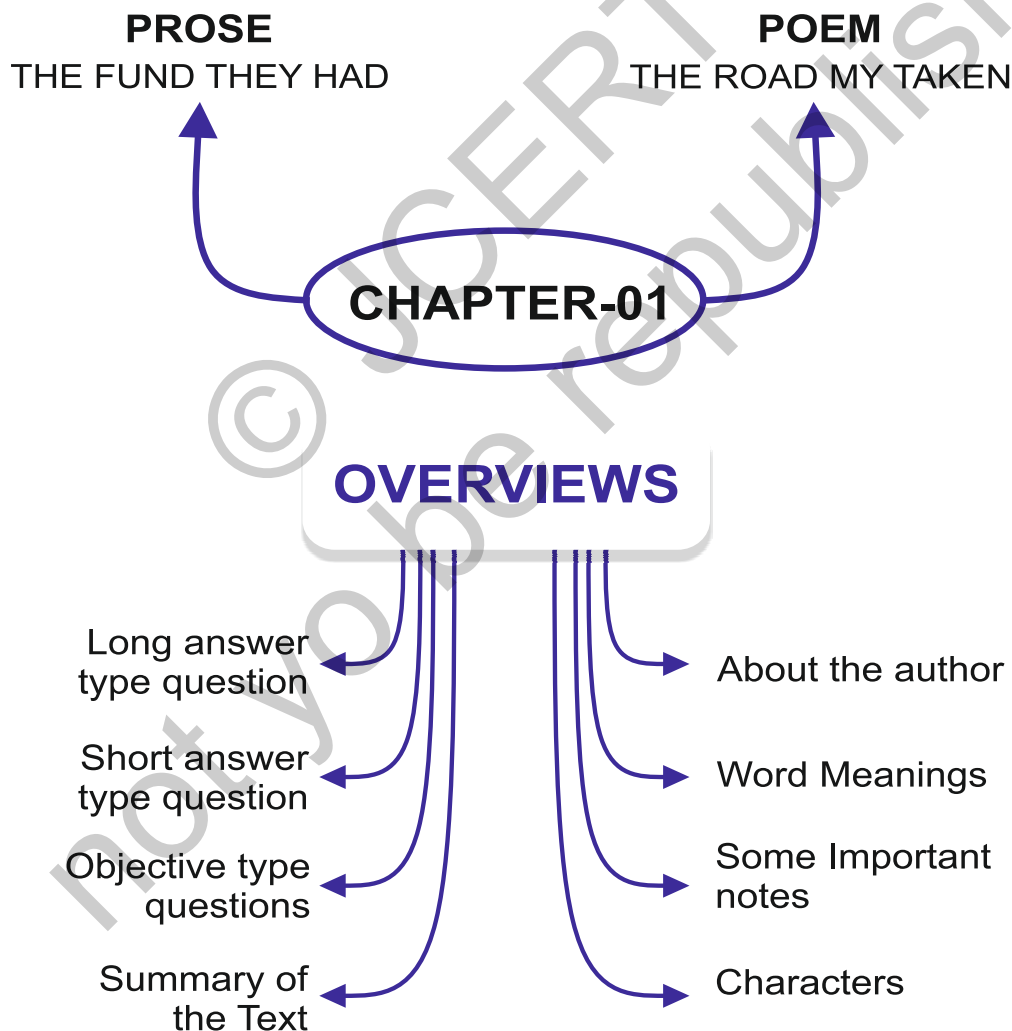


The Fun They Had



I. ABOUT THE AUTHOR



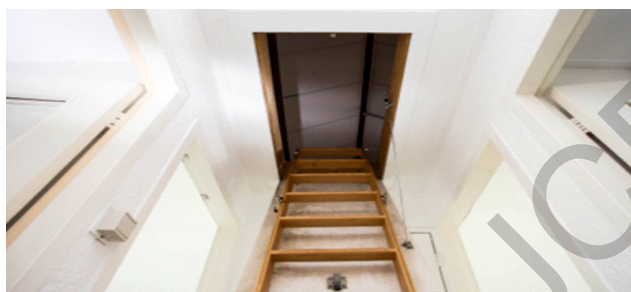
I. WORD MEANINGS

1. Imagine- suppose/think (कल्पना करना)
2. Crinkly - with many folds (सिलवटों वाला)
3. Awfully - terribly (भयानक ढंग से)
4. Million - ten lakh (दस लाख)
5. Telebooks - books on television screen (टेलीविज़न के पर्दे पर आने वाली पुस्तकें)
6. Attic - a space just below the roof used as a store
7. Scornful - contemptuous (घृणा का भाव होना)
8. Slot - a given space (दराज)
9. Punch code - a number with some hole (छिद्र संख्या)
10. Geared - adjusted the speed (स्पीड सही करना)
11. Sector - part (भाग)
12. Loftily - in a superior way (विशिष्ट अंदाज में)
13. Betcha - to make a bet (शर्त लगाना)
14. Tucked - to fold/put (दबाना)
15. Except - excluding (के सिवाय)
16. lit up - lighted (प्रकाशित होना)
17. Arithmetic - a subject which provides the study of numbers (गणित)
