

Class IX- English

CHAPTER: 1 THE FUN THEY HAD

Kindly read the content given below and view the links shared for better understanding.

Link of the chapter:- <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?iebe1=1-11>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. About the Author: *Isaac Asimov* was one of the 20th century's most prolific writers, writing in many genres. Born on January 2, 1920, in Petrovichi, Russia, Isaac Asimov immigrated with his family to the United States and became a biochemistry professor while pursuing writing.

He published his first novel, *Pebble in the Sky*, in 1950. An immensely prolific author who published influential sci-fi works like *I, Robot* and *Foundation* trilogy, as well as books in a variety of other genres. Asimov died in New York City on April 6, 1992. *The Fun They Had* is one of his most famous works written by him.



2. About the Story: This story is set in future when books and schools as we have now perhaps will not exist. It takes us into a world of computers where two students find a printed book in their attic. They are surprised to see a book with yellow and crinkled pages. They talk about the old kind of schools and compare them with those of their own which are situated in their homes and have mechanical teachers to teach them. They find their own schools dull and boring. Both the children opine that it must have been great fun to study in the schools of old times when all the kids of the area went to a special building to learn the same thing from a human teacher.

II. THEME-

By contrasting the schools of present day with those expected to exist in twenty second century the author has brought forth the following themes and sub themes:

- The effects of mechanisation and automation on the education system.
- Futuristic schools will merely impart knowledge and the children in times to come won't experience the joy of studying together under one roof.
- In the years to come, mutual (physical) interaction between teachers and students will cease to exist.

III. TITLE-

- It reflects the opinion of Margie about the children studying in special buildings called schools centuries ago.
- Talks about the fun filled education system in the schools of the yester years

IV. SUMMARY-

On 17 May 2157, Tommy found a real book. He showed it to Margie. Margie was eleven years old. She had never seen a real book before. She had once heard from her grandfather about the printed books. It was a very old book. Its pages have turned yellow and crinkly. They turned its pages and read them. Tommy found it just a waste..Their books flashed on the television screen.

Tommy, a thirteen year old boy had read more books on the television on screen than Margie. He told Margie that it was a book about school. Margie always hated school. Her school was situated in a room in her home. It was next to her bedroom. Her mechanical teacher flashed lessons on her television screen at a fixed time daily except on Saturdays and Sundays. She had to attend it alone.

This mechanical teacher asked her questions, gave her homework and checked it. It also checked the assignment test papers in no time. Margie's mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test. When Margie's performance started going from worse to worst,,her mother called for the County Inspector to examine the cause. He set the speed of the mechanical teacher right up to the level of an average ten-year child.

Tommy told Margie that hundreds and hundreds years ago there were schools that were situated in a special building. Human teachers taught all the kids together under one roof. Margie thought that it would be great fun to study in those schools.

Just then Margie's mother called her to attend her school. She was reluctant but had to go inside her school room nonchalantly. It was right next to her bed room. Her mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It asked Margie to put her homework in the proper slot. Margie did so with a sigh.

While the mechanical teacher was teaching her the mathematics topic of fractions but she was thinking about the schools of the old days and the fun they had.

V. ASSIGNMENTS –

Short Questions (Answer in 30-40 words)

- Q1. Discuss the main characteristics of the old school. Did it influence Margie? How?
- Q2. Describe what kind of a person the County inspector was.
- Q3. Enlist the issues that have been mainly highlighted in the story, 'The Fun They Had'.

Long Question (Answer in 100-120 words)

- Q4. Is it possible to have a school without teachers and books? Elucidate on the basis of the reading of the lesson, 'The Fun They Had'.

Language Check:

Make adverbs from the following adjectives:

1. Angry-_____
2. Happy-_____
3. Merry-_____
4. Sleepy-_____
5. Easy-_____
6. Noisy-_____

(a) Find the meaning of the words given below:

(b) Frame sentences using any five words from the given list.

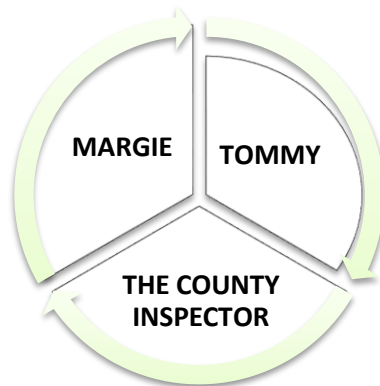
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- a) Awfully – _____
 - b) Scornful – _____
 - c) Humorous – _____
 - d) Plenty – _____
 - e) Beneath – _____
 - f) Dispute – _____
 - g) Nonchalantly – _____
 - h) Attic – _____

Suggest the antonyms of the words given below:

- a) Quick – _____
- b) Complete – _____
- c) Regular – _____
- d) Satisfactory – _____
- e) Superior – _____
- f) Careful – _____
- g) Horrible – _____

h) Smart –

Complete the graphic organiser given below by enlisting the adjectives that describe Tommy, Margie and the County Inspector.



VI. FURTHER REFERENCE:

Refer to the link for the MCQs based on the chapter

https://diksha.gov.in/play/collection/do_312796455235125248120134?contentType=TextBook&contentId=do_31279902950947225617423
