocratic and proud manner.

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