

The Fun They Had.

Have you ever read an e-book?

Do you read books on a mobile phone?

What do you like more? Actual books or an e-book?

What do you prefer? An online class like this or learning in the classroom with your friends?

Just think about these questions.

On the right you can see a device known as Kindle. It is used just to read books. They say it feels like reading a real book and doesn't harm eyes like other screens.



Today we will read a story about a future scenario where there are no books. All the books are read on a computer screen. The year is 2157. Let's read the story. If you do not know the meaning of a word, look at the Work Bank section. Meanings of some of the words are given.

Margie even wrote about it that night in her diary. On the page headed May 17, 2155, 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.

"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."

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.

He was a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at her 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 she 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.

The inspector had smiled after he was finished and patted her 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 over-all 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?"

Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. "Because it's not our kind of school,

stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago."

He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, "Centuries ago."

Margie was hurt. "Well, I don't know what kind of school they had all that time ago."

She read the book over his shoulder for a while, then said, "Anyway, they had a teacher."

"Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher. It was a man."

(We will read the rest of the story in the next module. If you want to read the complete story, there is a pdf copy available.)

Word Bank.

crinkly: with many folds or lines, something that is crushed.



Awfully: terribly

Telebooks: books on a screen like an e-book or a pdf.

attic: a space just below the roof, used as a storeroom.

Plenty: many

scornful: show your dislike for something.

slot: a given space to place something.

geared (to): adjusted to a particular standard or level.

Disappointed: not very happy

blanked out: it has been erased.

loftily: in a superior way, with pride.

regular: here, normal; their usual teacher is a robot.

For further explanation, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giKCXAFWwB0> - Explanation in English.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1iJfog7leg> - Explanation in Hindi

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaugWf_m_xs - Explanation in Hindi- Funny

Answer these questions in your notebook.

1. How does Margie describe her robot teacher?
2. Why was the County Inspector called?
3. What did Margie wish to happen to the robotic teacher? Did it come true?

The Fun They Had.

We had read in the other module that Tommy found his grandfather's book and brought it to Margie. The book was about schools in the past. They were surprised that books were made of paper as they had only telebooks. They were from the future and they had robot teachers and telebooks. Margie was surprised by the fact that the teacher was a man.

We will continue reading the story.

"A man? How could a man be a teacher?"

Well, he just told the boys and girls things and gave them homework and asked them questions."

"A man isn't smart enough."

"Sure he is. My father knows as much as my teacher."

"He can't. A man can't know as much as a teacher."

"He knows almost as much I betcha."

Margie wasn't prepared to dispute that. She said, "I wouldn't want a strange man in my house to teach me."

Tommy screamed with laughter, "You don't know much, Margie. The teachers didn't live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there."

"And all the kids learned the same thing?"

“Sure, if they were the same age.”

“But my mother says a teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently.”

“Just the same, they didn't do it that way then. If you don't like it, you don't have to read the book.”

“I didn't say I didn't like it,” Margie said quickly. She wanted to read about those funny schools.

They weren't even half finished when Margie's mother called, “Margie! School!”

Margie looked up. “Not yet, mamma.”

“Now,” said Mrs. Jones. “And it's probably time for Tommy, too.”

Margie said to Tommy, “Can I read the book some more with you after school?”

“Maybe,” 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.”

Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids

from the whole neighborhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things so they could help one another on the homework and talk about it.

And the teachers were people...

The mechanical teacher was flashing on the screen: "When we add the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$..."

Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.

Word Bank

Dispute- disagree with something

Betcha- bet you (used to express confidence or certainty that something is the case or will happen).

Nonchalantly- without much interest.

Summary of the Story.

- The story Takes place in 2157. The major characters are Margie and Tommy.
- Tommy finds a real book in the attic. They were surprised that it was printed on pages and the letters did not move.
- Tommy believes that it's a waste to print books on pages and telebooks are better.

- Margie is surprised that the book was about school. She didn't like school and she wondered why would someone write about school.
- Margie hated her school, which was a room in her house and her teacher who was a robot.
- She performed badly in geography. A county inspector was called to look into the issue. He found out that the robot was little above Margie's level in geography and her performance was satisfactory.
- She describes her robot teacher as large and black and ugly with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked. It had a slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She always had to write them out in a punch code and the mechanical teacher calculated the mark in no time.
- Once the county inspector fixed the robotic teacher, Margie was disappointed. She hoped that the teacher would not be working for a few days.
- Tommy gives information about the old school which existed centuries ago. He says it was a building where every student went. They studied the same thing if they were of the same age. They had a teacher who used to be a man.
- Margie is surprised that a man can be a teacher. They both debate if a man can be as smart as a robot teacher. Tommy says yes and Margie doubts it.
- Margie is interested and wants to know about 'those schools'.

