



CHAPTER 1

The Last Lesson

—*Alphonse Daudet*

- ☐ The story is set in Alsace, a territory that Prussia has acquired where the German language is being suppressed in favor of French.
- ☐ The protagonist, Franz, is late for school and fears being scolded by his teacher, Monsieur Hamel.
- ☐ He notices that the village is unusually quiet, and the bulletin board at the town hall has a new proclamation.
- ☐ Upon reaching school, Franz finds it filled with students of all ages and even some villagers.
- ☐ Monsieur Hamel announces that it is the last French lesson they'll have, as an order has come to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine.
- ☐ The news shocks Franz and the villagers present.
- ☐ M. Hamel mentions how people of Alsace have always put off learning.
- ☐ He speaks passionately about the importance of the French language and how it's the most beautiful language in the world.
- ☐ He emphasizes that language is the key to a community's identity and freedom.
- ☐ Franz regrets not valuing his lessons and the French language more when he had the chance.
- ☐ M. Hamel delivers his last lesson with emotion, even writing "Vive La France!" on the blackboard.
- ☐ As the church clock strikes twelve, the lesson ends, marking the end of an era in Alsace.
- ☐ M. Hamel, who has taught in that school for forty years, leaves the schoolroom for the last time.
- ☐ The story underscores the impact of political decisions on common people and the significance of one's language and cultural identity.

CHAPTER 2

The Lost Spring (Stories of Stolen Childhood)

—*Anees Jung*

"Sometimes I find a Rupee in the garbage"

- ☐ Saheb is introduced as a barefoot boy roaming the streets of Seemapuri.
- ☐ Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi, houses ragpickers who migrated from Dhaka.
- ☐ The ragpickers live in makeshift huts with no sewage, drainage, or running water.
- ☐ For these ragpickers, garbage is gold; it's their daily bread, even if it means a meal that is earned out of rotting garbage.
- ☐ Saheb's family, like others, migrated to Seemapuri in hopes of a better livelihood.
- ☐ The writer, Anees Jung, gives money to Saheb, pondering on the irony of his name which means "lord" in Persian.
- ☐ Later, Saheb is found working at a tea stall, giving up his scavenging, losing his carefree look.
- ☐ Earning an income takes away the carefree look from Saheb's face but gives him the joy of owning real tennis shoes.
- ☐ The story captures the contrast between the name, which suggests wealth and the reality of poverty.
- ☐ Saheb's loss of freedom and innocence is the price he pays for his new job.
- ☐ The narrative provides a commentary on the harsh realities of urban poverty.
- ☐ Despite challenges, there is a sense of contentment and hope in Saheb's life.