18. Flashing - shining (चमकना)

II. SOME IMPORTANT NOTES

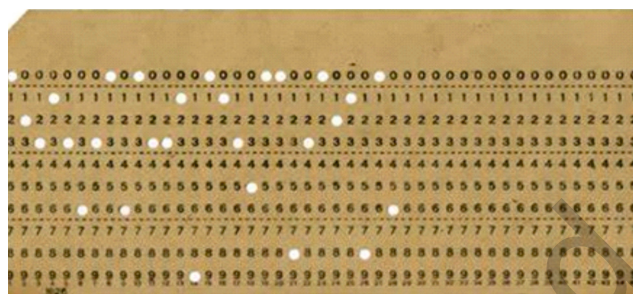
1. **Attic-** An attic is a space found directly below the pitched roof of a house or other building. Attics

fill the space between the ceiling of the top floor of a building and slanted roof. While some attics are converted into bedrooms, home offices, or attic apartments complete with windows and staircases, most remain difficult to access (and are usually entered using a loft hatch and ladder). Attics help control temperatures in a house by providing a large mass of slowly moving air, and are often used for storage.



2. **A punch code-** Punch codes are like binary numbers (Computer

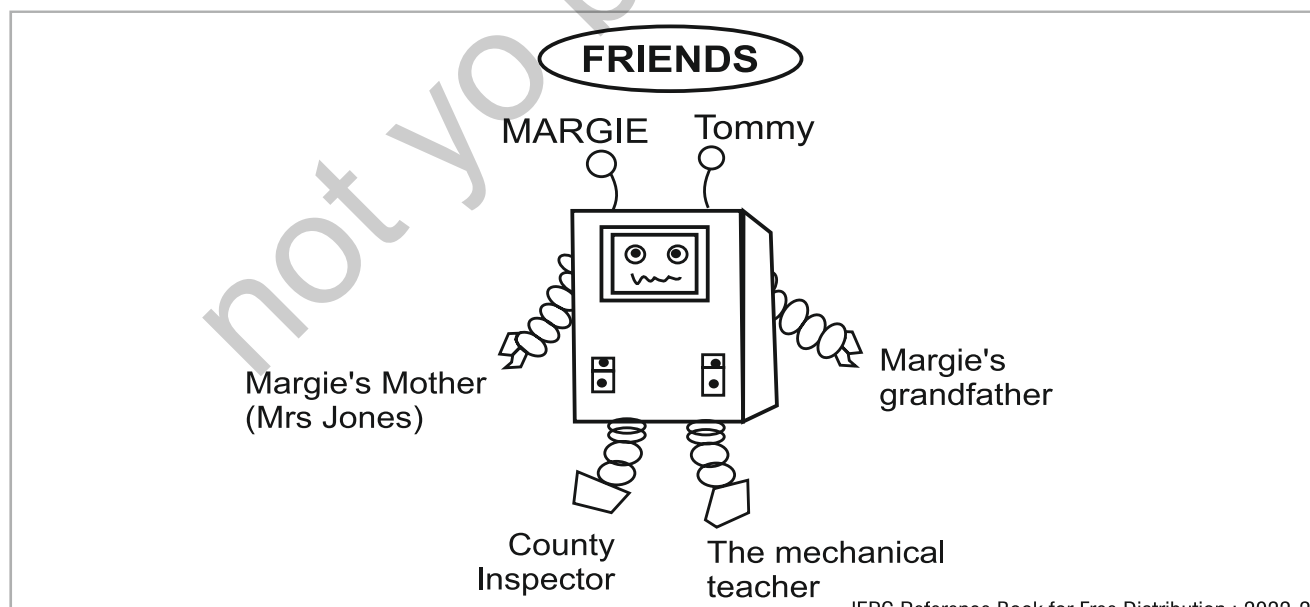
language). Margie had to write her homework and test papers in punch codes so that the robot could understand it.



