

LESSON 1

THE FUN THEY HAD

ISSAC ASIMOV

WORKSHEET

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What was the book that Tommy found was about?
2. Why did Margie's Mother send for the County Inspector?
3. What was wrong with the geography sector of Margie's mechanical teacher?
4. What did Margie write in her diary?
5. Why does Margie say, "How could a Man be a teacher"?
6. What things about the book did Margie find strange?
7. Why had Margie started hating her school?
8. What views did Margie's mother have about teachers and learning?
9. How did County Inspector disappoint Margie?
10. Why does Margie feel that learning was fun in the schools of the past?

II. Answer the following questions in 100- 150 words each:

1. Do you think a robot should replace the human teacher? Give reasons in support of your answer and write a paragraph on it.
2. Imagining yourself as Margie write a diary entry stating how happy you would have been to study in the old kind of school. Your diary entry should be dated 20th April, 2157.
(100 – 150 words)

III. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. Margie even wrote about it 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 had when they read it the first time.

Questions:

1. What had Margie grandfather told her once?
2. They turned the pages. What does 'they' refer to?
3. What was funny about the book?
4. Find a word in the passage that means 'very much'.

2. "May be," he said nonchalantly. He walked away whistling, the dusty old book tucked beneath his arm. Margie went into the schoolroom. It was right next to her bedroom, and the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday, because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours. The screen was lit up, and it said: "Today's arithmetic lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday's homework in the proper slot."

Questions

1. "May be," he said nonchalantly. Who does 'he' refer to?
2. What topic was Margie going to learn that day?
3. Find a word from the passage which has the meaning same as 'showing not any interest'.
4. It was right next to her bedroom. What does 'it' refer to?

3. "Gee," said Tommy, "what a waste. When you're through with the book, you just throw it away, I guess. Our television screen must have had a million books on it and it's good for plenty more. I wouldn't throw it away." "Same with mine," said Margie. She was eleven and hadn't seen as many telebooks as Tommy had. He was thirteen. She said, "Where did you find it?" "In my house." He pointed without looking, because he was busy reading. "In the attic." "What's it about?" "School."

Questions:

1. What did Tommy say about the book?
2. What is the book about?
3. What does their television screen show?
4. Find a word in the passage, the opposite of which is 'save'.

IV. Find the sentences in the lesson which have the adverbs given in the box below.

sorrowfully	completely	loftily	carefully
differently	quickly	nonchalantly	awfully

V. Now use these adverbs to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- (i) The report must be read _____ so that performance can be improved.
(ii) At the interview, Sameer answered our questions _____, shrugging his shoulders.
(iii) We all behave _____ when we are tired or hungry.
(iv) The teacher shook her head _____ when Ravi lied to her.
(v) I _____ forgot about it.
(vi) When I complimented Revathi on her success, she just smiled _____ and turned away.
(vii) The President of the Company is _____ busy and will not be able to meet you.
(viii) I finished my work _____ so that I could go out to play.

VI. Match the following words with their correct meaning.

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| 1. clinkly | a. got off the screen |
| 2. scornful | b. oppose |
| 3. blanked out | c. full of wrinkles |
| 4. loftily | d. hateful |
| 5. betcha | e. cried |
| 6. dispute | f. in a superior way |
| 7. screamed | g. deep breath |
| 8. nonchalantly | h. a word for a bet |
| 9. sigh | i. under |
| 10. beneath | j. unwillingly |

**M CHANDRKALA
TGT (ENG / SO. SC)
AECS – 2, HYDERABAD**