



1. THE FUN THEY HAD

- Isaac Asimov



SUMMARY

The story is a work of fiction that is set in the future. Written by the famous fiction maestro Isaac Asimov the story dates ahead to the year 2155. The writer assumes that after about one and a half century there will be no books and teachers and they will be replaced by computers and other gadgets. Teaching will be more mechanical and the children will not have any fun.

PASSAGE I (Lines 1 - 26)

Margie even wrote
.....for the County Inspector.



GLOSSARY



- crinkly - wrinkled
- awful - terrible, appalling
- attic - room in top storey of a house
- scornful - disdainful, hateful
- mechanical teacher - computer
- county - division of State/a shire

[I] SIMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS (SFQ). (1 Mark)

1. Name the two children in the story?

Ans. The names of the two children in the story are Tommy and Margie.

2. Where did Tommy find his grandfather's book?

Ans. Tommy found his grandfather's book in the attic.

[II] COMPLEX FACTUAL QUESTIONS (CFQ). (1 Mark)

1. What did Margie write in her diary?

Ans. In her diary Margie wrote how Tommy found a real book belonging to check grandfather on 17th May, 2155.

2. Tommy considered printed books as real waste. Why?

Ans. According to Tommy the capacity of a computer is much more than a mere book. After reading a book it is discarded whereas in a computer many books can be stored and retrieved at the mere click of a button.

3. Why did the children find the book awfully funny?

Ans. They found the book awfully funny because the words stood still instead of moving the way they did on a computer screen.

4. Why did Margie hate school?*(Sept. '11)*

Ans. Margie hated school because she was given test after test by the mechanical teacher.

[III] EVALUATIVE / INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS (EQ/IQ).**(1 Mark)****1. Mention two points to suggest that the story is futuristic?**

Ans. The author has set the story in the year 2155 and the children are taught by a mechanical teacher instead of human being.

2. How would the children be in times to come?

Ans. In times to come they would be more dependent on computers and other electronic items. Probably they will be more informed and aware.

3. How did the book Tom found differ from the telebooks they read?

Ans. The book Tom found had paper pages that were yellow and crinkly. The words were printed on the paper and didn't move. Words on the telebook moved and the screen remained the same.

[IV] PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (PRQ).**(2 Marks)****1. Would you have enjoyed the mode of teaching given in the passage?**

Ans. Perhaps, I would not have enjoyed because education would become very mechanical and monotonous and there would be no fun and interaction as we have now .

PASSAGE II (Lines 27 - 50)

*He was a round
..... centuries ago.*

GLOSSARY

dial	-	A disc marked to show the time
loftily	-	proudly
geared	-	adjusted

[I] SIMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS (SFQ).**(1 Mark)*****1. What did the County Inspector tell Margie's mother?***(Sept. '11)*

Ans. The County Inspector told Mrs. Jones that Margie was not to be blamed for the poor performance in her tests, as it was because the Geography section was geared a little quick.

2. Describe the physical appearance of the County Inspector.

Ans. The County Inspector was a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires.

3. Which part of the session did Margie hate the most?

Ans. The part she hated the most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers.

[II] COMPLEX FACTUAL QUESTIONS (CFQ). (1 Mark)

1. What did the County Inspector do with the mechanical teacher?

Ans. The County Inspector took the teacher apart. He then put every thing together and the teacher was mended.

2. Why was Margie disappointed?

Ans. Margie was disappointed because she had hoped that the county inspect or would take the teacher away altogether but he didn't.

3. How did Tom treat Margie ?

Ans. Tom treated Margie as if she were stupid and he were superior to her.

[III] EVALUATIVE / INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS (EQ/IQ). (1 Mark)

1. What gives you an idea that Margie was not happy with the mechanical teacher?

Ans. Margie was not happy with the mechanical teacher and this is evident from the fact that when the County Inspector came she hoped that he wouldn't know how to put it together and that he would take the teacher away altogether.

2. What was the attitude of the County Inspector towards Margie ? (Sept. '11)

Ans. He was kind to her, gave her an apple and was understanding about her problem. He did not blame her for poor scores and acknowledged the fact that it was fault of the mechanical teacher.

[IV] PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (PRQ). (2 Marks)

1. What would have been your response if you were in place of Margie?

Ans. Frankly, I would also have reacted the same way as Margie did. Education becomes boring if it so mechanical and monotonous. I would have even requested the County Inspector not to put the teacher back in place.

PASSAGE III (Lines 50 - 76)

Margie was hurt
 "Margie ! School !"

GLOSSARY



betcha - 'I bet at it'
 dispute - argument

[I] SIMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS (SFQ). (1 Mark)**1. What was the book about?**

Ans. The book was about an old kind of school where a regular man was a teacher.

2. Where did all the kids go for education?

Ans. They went to a special building called 'school'.

3. Why did Tommy scream with laughter?

Ans. Tommy screamed with laughter because Margie thought that in the past the teacher went to the house of the student to teach.

4. What was the mother's opinion about a teacher?

Ans. Mrs. Jones said that a teacher had to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid had to be taught differently.

[II] COMPLEX FACTUAL QUESTIONS (CFQ). (1 Mark)***1. What according to Tommy, was the difference between his school and the school described in the old book?**

Ans. According to Tommy, in the past the school was a building where all kids went to study and they had a man as a teacher whereas Margie and Tommy and other children of that age did not go to school and they had a mechanical teacher in a school room at home.