3. **Telebook-** A telebook is a compact book in an electronic form. It is stored in a computer and can be read by scrolling its pages up, down or sideways on a screen.

4. **Arithmetic-** Arithmetic is one of the oldest and elementary branches of mathematics, originating from the Greek word 'Arithmos', which means 'number'

III. CHARACTERS

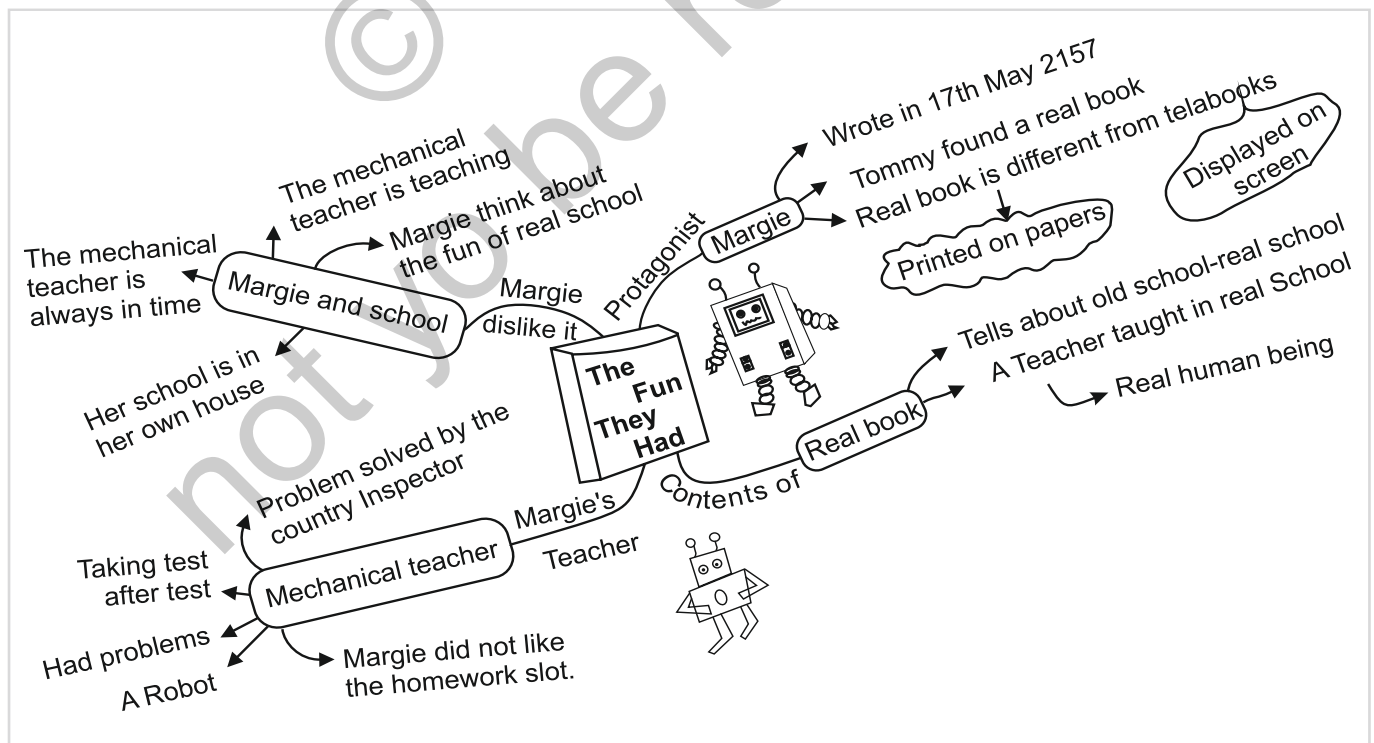


1. **MARGIE** - Margie is an eleven-year-old girl of the year 2157. She hates her school specially her mechanical teacher because it takes always test.
2. **Tommy** - Tommy is a thirteen-year-old boy and Margie's friend in the story.
3. **Margie's grandfather**- We know from the story that he once told Margie that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him about a time when all text materials were printed on paper.
4. **The mechanical teacher**-

'Mechanical teacher' is actually a machine which teaches Margie, gives her exercises to solve in a special room in her house. It can also calculate the marks in no time. Margie hates the slot where she has to put her homework or test papers.

