

Chapter -1

The fun they had

About the Author: - Isaac Asimov was born on January 2, 1920 in Russia. His family moved to the United States when he was a toddler. His family owned a series of Candy shops and called upon him to work in the store as a youngster.

In 1949, Asimov began a stint at Boston University School of Medicine, where he was hired as an associate professor of biochemistry in 1955. He eventually became a professor at this university by the late 1970s.

Asimov was a prolific and varied writer. Apart from science fiction, he was also known for writing books on astronomy, biology, mathematics, religion and literary biography. Over the course of his career, he won several Hugo, and Nebula Awards. He also received several accolades from science institutions.

At the age of 72, Asimov died in New York City on April 6, 1992 from heart and kidney failure.

Question answer:-

Q1. How old are Margie and Tommy?

Ans. Margie is eleven and Tommy is thirteen years old.

Q2. What did Margie write in her diary?

Ans. Margie wrote in her diary. "Today, 17th May, 2157, Tommy found a real book."

Q3. Had Margie ever seen a book before?

Ans. No, Margie had never seen a book before.

Q4. What things about the book did she find strange?

Ans. The book had yellow and wrinkled pages. The words of the book were still. They did not move as the words move on the computer screen. She found these things strange.

Q5. What do you think a telebook is?

Ans. A telebook is displayed on the television screen and the text of a telebook is similar to a book.

Q6. Where was Margie's school? Did she have any classmates?

Ans. Margie's school was near her own bedroom. She did not have any classmate.

Q7. What subject did Margie and Tommy learn?

Ans. Margie learned Geography and Mathematics. Tommy learnt History and Mathematics.

Short paragraph:-

Q1. What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?

Ans. Margie and Tommy had mechanical teachers. They were taught on computers and television screens. They didn't have a living person as a teacher who would teach the pupils in a classroom.

Q2. Why did Margie's mother send for the County Inspector?

Ans. Margie's mother sent for the County Inspector because the mechanical teacher was not functioning efficiently. It had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse.

Q3. What did he do?

Ans. He slowed down the mechanical teacher's speed upto an average ten-year level. The mechanical teacher's speed was controlled and adjusted according to the IQ level of Margie.

Q4. Why was Margie doing badly in geography? What did the County Inspector do to help her?

Ans. Margie had been doing badly in geography. This was because the mechanical teacher was very fast in displaying the questionnaire. The County Inspector adjusted its speed upto an average ten-year level. Thus the mechanical teacher's speed was controlled appropriately. The County Inspector assured that the overall pattern of Margie's progress was quite satisfactory.

Q5. What had once happened to Tommy's teacher?

Ans. Tommy's teacher was taken away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely. So, Tommy had nothing to do during that period. He only relaxed and enjoyed.

Q6. Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?

Ans. Yes, Margie had regular days and hours for school because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

Q7. How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?

Ans. Tommy says that the old school was different. They had a special building and all the kids went there to study. They laughed and shouted in the schoolyard. They enjoyed time together and learned lessons together in a classroom.

Q8. How does he describe the old kind of teachers?

Ans. He says that the old teachers did not live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there. They gave homework to students. They were not mechanical teachers, but living human beings.

Long answer:-

Q1. What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?

Ans. Margie and Tommy have mechanical teachers. They need not go to school for getting a formal education. The mechanical teacher is placed in one of the rooms of the house and they can get the knowledge of various subjects individually from the mechanical teacher. They don't have such classrooms where students sit together. They study from the telebooks. The examination system is very different. They do home work in a different way. Margie has to write them out in a punch code. She learnt it when she was six years old. So the system of their education is technologically advanced and not based on printed books