

**Class: IX**

**THE FUN THEY HAD**

**Subject: English**

**Long Answer Questions**

1. **What is the role of a teacher in the life of a student? How is a human teacher better than a mechanical teacher?**

**Ans.** Teachers play a very important role in the life of a student. They not only provide bookish knowledge but also inspire their students to live a meaningful and successful life. They burn themselves like a candle throughout their lives to remove the darkness and ignorance from their student's life. This can be done by a human teacher only. A mechanical teacher can provide ample knowledge on various subjects, but he/she cannot boost up their student to do something distinguished. There is a single mechanical teacher having various sectors geared up according to the level of the child. There is no companion, no playground and no fun at all. The teaching is mechanical and monotonous. Thus, the human teachers are better than the mechanical teachers in many ways. They know individually the intellectual ability of their students and help them accordingly.

2. **Can you imagine a school without teachers and books? Give your opinion based on the lesson 'The Fun They Had'.**

**Ans.** No one can deny the role of modern technologies in our lives and in our studies. Nowadays education is changing but schools without teachers and without books are beyond imagination. Without teachers, teaching would not be good because no one would be there to explain and to teach as well. No student would like the environment; it would be like an office. Teachers are very important for education. Teachers not only teach different subjects, but they also teach to live in discipline and to live together. Teachers resolve the student's problem and doubt and if they aren't in school the students won't study enough. As in the lesson Margie does not like her school, she finds it tedious as she does not have the opportunity to be with other students to do work together. Modern technologies can be taken as an aid to improve the standard of studies but the schools without books and teachers will never be preferred.

3. **Describe the characteristics of old schools. How did they arouse so much interest in Margie and Tommy?**

**Ans.** The good old students reflected the charm of their times. Every school had its own buildings. Students from different parts of the town went there for studies. All the students in a class were taught the same things. They received the same kinds of homework. Hence, students could help one another. The teachers were real human beings. The books were printed on papers.

There was something magical about the old schools. Margie's interest was undoubtedly

on those schools. She got the relevant information about them from Tommy. In comparison to her mechanical teacher and her 'school', the old schools charmed Margie. She was fascinated by the way children went to their schools. They studied together. They were taught the same things. It was easier for them to help one another. Margie was rather envious of the fun the children had in old schools.

4. **Will the existing schools and teachers become totally irrelevant in future 'school'? Give a reasoned answer.**

**Ans.** Naturally, schools that existed centuries ago will not be the same in the coming centuries. The system of education will be highly computerized and mechanical. The 'school' will have no separate building. Nor will they be taught the same thing together. The mechanical teacher will be a big TV screen, good for a million books. The mechanical teacher will be adjusted according to the age and capacity of the student. But it will be an exaggeration to say that everything about the old schools will disappear. Even the future schools can't be completely devoid of the human. Perhaps the institution of the old schools and teachers will remain, human involvement can't disappear altogether.

5. **Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans.** There is no doubt that today's schools have more fun than the school discussed in the story. This school has nothing but a mechanical teacher with no emotions and sentiments. It does not have the ability to understand the psychology of a child. Moreover, it guides a pupil according to its adjusted modes. But today's schools work for the overall development of a child. They are given training in leadership, sports, politics and science. They learn how to adapt themselves to the new surroundings and cope with strangers. The students sit and learn together forgetting their caste, colour and creed. These activities don't give vent to the feelings of depression, alienation and segregation.

6. **The old schools are considered fun by the modern generation. Explain.**

**Ans.** The ancient schools consisted of Gurukuls in which the students stayed in the building with the guru. Then with the change of time Gurukuls changed into schools. Hence the teacher and the student have a formal relationship. In these schools, teachers are human beings and books are real ones made of paper. Now with times, the modern generation school has been replaced by e-text and computers. The future generation would envy when they come to know about the old system of education in which all the kids went to school together. They studied together, played together. They were better off in an innovative mind as they got a chance to discuss things with each other. The old system of education in which 'man' as a teacher could influence his students by their personality. Future generations would utter what fun the schools were long ago.

