



PUBLIC SCHOOL DARBHANGA

SUBJECT– ENGLISH CLASS IX

LITERATURE AND SUPPLEMENTARY READER (BEEHIVE)

Chapter 1 - The Fun They Had

SUMMARY: On 17th march 2157, Tommy, a thirteen-year-old boy, finds a 'real book' which has been printed on paper is at the house of Margie. The book is really old and pages are yellow and cranky. In this time words are moving on a television screen. This television contains over a million of books. That is the reason, why Tommy thinks that they are much better. He has found the old book in the attic of his house. While reading, Tommy says that it is about school. Margie hates school and cannot understand why someone would write about it. She was having problems with learning geography from her 'mechanical teacher'. Margie hates the slot where she has to insert her homework or test papers. Once the geography sector of her mechanical teacher was graded too quick so that her marks got worse and worse. The county inspector rebuilt it after one hour. Tommy says that the book which he has found is not about their type of school, it is about school centuries ago. They find out those students back then had a man as a teacher who taught the girls and boys, gave them homework and asked them the question. They had a special building, at the children went to. And they learned the same thing if they were the same age. Then it is time for Margie and Tommy for their school. Margie goes to the schoolroom in her house, where the mechanical teacher stands. It is already on because the lessons are always at regular hours. She was thinking about the old school system and how much fun the children must have, learning and spending time together.

1. Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

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

Who does 'they' refer to?

- b. What does 'regular' mean here?
- c. What is it contrasted with?
- d. Who was a man?

2. Answer the following questions in 20-30 words.

- a. Tommy considered printed books as real waste. Why?
- b. What did the County Inspector tell Margie's mother?
- c. What according to Tommy was the difference between his school and the school described in the old book?
- d. How did the mechanical teacher teach arithmetic to Margie?

3. Answer the following questions in 60-80 words.

- a. What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?
- b. How was Margie's school different from the schools that existed hundreds of years ago?

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