You are the teacher in the “Last Lesson.” Write a short speech telling your students the importance of patriotism.

My children, in a few moments, I shall pack my bags and leave for our border that was never was. However, I must impart a few words to you.

Firstly, that speaking and thinking in French, that beautiful language, will be discouraged. The Prussians would prefer to encourage Alsace to learn, to study, to breath in German. Your thoughts shall be bleached and colored in Prussian blue. Yet, I hope that it is the *bleu de France* that shall color the Saar River, the Alsatian sky as well as your mind, for we shall return!

Secondly, that France is a proud country. We have never bowed down to dictators! From the Bourbon Kings, to the Bonapartes, we have followed a proud French tradition of speaking for ourselves. Now that the Prussians had won, they would seek to eliminate-*eliminate, I say!* The thoughts of your ever being French. So speak the beautiful language at home where they can’t hear, and never forget it! For it is when people forget their choice of freedom do they willingly fall into slavery! But so long as we cling to our language, it is as though we hold the key to our prison!

Finally, I wish you well in your futures, be it at the factories, the rivers, or even emigrating back into France. But of course, it wouldn’t be emigrating back, for France shall return! My friends, my friends..

**What aspect of nationalism were Alphonse Daudet appealing to? Explain your answer.**

Alphonse Daudet was appealing to the importance of language in preserving a national identity. *“So long as it clings to its language, it is as if it held the key to its prison.”* Schools play an important part in standardizing the media of a language, thus Daudet had set his patriotic short story in a school. Schools try to promote the singularity of the language of that country, and in this case, the patriotic Monsieur Hamel plays a role in standardizing French and teaching it to the reluctant students. As language provides nation-building with legitimacy, Daudet focuses on language as the means of emphasizing on the importance of patriotism.

**How is Daudet’s idealism complemented by Edmondo De Amicis’ Heart of the Boy (1883)?**

Daudet emphasizes the importance of the subject being taught and the students’ apathy, while Amicis focuses on the children’s patriotic deeds. The schoolmaster’s final action in the Last Lesson softens the sense of loss. Amicis on the other hand writes from the point of view of the boy, a full length novel on what is expected of a young Italian citizen, and rather than the state of the boy’s emotions at that point in time, has the benefit of a full length novel to describe the boy’s movements.