

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

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CLASS - IX

ENGLISH

BEEHIVE

CHAPTER - 1

THE FUN THEY HAD

Part - 3

Nipa Das

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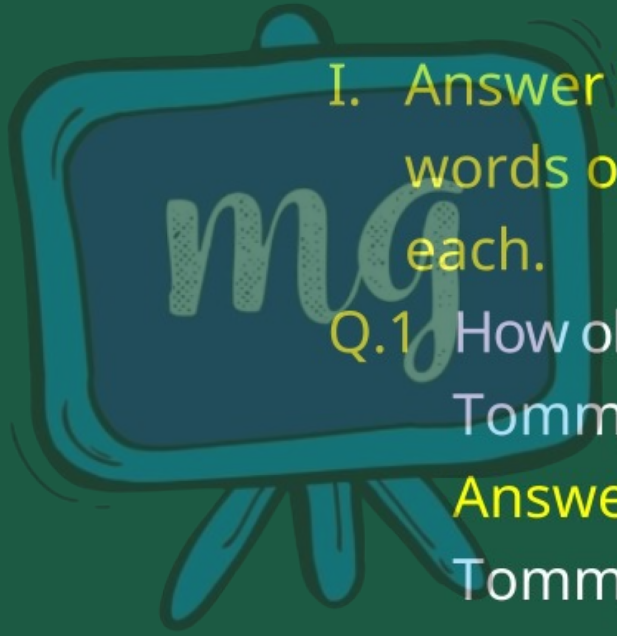
THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT



I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

Q.1 How old are Margie and Tommy?

Answer : Margie is eleven and Tommy is thirteen-years-old.

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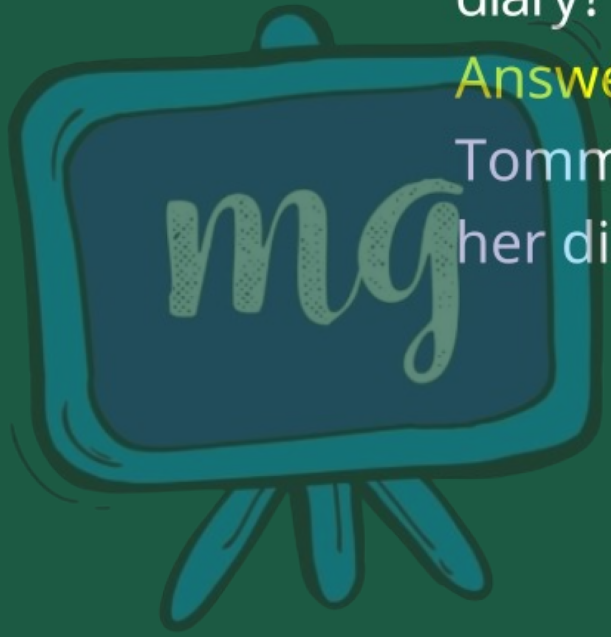
Q.2 What did Margie write in her diary?

Answer : Margie wrote, “Today Tommy found a real book!” in her diary.



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Q.3 Had Margie ever seen a book before?

Answer : No, Margie had never seen a book before.



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Q.4 What things about the book did she find strange?



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Answer : The things about the book that she found strange were the following:

Static words: The words were printed on the page and didn't move like on a screen.

Unchanging content: When she turned back to a page, the same words were there, unlike her electronic lessons that could change.

Concept of a physical book: The idea of having a whole book dedicated to school was strange to her.