7. **How did a chance discovery of a paper book leave Margie and Tommy awestruck?**

**Ans.** Margie and Tommy are neighbourhood friends in the year 2157. It is an age of total automation, mechanization, digitalization and computerization. Children do not go to a school building and they are not taught by a human teacher. Instead, their teacher is a tele teacher, a computer like a machine that has millions of books. It can be customized

according to the age and learning needs and abilities of individual students. Reading is done on a screen that displays movable text. So, one day when Tommy finds an old, dusty paper book in the attic of his house, he shares the exciting news with his friend Margie and together they are awestruck, for they had hitherto never seen or heard about a book that had no screen but only fixed text on pages that had to be flipped with fingers. As the duo kept reading the book further and further, their excitement kept growing. They were awestruck to discover that ancient schools were huge buildings where hundreds of children studied together with the same syllabus, the same subjects and carried out the same activities and tasks. They were taught by real human teachers with the help of real books. Margie believes that students those days must have had a lot of fun studying together.

### **Short Answer Questions**

**1. Describe the book that Tommy had found in his attic.**

Tommy found the book in the attic of his house. The book had pages and they were yellow and crinkly because it was more than a hundred-year-old book.

**2. What had Margie's grandfather once told her about books?**

Margie's grandfather said that when he was a little boy, his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper.

**3. Why was it awfully funny to read the paper-book that Tommy had found?**

It was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to – on a screen. When they turned back to the previous pages, they had the same words on them.

**4. Why did Tommy consider the book a waste?**

Tommy considered the paper-book a waste because it could not store other books in it. Although it is worth a read, once reading is done, the book is worth nothing. When compared to computers, the paper books are far inferior because computers are able to store thousands of books in their memory.

**5. What was Margie's school like?**

Margie's schoolroom stood right next to her bedroom. In the schoolroom there was just the student and the mechanical teacher. When Margie enters, the mechanical teacher would be waiting for her. It was always 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 would light up, and it would then display various instructions such as the lessons for each day. It would then teach Margie each lesson by displaying instructions and lessons. Often the mechanical teacher would ask Margie to insert the previous day's homework in the proper slot.

**6. Write a note on the mechanical teacher.**

The mechanical teacher was a large, black and ugly robot with a screen and several slots. On the screen all the lessons were shown, and the questions were asked. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She always had to write them out in a punch code they made her learn when she was six years old, and the mechanical teacher

calculated the mark in no time.

**7. Why did Margie hate her mechanical teacher?**

The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse.

**8. Why was the County Inspector called in?**

Margie's mother called in the County Inspector to check Margie's progress that had been at its worst. Her mechanical teacher had been marking her staggeringly down in her geography each time she took a test.

**9. What did the County Inspector find out about Margie's mechanical teacher?**

The County Inspector inspected Margie's mechanical teacher and found out that the geography sector of the mechanical teacher had been accidentally geared a little quicker than Margie's level. Earlier, when Margie learned from the mechanical teacher, she was not able to answer its questions because of this speed.

**10. How did the inspector correct the mechanical teacher?**

The inspector tuned the geography sector of the mechanical teacher to an average ten-year level.

**11. Why was Margie disappointed when her mechanical teacher was mended?**

Margie had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether as they had once taken Tommy's teacher away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely. When she saw that the inspector was not going to take her mechanical teacher away, Margie was disappointed.

**12. What fun did 'they' have? OR *What made Margie think that the old school system was real fun?***

All the kids from the whole neighborhood came. They laughed and shouted in the schoolyard, they sat together in the schoolroom. They went 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. The teachers were people. Kids loved schools in the old days.

**Reference to Context: Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow.**

**PASSAGE 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:**

**(i) What did Margie write in her diary?**

**(ii) Had Margie ever seen a book before?**

- (iii) 'They' turned the pages. Who does 'They' refer to?**
- (iv) What was funny about the book?**
- (v) Why had the pages of the book turned yellow and crinkly?**

**Answers:**

- (i)** On the page headed 17 May 2157, Margie wrote, 'Today Tommy found a real book!'
- (ii)** No, Margie had never seen a book before.
- (iii)** They are Margie and Tommy.
- (iv)** The words in the book stand still instead of moving.
- (v)** The pages of the book had turned yellow and crinkly because it was very old.