5. **County Inspector**- Country inspector is the engineer who solves the technical problem of Margie's mechanical teacher in just an hour or so.
6. **Mrs Jones**- She is Margie's Mother and very strict with her daughter's lesson and progression in study.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE TEXT



SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

The story is set approximately 150 years in the future on 17th May 2157. The author describes a time in the future when every child has his own machine, teachers and schools like no one exists today. There are telebooks, in which words move across the screen. As this story was written in 1951 before personal computers were around, it's surprising how well the author predicts the future. We are not living in 2155 right now, but it is already possible for us to read digital books on handheld devices. Maybe in the future, kids will actually be taught by mechanical teachers!

On that particular day, a thirteen-year-old boy, Tommy, finds a 'real book' in the attic of his house. The book, which is really old, is printed on paper and its pages are yellow and smelly. He and his friend, eleven-year-old Margie, take a look at the book together. Margie and Tommy are both amazed by the book that is different from the books they are accustomed to. The book has words that are fixed on the pages and do not move on the screen. Books like these no longer exist. Margie remembers that her grandfather once told her about stories of books printed on paper in his grandfather's time. Tommy considers the book impractical because, unlike his telebook, which has a million books and is good for

many more, one has to throw the book away after reading it.

Tommy tells Margie that the book is about school, but Margie, who hates school and doesn't understand why anyone would write about her, is disappointed. She is currently experiencing a problem in learning Geography from a 'mechanical teacher' which teaches Margie, gives her exercises and asks her questions, all in a special room in their house. It can also calculate the mark in no time. Margie hates the slot where she has to put her homework or test papers.

Recently, her dislike for her school has intensified as her mechanical teacher has a geography field. It's taking her test after test in Geography and she's doing even worse. Her mother sent for the county inspector to see the mechanical teacher and rectify the error. The inspector takes the mechanical teacher apart and finds that Margie is not at fault for her poor performance. The teacher's geography area is decided at a pace that is too fast for a little girl. Margie is hoping he won't know how to reattach it or how to fix it. But after an hour or so the inspector set the pace for Margie's level. This frustrates Margie as she hoped that her teacher would be put away for a while and she would be relieved of the hassle of taking so many tests.

Tommy, who is reading the book, tells Margie that the book is not about their kind of school, which has mechanical teachers with TVs, but rather, it was about schools hundreds of years ago when students had a teacher. One real person taught girls and boys, gave them homework and asked them questions. The school was a special building in which the children went. And if they were the same age, they learned the same.

At first Margie didn't understand how a person could be a teacher and know how to teach the same thing to students because her mother says that education should fit the mind of every child. Still, she wants to read more about it. They don't even read half the book when Margie's mother reminds him that it is school time. Although Margie's school room is right next to their bedroom, she has to study at regular hours as her mother considers it appropriate to study at a fixed time every day.

Margie goes to the school room in her house, where the mechanical teacher is already there as the lessons always take place on a regular schedule. As the mechanical teacher teaches to add proper fractions, Margie becomes lost in her thoughts about the work of schools in olden times. Although at first Margie was skeptical of the notions of old schools and teachers, by the end of

the story she believed that the children would have enjoyed going to school together. They must have enjoyed going to the same school, studying the same things, and being able to help each other.

पाठ का सारांश

कहानी में लगभग 150 साल भविष्य, 17 मई 2157 के बारे में बताया गया है। लेखक भविष्य में एक ऐसे समय का वर्णन करता है जब हर बच्चे के पास अपनी मशीन, शिक्षक और स्कूल होता है। उनके पास पढ़ने के लिए टेलीबुक भी हैं, जिसमें शब्द स्क्रीन पर घूमता है। यह कहानी 1951 में पर्सनल कंप्यूटर के आने से पहले लिखी गई थी लेकिन यह बहुत ही आश्चर्यजनक है कि लेखक भविष्य की कितनी अच्छी भविष्यवाणी किए हैं। हम अभी 2155 में नहीं रह रहे हैं, लेकिन अभी से हम लोग हैंडसेट डिवाइस पर डिजिटल किताबें पढ़ सकते हैं। हो सकता है कि भविष्य में, बच्चों को वास्तव में यांत्रिक शिक्षकों द्वारा पढ़ाया जाएगा!

