

**CLASS:9 SUBJECT-ENGLISH**

**L-1 THE FUN THEY HAD**

**GLOSSARY:**

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| **Numbers** | **Word** | **Meanings** |
| **1.** | **Attic** | A space just below the roof, used as a storeroom. |
| **2.** | **Scornful** | Contemptuous; showing you think something is worthless, show your dislike for something. |
| **3.** | **Slot** | A given space, time or position |
| **4.** | **Geared (to)** | Adjusted to a particular standard or level. |
| **5.** | **Blanked out** | It has been erased. |
| **6.** | **Loftily** | In a superior way. |
| **7.** | **School** | An institution for educating children. |
| **8.** | **Dispute** | Disagree with when you are opposing something. |
| **9.** | **Betcha**(informal) | (I) bet you (in fast speech): I'm sure. |
| **10.** | **Flash** | To shine |

**SYNONYMS:**

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| **S.No** | **Words** | **Synonyms** |
| **1** | **Crinckly** | Full of wrinkles |
| **2** | **Funny** | Humorous |
| **3** | **County** | Region |
| **4** | **Regular** | Permanent |
| **5** | **Nonchalantly** | Lack of care |

**ANTONYMS:**

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| **S.No** | **Words** | **Antonyms** |
| **1** | **Awful** | Wonderful |
| **2** | **Scornful** | Admiring |
| **3** | **Ugly** | Beautiful |
| **4** | **Fault** | Perfection |
| **5** | **Special** | Ordinary |
| **6** | **Unfinished** | Complete |
| **7** | **Dusty** | Clean |
| **8** | **Insert** | Extract |
| **9** | **Difficult** | Hard |
| **10** | **Beneath** | Above |

**EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

He was a short, round man with a red complexion and a toolkit brimming with intricate instruments—dials, wires, and small blinking lights. With a warm smile, he handed Margie a shiny red apple before getting to work on the mechanical teacher. Margie had secretly wished he wouldn’t be able to repair it, but he clearly knew his craft. In just over an hour, the teacher was reassembled—tall, dark, and as unappealing as ever, its broad screen lighting up to display lessons and quiz questions. That, however, wasn’t the worst part for Margie. What she truly loathed was the slot into which she had to feed her homework and tests. Everything had to be written in a rigid punch code she was forced to learn at the tender age of six, and the teacher would mark her responses instantaneously, leaving no room for delay or human warmth.

**Questions & Answers:**

1. **What does the man’s ability to repair the mechanical teacher reveal about his character?**  
   *The man’s quick and efficient repair work demonstrates his technical expertise and familiarity with complex machines. His calm demeanor and kind gesture toward Margie—offering her an apple—also suggest that he is both skilled and compassionate.*
2. **Why was Margie disappointed that the mechanical teacher was fixed?**  
   *Margie was disappointed because she disliked the mechanical teacher, especially its impersonal nature and the monotonous method of learning. She had secretly hoped that the repair would fail, granting her a break from the rigid routine of her computerized education.*
3. **What aspect of the mechanical teacher did Margie find most frustrating, and why?**  
   *Margie found the punch code slot most frustrating because it required her to translate all her work into a mechanical language she had learned as a child. This process was not only tedious but also lacked the personal connection and feedback that a human teacher might provide.*

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

**Q1. Did Margie like the printed book? Why/Why not?**

**Answer::** Margie was so excited to know that Tommy had found a ‘real’ book which was unlike the on-screen books the two were used to reading, that she recorded the discovery in her diary. As she turned the yellow and crinkly pages of the book with Tommy, she found it awfully funny to read it. While Tommy found it a waste, Margie was fascinated by it and liked it.

**Q2. “What a waste!” What is Tommy referring to as a ‘waste’? Is it really a waste?**

**Answer:**Tommy thinks that the paper books with words printed and fixed on them are a waste. Once a book is read, it becomes useless and must be thrown away because it has the same content. Actually, printed books are not a waste. They can be read by many people over and over again and should be preserved for future generations

**Q3. How does Tommy find the telebooks of his own time to be better?**

**Answer::**Tommy felt that his telebooks were better than the printed books of the ancient times because they could be stored on television and read again and again. They occupied very little space as compared to the printed books and need not be discarded once they had been read.

**Q4. Evaluate ‘The Fun They Had’ as a futuristic story.**

**Answer:**: The Fun They Had’ is a futuristic story. It tells us about the revolutionary changes that will come in the field of education in the 22nd century. Technology will replace the concept of old schools and printed books. Margie and Tommy are the students of the year 2157. They are taught in their bedrooms serving as virtual classrooms. A mechanical teacher will replace a human teacher. Computers and e-books will replace old printed books.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTION:**

**Q1. What is the role of a teacher in the life of a student? How is a human teacher better than a mechanical teacher?**

**Answer::** 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 can not boost up their students 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 intellect of their students which helps them to guide them individually according to the mental level of students.

**HOT:**

**Q1. Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Answer:**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.