[III] EVALUATIVE / INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS (EQ/IQ). (1 Mark)**1. What thoughts might have crossed Margie's mind when she came to learn about the past?**

Ans. Margie was confused as Tommy told her that in the past there were real teachers and separate buildings called schools. Teachers taught a group of children whereas her mother told her that a teacher was supposed to adjust to fit the mind of each boy and girl. Margie wondered how all this happened in the past.

[IV] PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (PRQ). (2 Marks)**1. What is your opinion about the education pattern in this futuristic story?**

Ans. The education pattern seems to be very monotonous and difficult for the children as there are no real teachers. It is very mechanical and the children don't like the teacher. In my opinion we should have a combination of both the systems. There should be teacher who with the help of a computer tries to impart knowledge.

2. Why, do you think, are the words 'centuries' and 'regular' in italics?

Ans. The words are in italics to show that Tom wanted to stress these words and impress upon Margie how different the time and the school were.

PASSAGE IV (Lines 77 - 100)

Margie looked
 the fun they had.



GLOSSARY

nonchalantly	-	indifferently
tucked	-	put under wraps
fractions	-	part, segment
slot	-	opening
sigh	-	long audible breath
insert	-	introduce, put in

[I] SIMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS (SFQ). (1 Mark)

1. **Where was Margie's school?**

Ans. Margie's school was right next to her bedroom.

2. **When according to mother did little girls learn better?**

Ans. According to mother little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

3. **What did the mechanical teacher teach her that day?**

Ans. That day the mechanical teacher taught her arithmetic and addition of proper fractions.

4. **What was Margie thinking about?**

Ans. She was thinking about the old schools and how the kids enjoyed in the past.

[II] COMPLEX FACTUAL QUESTIONS (CFQ). (1 Mark)

*1. **How did the mechanical teacher teach arithmetic to Margie?**

Ans. The mechanical teacher was on time and as she entered the screen lit up and it said that it would teach arithmetic that day and also addition of proper fractions. It also asked her to insert the previous day's homework in the proper slot. She was also subjected to a number of tests.

*2. **What did Margie think about the old schools attended by her grandfather's grandfather?**

Ans. Margie thought that in the past, studying together must have been fun and since all of them learned the same things, they could help each other on the homework, laugh and shout in the school yard, sit together in the school room and go home together at the end of the day.

[III] EVALUATIVE / INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS (EQ/IQ). (1 Mark)

1. **Do you think Margie is repenting for the lost mode of teaching why?**

Ans. Yes, I think she wants to study in the old mode of teaching because she feels that in that there was much more fun and it was not a burden as it had become for in her times.

[IV] PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (PRQ). (2 Marks)

*1. **Would you like to be taught by a mechanical teacher? Why? (Sept. '11)**

Ans. Seeing the condition of Margie I would not like to be taught by a mechanical teacher. I would find it very monotonous and boring to learn from a mechanical teacher. It would be ruthless to do a series of tests now and then. Although sometimes teachers do scold us, yet I know they do it for our benefit and that they love us immensely.

The End

1 THE FUN THEY HAD**ENGLISH****Duration : 1 hr.**

- Q.I SIMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS (SFQ). (5)**
1. Where did Tommy find his grandfather's book? 1
 2. Describe the physical appearance of the County Inspector. 1
 3. Which part of the session did Margie hate the most? 1
 4. What was the mother's opinion about a teacher? 1
 5. What did the mechanical teacher teach her that day? 1
- Q.II COMPLEX FACTUAL QUESTIONS (CFQ). (6)**
1. Tommy considered printed books as real waste. Why? 1
 2. Why did the children find the book awfully funny? 1
 3. Why was Margie disappointed? 1
 4. What according to Tommy, was the difference between his school and the school described in the old book? 1
 5. How did the mechanical teacher teach arithmetic to Margie? 1
 6. What did Margie think about the old schools attended by her grandfather's grandfather? 1
- Q.III INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS (IQ). (5)**
1. Mention two points to suggest that the story is futuristic? 1
 2. What gives you an idea that Margie was not happy with the mechanical teacher? 1
 3. What was the attitude of the County Inspector towards Margie ? 1
 4. What thoughts might have crossed Margie's mind when she came to learn about the past? 1
 5. Do you think Margie is repenting for the lost mode of teaching why? 1
- Q.IV PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (PDQ). (4)**
1. What is your opinion about the education pattern in this futuristic story? 2
 2. Would you like to attend a school like Margie's school? 2

Best of Luck 

They had a special building, all the children went to. And they learned the same things, if they were the same age. First Margie does not understand how a person could be a teacher and how the students were taught the same thing, because her mother says that the education must fit to each child's mind, but nevertheless in her opinion these schools are funny and she wants to read more about it. She was thinking about the old school system and how much fun the children must had, learning and spending time together. Danke! GrÃ¼Ã¼Ã¼! ~ â™«. These solutions for The Fun They Had are extremely popular among Class 9 students for English The Fun They Had Solutions come handy for quickly completing your homework and preparing for exams. All questions and answers from the NCERT Book of Class 9 English Chapter 1 are provided here for you for free. You will also love the ad-free experience on Meritnationâ™s NCERT Solutions. All NCERT Solutions for class Class 9 English are prepared by experts and are 100% accurate. Page No 5: Question 1: â€¢ Have you ever read words on the television (or computer) screen? Can you imagine a time when all book