उस विशेष दिन पर, एक तेरह वर्षीय लड़के, टॉमी, को अपने घर की अटारी में एक 'असली किताब' मिलती है। वह पुस्तक बहुत ही पुरानी है, कागज पर छपी है और उसके पृष्ठ पीले और बदबूदार हैं। टॉमी और उसका मित्र, ग्यारह वर्षीय मार्गी, एक साथ पुस्तक पर एक नज़र डालता है। मार्गी और टॉमी दोनों उस किताब को पढ़ के बहुत ही हैरान हो जाते हैं। पुस्तक में ऐसे शब्द हैं जो पृष्ठों पर स्थिर हैं और स्क्रीन पर नहीं चलते हैं।

ऐसी किताबें अब मौजूद नहीं हैं। मार्गी को याद है कि उसके दादा ने एक बार उसे अपने दादा के समय में कागज पर छपी कहानियों के बारे में बताया गया था। टॉमी पुस्तक को अव्यावहारिक मानता हैं, क्योंकि यह उसके टेलीबुक के विपरीत है। उसके टेलीबुक में दश लाख किताबें हैं। लेकिन इसमें एक ही किताब है और इसे पढ़ने के बाद फेंक देना पड़ेगा।

टॉमी मार्गी को बताता है कि किताब स्कूल के बारे में है। यह सुनकर मार्गी बहुत निराश हो जाती है। क्योंकि मार्गी स्कूल से नफरत करती है और इसलिए यह नहीं समझ पाती है कि कोई स्कूल के बारे में क्यों लिखेगा। वह वर्तमान में एक 'यांत्रिक शिक्षक' से भूगोल सीखने में समस्या का सामना कर रही है। यह यांत्रिक शिक्षक मार्गी को उसी के घर के एक विशेष कमरे में पढ़ाता है। उसे अभ्यास करने के लिए देता है और उससे सवाल पूछता है। यह कुछ ही समय में निशान को भी गिन सकता है। मार्गी उस स्लॉट से नफरत करती है जहां उसे अपना होमवर्क या टेस्ट पेपर रखना होता है।

हाल ही में, अपने स्कूल के लिए उसकी नापसंदगी तेज हो गई है क्योंकि उसके यांत्रिक शिक्षक उसकी भूगोल परीक्षा ले रहा है और वह उसमें अच्छा नहीं कर पा रही है। उसकी माँ यांत्रिक शिक्षक को देखने और त्रुटि को सुधारने के लिए काउंटी निरीक्षक को बुलाती है। निरीक्षक यांत्रिक शिक्षक को अलग करता है और बताता है कि उसके खराब प्रदर्शन के लिए मार्गी का कोई दोष

नहीं है। शिक्षक का भूगोल क्षेत्र उस गति से तय किया गया है जो एक छोटी लड़की के लिए बहुत तेज है। मार्गी उम्मीद करती है कि काश उस निरीक्षक को यह नहीं पता होता की यांत्रिक शिक्षक को कैसे दोबारा जोड़ा जाए या उसे कैसे ठीक किया जाए। लेकिन लगभग एक घंटा के बाद ही निरीक्षक यांत्रिक शिक्षक में भूगोल को मार्गी के स्तर में निर्धारित कर देता है। यह मार्गी को निराश करता है क्योंकि उसे उम्मीद था कि उसके शिक्षक को कुछ समय के लिए हटा दिया जाएगा और उसे इतने सारे परीक्षा देने की परेशानी से राहत मिलेगी।