- Mrs. Jones, Margie's mother, says that it's time for school for Margie. She believed that students should learn every day at the same time.
- Margie goes to the schoolroom which is next to her bedroom. The mechanical teacher asks for her homework.
- While the teacher tries to teach her mathematics Margie is thinking about the old schools and the Fun they had. She thinks how much fun it would be for all the students to be in the same building and learn together.

For further explanation, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giKCXAFWwB0> - Explanation in English.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaugWf_m_xs - Explanation in Hindi- Funny

Answer the following questions in your notebook in about 50 words.

1. If you had a choice to be in Margie's school or your school, which one will you choose and why?
2. Describe the mechanical teacher and how it works.
3. Why did Mrs. Jones insist that Margie attends school every day at the same time?

The Best Christmas Present in the World.

What are images that come into your mind when you hear the name of the celebration Christmas?

Christmas is a festival celebrated worldwide, especially by Christians, on the 25th of December. One of the practices of Christmas is exchanging gifts among friends and family.



Today we have a story about a Christmas gift. It also talks about the significance of love among humanity.

Please read the first two parts of the story from the Pdf file.

The major points are as follows.

- The story is written in the first-person point of view. (Where a person narrates a story about something happened to him in the first person)
- It takes place decades after (1980's-90's) the first world war in Bridport, England.
- The narrator went to a shop where they sell old/used items and bought a desk on December 24th. He bought that as it was cheap and hoped to repair it.

- He took it home and started working on it. He removed different drawers in order to clean and repair it. One drawer was stuck and he had to struggle to open it.
- When he opened it, he saw a secret drawer in which there was a black tin box. He found a letter in it with the following words written on the cover. "Jim's last letter, received January 25, 1915. To be buried with me when the time comes."
- The letter was written by Captain Jim Macpherson to his wife whom he calls Connie.
- The story is written in first person point of view. (Where a person narrates a story about something happened to him in first person)
- It takes place decades after (1980's-90's) the first world war in Bridport, England.
- The narrator went to a shop where they sell old/used items and bought a desk on December 24th. He bought that as it was cheap and hoped to repair it.
- He took it home and started working on it. He removed different drawers in order to clean and repair it. One drawer was stuck and he had to struggle to open it.
- When he opened it, he saw a secret drawer in which there was a black tin box. He found a letter in it with the following words written on the cover. "Jim's last letter, received January 25, 1915. To be buried with me when the time comes."
- The letter was written by Captain Jim Macpherson to his wife whom he calls Connie.

Part two is the letter and it is a flashback to the time when world war 1 was going on. England and Germany were fighting each other in this war. Jim narrates an incident that took place on Christmas day.

- It was a cold morning on the 25th of December, Christmas Day.
- The English soldiers saw a white flag from the German side and the Germans wished them happy Christmas.

- The English soldiers wished them back and German soldiers came into the no man's land, the area between two countries, with a white flag. They wanted to celebrate Christmas together.
- The English soldiers did not shoot at them but joined them. They took the drinks and food they had with them to share with each other.
- Captain Jim who wrote this letter met Hans Wolf, an officer in the German army. Wolf was a cello (musical instrument) player and Jim was a school teacher before the war. Jim shared the marzipan made by Connie and they both agreed that it was the best they ever had.
- Hans Wolf spoke in English though he was a German. He learned in school and by reading English books.
- Someone brought a football and they started playing with it. Germans soldiers won 2-1. They even joked that the goal post of English soldiers was bigger.
- They said that conflicts should be solved with a football match (Jim wanted Cricket as England was better in Cricket). They wanted the war to be over so that they could return to their family.
- After a long time, they said goodbye, saluted each other and went to their respective barracks. Both the army sang carols songs sung during Christmas like "Jingle bells") till late.
- Jim hoped that the war would be over by next Christmas.

The third part will be discussed in the second module. If you need further explanation, use these links.

1. The same story presented through a comic strip. Short and brilliant.

<https://www.learnapt.com/lesson-player/4-the-best-christmas-present-in-the-world/sections/48/items/201>

2. Explanation in English.

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

3. Explanation in Hindi.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkz25zV_gyo

Answer these questions in your notebook.

1. Who had written the letter, to whom, and when?
2. What jobs did Hans Wolf and Jim Macpherson have when they were not soldiers?
3. Do you think Jim Macpherson came back from the war? How do you know this?