

The Fun They Had

Summary

In 2157, all the children are home-schooled individually by mechanical teachers. The protagonist, Margie, has a neighbor, named Tommy, who one day happens to find an old book. They read in the book that there was an era when children used to go to a place called "school" for their education. They were very amazed by that, but also sad at the same time because they were unable to have that experience and the fun.

Comment

It's a short story about a hypothetical future where the technology has taken over and human interactions have become rare. This take over is seen as a negative, because children do not learn social skills and they are very isolated.

Feeling of Power

Summary

Humans live in a society dominated, by computers, to the extent that during the war even the weapons are controlled by them. Humans have become so incapable that they do not even possess the ability to do simple mathematic operations anymore. One day, Myron Aub, a low-grade technician, was presented to General Weider. The technician had a skill that amazed everyone. He could do the mathematical operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication etc. without the help of a computer.

Comment

It is a satirical short story that introduces us to a negative outcome of a computer-dominated society that is total dependence on technology. If humans relied on computers for every task, they could very well lose basic abilities such as doing simple calculations.