टॉमी, जो किताब पढ़ रहा है, मार्गी को बताता है कि किताब उनके समय के जैसे स्कूल के बारे में नहीं है, जिसमें टीवी के साथ मैकेनिकल शिक्षक हैं। बल्कि यह सैकड़ों साल पहले स्कूलों के बारे में है जब छात्रों के पास एक शिक्षक था जो वास्तविक रूप में एक मनुष्य थे कोई यांत्रिक शिक्षक नहीं। वे बच्चों को स्कूल में पढ़ाते थे, उन्हें गृहकार्य देते थे और उनसे प्रश्न भी पूछते थे। स्कूल एक विशेष इमारत थी जिसमें बच्चे जाते थे। और अगर वे एक ही उम्र के थे, तो उनको एक ही चीज सीखने को मिलता था।

पहले तो मार्गी को यह समझ में नहीं आया कि कोई व्यक्ति शिक्षक कैसे हो सकता है और छात्रों को पढ़ाने भी जानता है। क्योंकि उसकी माँ कहती है कि शिक्षा हर बच्चे के दिमाग के लेवल के अनुसार फिट होनी चाहिए। फिर भी, वह इसके बारे में और अधिक पढ़ना चाहती है। मार्गी आधी किताब भी नहीं पढ़ पाती है

क्योंकि उसकी माँ उसे याद दिलाने लगती है कि उसका स्कूल का समय हो गया है। मार्गी का स्कूल उसके बेडरूम के ठीक बगल में है फिर भी उसे नियमित घंटों में पढ़ना पड़ता है क्योंकि उसकी माँ हर दिन एक निश्चित समय पर पढ़ाई करना उचित समझती हैं।

मार्गी अपने घर के स्कूल के कमरे में जाती है, जहाँ यांत्रिक शिक्षक पहले से मौजूद होता है क्योंकि मार्गी का पाठ हमेशा नियमित समय पर होता है। जैसे-जैसे यांत्रिक शिक्षक खंड को जोड़ना सिखाता है, मार्गी पुराने समय के स्कूलों को लेकर अपने विचारों में खो जाती है। हालाँकि पहले मार्गी को पुराने समय के स्कूलों और शिक्षकों की धारणाओं पर संदेह था, लेकिन बाद में वह मानता है कि बच्चों को एक साथ स्कूल जाने में मज़ा ही आएगा। उन्हें एक ही स्कूल में जाने, एक जैसी चीजों का अध्ययन करने और एक-दूसरे की मदद करने में बहुत ही आनंद मिला होगा।

V. OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What was the date Margie wrote in her diary?
A. 6 May 1993
B. 17 May 2156
C. 17 May 2157
D. None

Ans-C

2. What did Tommy find in the attic of his house?
A. A real book
B. A telebook
C. A ring
D. All of the above

Ans-A

3. Who told Margie about printed books?
A. His mother
B. Tommy
C. The mechanical teacher
D. Her grandfather

Ans-D

4. The book that Tommy found was
A. printed on clothes
B. was very old
C. was a new book
D. None of the above

Answer-B

5. What is a telebook?
A. Book printed on paper
B. Book made of fabrics
C. Book in television
D. None of the above

Answer-C

6. How old was Margie?
- A. 10 B. 11
C. 12 D. 9

Answer-B

7. How old was Tommy?
- A. 11 B. 13
C. 15 D. 12

Answer-B

8. Who is giving Margie test after test in Geography?
- A. Her mother
B. The country inspector
C. The mechanical teacher
D. None of the above

Answer-C

9. Mrs Jones is
- A. Tommy's mother
B. Margie's sister
C. Margie's mother
D. None

10. Which sector in the mechanical teacher has some technical faults?
- A. History
B. Geography
C. English
D. Science

Answer-B

11. According to Margie, in an older time, the schools were
- A. Big
B. Brown
C. Funny
D. Stupid

Answer-C

12. "Why would anyone write about school" -Who said this?
- A. Tommy
B. Margie
C. Mrs. Jones
D. Blair

Answer-B

13. Margie had to write out her homework
- A. In Russian
B. In Punch code
C. In English
D. None of the above

Answer-B

14. According to Tommy, the real book was
- A. Boring
B. A waste
C. Wrong
D. Fiction

Answer-B

15. While inserting her homework in the proper slot, Margie was thinking about

- A. Desserts
- B. Vacation in Turkey
- C. Old schools
- D. Tommy

ANSWER-C

VI. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. From where Tommy found the book and why did it seem peculiar to him and Margie?

Answer: Tommy found the old book from the attic of his home. It was a peculiar object for them because it was different from the books they were accustomed to. The book had words that were fixed on the pages and did not move on the screen. Books like these no longer existed. They had a telebook, which had a million books and was good for many more.