## **PASSAGE 2**

'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 tele books 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?'

**Questions:**

- (I) What is a waste for Tommy?**
- (ii) What sort of books did Margie and Tommy have in their schools?**
- (iii) How old were Margie and Tommy?**
- (iv) Where did Tommy find the book?**
- (v) What was that book about?**

**Answers:**

- (i)** Printing books on paper is a waste for Tommy.
- (ii)** They have moving books on their television screen.
- (iii)** Margie was eleven and Tommy was thirteen years old
- (v)** Tommy found the book in his house in the attic. (v) It was about 'School'.

## **PASSAGE 3**

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 County Inspector.

**Questions:**

- (i) Name the writer of the story 'The Fun They Had'.**
- (ii) What was Margie's opinion about school?**
- (iii) What was her mechanical teacher doing?**
- (iv) What were Margie's responses?**
- (v) Why was the County Inspector sent for?**

**Answers:**

- (i)** Issac Asimov.
- (ii)** Margie hated school.
- (iii)** Her mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography.
- (iv)** Margie's responses were very poor.
- (v)** The County Inspector was sent to check the mechanical teacher.

#### **PASSAGE 4**

He was around the little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart. Margie had hoped he wouldn't know how to put it together again, but he knew how all right, and, after an hour or so, there it was again, large and black and ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked. That wasn't so bad. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She always had to write them out in a punch code they made her learn when she was six years old, and the mechanical teacher calculated the mark in no time.

#### **Questions:**

**Who was a round little man?**

**What did he do to the teacher?**

**What had Margie hoped?**

**Which part of the mechanical teacher did she hate most and why?**

**(v) How did she write her test papers?**

#### **Answers:**

**(i)** The County Inspector was a round little man.

**(ii)** He took the mechanical teacher into pieces.

**(iii)** Margie had hoped that the County Inspector would not know how to put it together.

**(iv)** She hated the slot most because she had to put her homework and test papers in it.

**(v)** She wrote her test papers in a punch code.

#### **PASSAGE 5**

The Inspector had smiled after he was finished and patted Margie's head. He said to her mother, 'It's not the little girl's fault, Mrs. Jones. I think the geography sector was geared a little too quick. Those things happen sometimes. I've slowed it up to an average ten-year level. Actually, the overall pattern of her progress is quite satisfactory.' And he patted Margie's head again. 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. So, she said to Tommy, 'Why would anyone write about school?'

#### **Questions:**

**(i) 'The Inspector smiled after he was finished'. What was finished?**

**(ii) What was the problem with the mechanical teacher?**

**(iii) At what level did the Inspector set it?**

**(iv) The mechanical teacher was set right but Margie was disappointed, why?**

**(v) What trouble had been there once with Tommy's teacher?**

#### **Answers:**

**(i)** He had reassembled the mechanical teacher all right.

**(ii)** Its geography sector was geared a little too quick.

**(iii)** He set it up to an average ten-year child level.

**(iv)** She had hoped that she would get a long vacation until her mechanical teacher was repaired.

**(v)** Its history sector had completely blanked out.

## **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

- 1. On which date did Margie make an entry in her diary about schools?**
  - a) 17 May 2156
  - b) 17 May 2157
  - c) 17 May 2158
  - d) 17 May 2159
- 2. Who found a real book?**
  - a) Tommy
  - b) Margie
  - c) Tommy's teacher
  - d) The mechanical teacher
- 3. Why were the pages of the book were yellow and crinkly**
  - a) it was a very old book
  - b) Its colour was yellow
  - c) they were yellow because it was written in yellow ink.
  - d) none of these
- 4. How were the words in the book?**
  - a) moving
  - b) Steady
  - c) getting unprinted after reading
  - d) none of these options is right
- 5. How old was Margie?**
  - a) ten years
  - b) eleven years
  - c) twelve years
  - d) thirteen years
- 6. How old was Tommy?**
  - a) ten years
  - b) eleven years
  - c) Fourteen years
  - d) thirteen years
- 7. Where did Tommy find the book?**
  - a) in the attic
  - b) in the school
  - c) in a shop
  - d) in a library
- 8. What was Margie scornful about?**
  - a) the printed book
  - b) the school
  - c) Tommy
  - d) e-mail books
- 9. To which world does the story take the readers to?**
  - a) future world
  - b) past world

