

ELR LESSON-3

THE FUN THEY HAD
BY
ISSAC ASSIMOV


About the writer

Issac Assimov (1920-92). Was a Russian born American writer well known for his science fiction. He had the canny knack of transporting young reader's imagination to the future world dominated by computers and Robots. It is a world of fun and fantasy, but the frightening spectacle of totally mechanical existance leads to meaningful introspection too. His works include 'Nightfall, Foundation, The love of steel and the End of eternity.'

SUMMARY


This story is an experience of two children living in the year 2155(a fictional story).


The story begins with a diary page of Margie dated 17th may 2155. It had an account of that day, where she started writing with the opening sentence “Today Tommy found a real book.”



They started talking about the book with astonishment and talked about the quality of paper, the style of writing and the stillness of words.

They also were surprised about the topic of the book which was a SCHOOL.


- 
- Margie hated her school because the mechanical teacher was giving her test after test and she had been doing worse and worse. Finally, the County Inspector was called and problem was set.
 - IMPORTANT TERMS:
 - 1) the mechanical teacher.
 - 2) the county inspector.




After the thought about her school Margie and Tommy started discussing about the book's SCHOOL, the man teacher, the school building and all the kids going to school together. And Finally, Margie started imagining the fun the children had in the school.

THEMES OF THE LESSON

LEARNING: In the story Margie and Tommy are unhappy with their current learning environment and realize that learning is important. Although they are unable to change their situation, they think about what it would be like if they could experience such school. If they were able to go to an actual school, they would be able to make friends and incorporate different diverse ideas into their learning experience.



TECHONOLGY: In his story *Assimov* is trying to prove that too much technology is not a good thing. Although technology can often help humans do things better, it cannot be used a replacement for human intellect (after all technology has been created by humans). The Robotic teacher in the story represents what technology can do to harm a generation.



APPRECIATION: In the story Margie and Tommy mutually decide that it would have been better to go to an actual school with real people, saying that the children who did this must have had much more fun. The **irony** in this, however, is that children are unhappy with going to school in an actual building, and do not appreciate the opportunity that they have for them, that others may not have.

Check your understanding

Answer the following questions in a sentence each:

- 1) Which date was mentioned in Margie's diary?
- 2) Where was Margie's school?
- 3) Who was the Regular Teacher?
- 4) Why was the County Inspector called?
- 5) What was Fun?