2. Who are Tommy and Margie? How old are they?

Answer- Tommy and Margie are students from the year 2157.

They are neighbours and spend time together like children of their age usually do. Tommy is a thirteen-year-old boy and Margie is an eleven-year-old girl. In this story they had found a book which was different from the book they actually read. The book they found was printed on papers while they had telebooks which were displayed on television screen.

3. What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have? Did they like them?

Answer: The teachers of Margie and Tommy were different from the teachers of today. They were mechanical teachers. They were confined to study rooms and thought mechanically. Neither Margie nor Tommy liked them. Specially Margie had an aversion towards her robotic teacher as she was experiencing a problem in learning Geography from that 'mechanical teacher'. It was taking her test after test in Geography and she was doing even worse.

4. Why did Margie hate school?

Answer: Margie never liked her school. It was monotonous for

her. She had mechanical teacher and telebook. She hates it now more than ever. Her mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in Geography and her performance was getting worse day by day.

5. Why was Margie not doing well in Geography? What did her mother do to help her?

Answer: Margie was not doing well in Geography. Her performance was getting worse day by day. Her mother sent for the county inspector to see the mechanical teacher and rectify the error. The inspector takes the mechanical teacher apart and finds that Margie is not at fault for her poor performance. The teacher's geography area is decided at a pace that is too fast for a little girl.

6. What did Margie write in diary?

Answer- Margie wrote in her diary on 17th May 2157 that Tommy had found a real book. It was a very old book. Margie's grandfather once said that when he was a little boy 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.

7. "What a waste!" What is Tommy referring to as a 'waste'? Is it really a waste?

Answer- Tommy thinks that the paper books with words printed and fixed on them are a waste. Once a book is read, it becomes useless and must be thrown away because it has the same content. Actually, printed books are not a waste. They can be read by many people over and over again and should be preserved for future generations.

8. What did Margie hate the most about her school?

Answer- The part that Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She always had to write them in a punch code that she was made to learn at the tender age of six. Besides, the mechanical teacher calculated her marks in no time which left no scope for Margie to relax after submitting the assigned tasks.

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9. What did Margie's mother think about the teacher' and 'the school'?

Answer- Margie's mother thought that every child had a different intelligence and capacity to understand things. The mechanical teacher should be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it taught. Each kid had to be taught differently. She thought that little girls and boys would learn better if they learned at regular hours at the 'school'.

10. How did the County Inspector disappoint Margie?

Answer- Margie was disappointed because she hated school and hoped that her mechanical teacher would be taken away for repairs as Tommy's teacher was once taken away for a month. But when the County Inspector promptly repaired and reset it at her home itself, she was unhappy.

VII. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What problem was Margie facing with her mechanical teacher? Why did not she like it? Do you think that teachers should be flexible in their approach in teaching?

Answer: Margie had a mechanical teacher. Its geography area was decided at a pace that is too fast for a little girl. It had been giving her a lot of homework in Geography. The work was very difficult. Her performance in tests was also worsening day by day. Her mother was not happy with her performance. She sent for the county inspector to see the mechanical teacher and rectify the error. The inspector took the mechanical teacher apart and fixed the problem. The teacher's geography area is decided at a pace that is too fast for a little girl but It was slowed down up to an average ten-year level by the country inspector.

Margie was not happy when her mechanical teacher was repaired. In fact, she wanted to get rid of it. Yes, a good teacher should be flexible in his approach. He

should change his speed and method according to the needs of the child. He should not be mechanical.

2. In which respect is your school system different from that of Margie? Which one do you like and why?

Answer: Our school system is completely different from the school where Margie studies. In fact, they don't have a school at all. They are being taught in their room by a mechanical teacher only. Our school is located at a different place. We have a large building and spacious grounds. We taught with our friends. So, we can enjoy their company in class.

We also take interest in enriched activities taught in the class.

To Margie, all this appears to be a fun which is completely missing in her mechanical school. We have good teachers who are humans with human feelings. Our school is a lovely place for us because studies here become joyful and stress-free, whereas Margie is being taught and tested by lifeless machines. We are happy with our school system of teaching and love it. Margie hates her school system for being monotonous and boring, sitting in the room with the mechanical teacher.