- c) present World
- d) future world where computers will play a major role

**10. What is Virtual Reality?**

- a) heavenly world
- b) imaginary world
- c) reality created by computer software
- d) none

**11. Who is the author of this lesson?**

- a) Charles Dickens
- b) Isaac Asimov
- c) Milton
- d) None

**12. Who was teaching the students in the modern era?**

- a) a teacher
- b) parents
- c) computer
- d) a mechanical robot teacher

**13. Where was Margie's school?**

- a) in a village
- b) in a city outskirts
- c) in her own house
- d) in a room in her house where a computer was set up

**14. What subjects did Margie and Tommy learn?**

- a) Mathematics
- b) Science
- c) Geography
- d) All

**15. Who went to school?**

- a) Margie
- b) Tommy
- c) Teachers
- d) Margie and Tommy's ancestors

**16. Why did Margie's mother call the County Inspector?**

- a) to repair a leakage
- b) to talk to Margie
- c) to talk to Tommy
- d) to check the fault in Margie's teacher in the Geography section

**17. In which subject was Margie failing repeatedly?**

- a) Science
- b) History
- c) English
- d) Geography

**18. What did the County Inspector do to help Margie?**

- a) he reset the teacher to Margie's level
- b) he changed the module
- c) changed the teacher



d) changed the syllabus

**19. Why did Margie hate school?**

- a) because of machine work
- b) no fun was there
- c) no new things
- d) All the above

**20. Why did Margie find the old schools interesting?**

- a) because of the fun
- b) because of human teachers
- c) because of many friends
- d) All the above

**Q21. What is a telebook?**

- a) an e-book
- b) an electronic book
- c) book stored in a computer
- d) all

**Q22. What is a Debate?**

- a) a contest to show ability in argument between two people
- b) contest to fight
- c) contest to prove better
- d) none

**Q23. With whom is the mechanical teacher contrasted with?**

- a) with other teachers
- b) with old teachers
- c) with human teachers
- d) with other robots

**Q24. Which part of the mechanical teacher did Margie hate most?**

- a) screen
- b) the whole box
- c) slot
- d) None of these

**Q25. How did Margie feed her homework in the mechanical teacher?**

- a) in a punch code
- b) in written papers
- c) by speaking
- d) None of these options

### **MCQs-ANSWERS**

Q1(B) 17 May 2157

Q2(A) Tommy

Q3(A) it was a very old book

Q4(B) steady

Q5(B) eleven years

Q6(D) thirteen years

Q7(A) in the attic

- Q8(B) the school  
Q9 D) future world where computers will play a major role.  
Q10 C) reality created by computer software.  
Q11 B) Isaac Asimov  
Q12 D) a mechanical robot teacher  
Q13 D) in a room in her house where a computer was set up.  
Q14 D) All  
Q15 D) Margie and Tommy's ancestors  
Q16 D) to check the fault in Margie's teacher in the Geography section  
Q17 D) Geography  
Q18 A) he reset the teacher to Margie's level.  
Q19 D) All the above  
Q20 D) All the above  
Q21 D) All  
Q22 A) a contest to show ability in argument between two people  
Q23 C) with human teachers  
Q24 C) slot  
Q25 A) in a punch code

**Web Resources:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUaJYU8Nt0I>

<https://quizizz.com/admin/quiz/5ff8fc0ed56ec0001ba8a364/the-fun-they-had-review>

@ @ @ @ @ @