

## Chapter- 1

# The Fun They Had

**QUESTION BANK:**

- 1) How was the book that Tommy found different from his own books?
- 2) What kind of book did Tommy show to Margie?
- 3) Why did Margie find the book strange?
- 4) Tommy thought the old books were funny and a big waste. Why?
- 5) Why did Margie hate school?
- 6) What differences do you find in present school and the school described in the lesson 'The fun They Had'?
- 7) How does Tommy describe the old kind of teachers?
- 8) Why did Margie's mother send for the Country Inspector? What did he do?
- 9) Why did the County Inspector's visit disappointed Margie?
- 10) Why did Margie hope that the Country Inspector would take away her mechanical teacher?
- 11) What did Country Inspector do to improve Margie's performance?
- 12) What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?
- 13) How was Margie's school different from the schools that existed hundreds of year ago?
- 14) How is Margie's school different from a normal school?
- 15) In spite of all comforts and luxuries in today's world, our grandparents still cherish their own time when life was quite tough.
- 16) What did Margie's grandfather tell her about the old book?
- 17) Why did Tommy consider the book 'a waste'?
- 18) Who called for the Country Inspector and why?
- 19) What hope did Margie have when the Country Inspector come? Did her wish come true?
- 20) What was the fault with Margie's teacher, according to the Country Inspector?
- 21) Describe the Country Inspector?
- 22) How were the students taught in the future schools?
- 23) What kind of a teacher did the old schools have? How did they perform their task?
- 24) Where did Margie and the old school kids study?
- 25) Why was Margie's mother particular about regular study hours?
- 26) What is the difference between the two types of schools as mentioned in the lesson, 'The Fun They Had'?

- 27) Where did Tommy find the real book? How was it different from the books that Margie and Tommy use?
- 28) If you were given a choice, which school you prefer and why?
- 29) How would you compare a mechanical teacher to a human teacher?
- 30) How important is the use of technology in education?
- 31) What is the environmental advantage of technology?
- 32) Write a small paragraph on the emotional trauma faced by Margie.
- 33) Do you agree with the view of Margie's mother on education? Explain.
- 34) Describe the mechanical teacher that Tommy and Margie have.
- 35) Margie even wrote about that night in her diary. On the page headed 17 May 2157, she wrote, "Today Tommy found a real book!" It was a very old book. Margie's grandfather once said that when he was a little boy, his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper.

They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to-on a screen, you know. And then when they turned back to the page before, it had the same words on it that it had when they read it the first time.

- a) When did Margie write her diary?
  - b) What was peculiar about the book Tommy had found?
  - c) Who revealed the information of printed story books?
  - d) What was awfully funny about the printed books?
- 36) Margie was scornful. "School? What's there to write about school." I hate school."

Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever. The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfully and sent for the Country Inspector.

- a) Why was Margie scornful?
  - b) Why did Margie hate her school 'more than ever'?
  - c) Which word in the passage means the same as 'dejection'?
  - d) Why was the Country Inspector sent for?
- 37) Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago."

She read the book over his shoulder for a while, then said, "Anyway, they had a teacher."

"Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't regular teacher. It was a man."

- a) What school is Tommy talking about?

- b) “Anyway, they had a teacher!” Who is ‘they’ and ‘teacher’ in the given line?
- c) Which world in the passage is the opposite of ‘inferior’?
- d) What do you find strange in Tommy’s interpretation of a “regular teacher”? Why does he do so?

38) “A man isn’t smart enough.”

“Sure he is. My father knows as my teacher.”

“He knows almost as much, I betcha.”

Margie wasn’t prepared to dispute that. She said, “I wouldn’t want a strange man in my house to teach me.”

Tommy screamed with laughter. “You don’t know much, Margie. The teachers didn’t live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there.”

“And all the kids learned the same thing?” “Sure, if they were the same age.”

- a) ‘You don’t know much’. Who said these words and what is ‘much’ referred to?
- b) Where did the teachers in the old school teach?
- c) Which word in the passage means the same as ‘argument’?
- d) How could students learn the same things?

39) Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather’s grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework and talk about it.

And the teachers were people...

The mechanical teacher was flashing on the screen: “When we add fractions  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ...”

Margie was thinking about the how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.

- a) What did Margie like about the old school?
- b) How did Margie’s teacher teach her mathematics?
- c) What was the advantage of the old school, according to Margie?
- d) Why did Margie sigh?

40) Margie was disappointed. She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether. They had once taken Tommy’s teacher away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely.

- a) What did Margie hope for?
- b) What was the problem with Tommy's teacher?
- c) What happened to the teacher?
- d) Find an antonym for 'delighted' from the passage.

41) But my mother says a teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently.

- a) Who is talking to whom in the given extract?
- b) What information has the mother imparted to her child?
- c) From the given information, how many students does a teacher teach per class?
- d) In what context have these lines been spoken?