

Chapter- 1

The Fun They Had

STUDY NOTES

- The story “The Fun They Had” by Isaac Asimov is about the year 2157 when every child has his own mechanical teacher, and schools like today, do not exist anymore. Asimov wrote this story in 1951 for a syndicated newspaper page.
- Later, “The Fun They Had” was published in “Fantasy and Science Fiction” magazine.
- In the year 2157, the thirteen-years-old Tommy finds an old book. He and Margie, who is eleven, find it strange that the words on paper do not move after having been read.
- Nowadays, they only read stories on the computer screen. The book is about school which existed centuries ago.
- Margie is very surprised that in the past, pupils had a person as a teacher instead of a mechanical teacher, as they have. It was strange that all the children of the same age learnt the same thing and went to a school house with other children.
- Margie wants to read more of the but first she has to learn with her mechanical teacher whose level is too advanced for her and she thinks school in those days was much better than today.
- The procedure of learning with the mechanical teacher is not liked by Margie, especially because she was facing problems with geography.
- Thus, she hopes that she could also enjoy the old system of education, though her mother has a different opinion. She feels that education is to be on a one to one basis, according to the capacities of each child.

- Margie however, chooses to appreciate only the fun, combined learning and human relationship which existed in the old system of schools.

