Read the following text, in which Grundtvig argues for the importance of using Danish over Latin or German in public and political life:

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MOTHER TONGUE FOR THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE

“A people without a Mother Tongue is like a King without his kingdom, and in fact both are equally badly served by the fact that the possessions are only “on paper”; for it is “the common spirit” which makes kingdoms powerful, and no kingdom will flourish unless the Mother Tongue in its best and most powerful shape truly reigns. The refreshing impact in the public and civil sense from the reformation in the sixteenth century was therefore the instillation of the mother tongue in its natural rights...”

“...during the eighteenth century it (Danish) has been introduced in a way in all schools, but not as a master, only as a slave...Under such circumstances it really looks hopeless; for the gap between the man on the street and the scholars has grown through the centuries into a yawning abyss which apparently can hardly be crossed... this must inspire the scholars with such a reverence for the Mother Tongue and raise such a living conviction of the priority and advantage for the mouth to take the word that they cannot any longer regard their own foreign consideration and dead handling of the Mother Tongue to be either a perfection or a triviality, but to be a great misfortune which they as well as the people are extremely anxious to remedy as well and as soon as possible.”

THE FOLK HIGH SCHOOL IS A WISH FROM THE PEOPLE

“... (those in power) will now find it (folk high schools) most desirable as the only means by which the scholars can gradually recover the lacking mastery of the Mother Tongue and thereby the living influence of the people’s opinion and the voice of the people....”

(Taken from “Selected Educational Writings” (1991) by N.F.S. Grundtvig, Compiled by Max Lawson, published by The International People’s College and the Association of Folk High Schools in Denmark, pp. 48-50.)