

Reflective Question

Please make a copy of this document and answer the reflective question in 200-250 words. Use at least one quote from the story.

Although the story is fiction, it is based on real events in Alsace after the Franco-Prussian War. Consider the changing way the villagers see education. How did the students regard education initially? Give examples. What makes them change their attitude? Also discuss the value the adults in the community place on education. What role did education play in this community?

At the start of the story, Franz went to school thinking it would be just like all the other days he went to school. He never enjoyed learning, and believed he had other things he could have done to better pass his time. Just like the rest of the kids and community, they never saw education as a priority and so put their effort in making money by working in farms and factories. Though when Alsation entered Monsieur Hamels class he wasn't yelled at for being late, to add the class was filled with villagers who otherwise hadn't in the past. The child was confused. When Mr Hamel started, he told the students that because of the war against Prussia it was his last day teaching for them and would be replaced by a German teacher. "My children, this is the last time that I shall teach you. Orders have come from Berlin to teach nothing but German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new teacher arrives tomorrow. This is the last class in French, so I beg you to be very attentive." Hearing this made the kids sentimental and felt guilty for not taking the class seriously, most of the students never even learned the language or knew how to write, and their province was shamed for them calling themselves french. Because of this every student in that class that day put all their attention and effort in learning the last lesson mr. Hamel provided for them.