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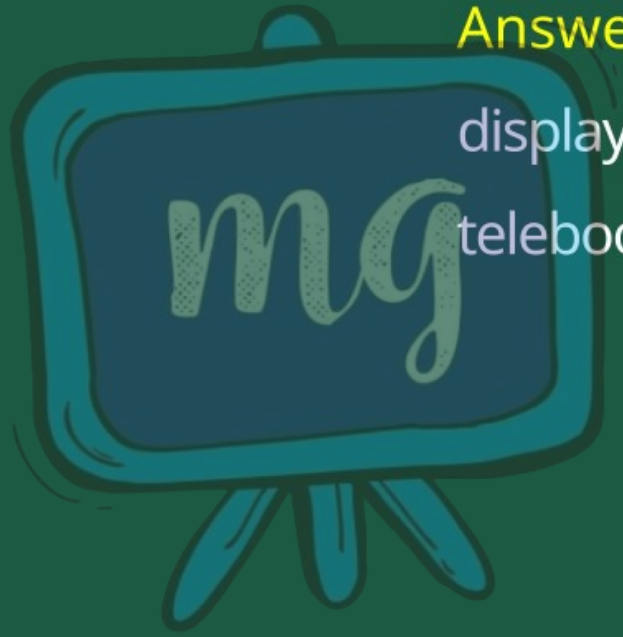
Q.5 What do you think a telebook is?

Answer : A book that can be displayed on a screen is called telebook.



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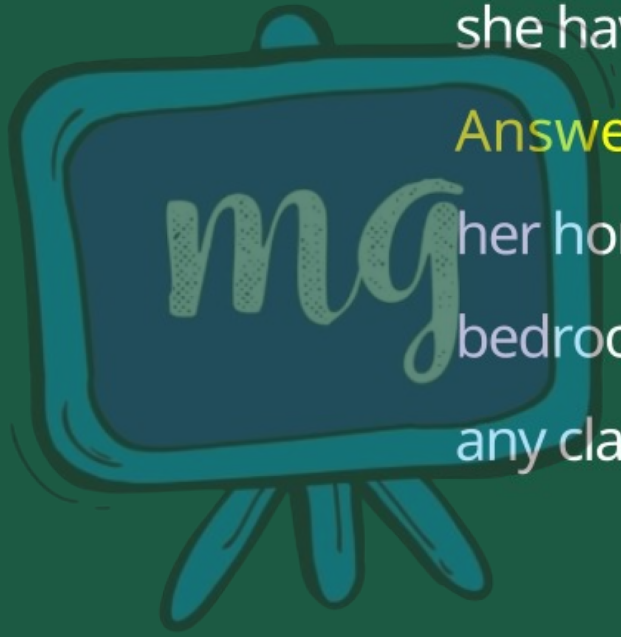
Q.6 Where was Margie's school? Did she have any classmates?

Answer : Margie's school was in her home itself, right next to her bedroom. No, she did not have any classmates.



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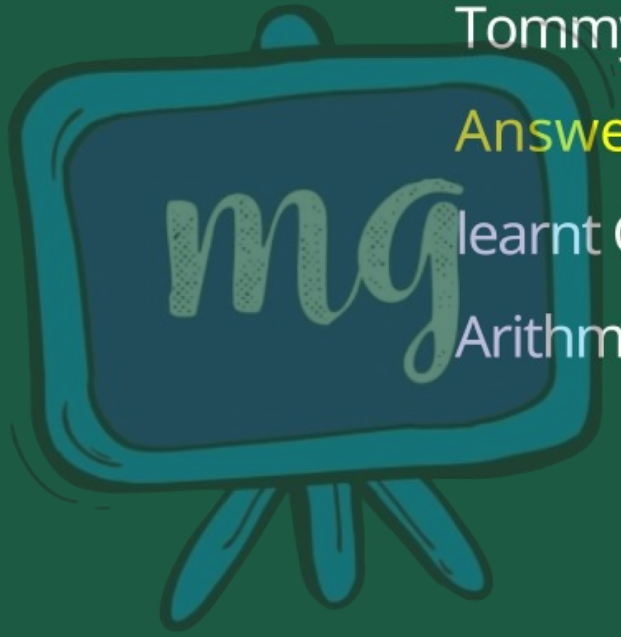
Q.7 What subjects did Margie and Tommy learn?



Answer : Margie and Tommy learnt Geography, History and Arithmetic.

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II. Answer the following with reference to the story.

Q.1 "I wouldn't throw it away."

(i) Who says these words?

(ii) What does 'it' refer to?

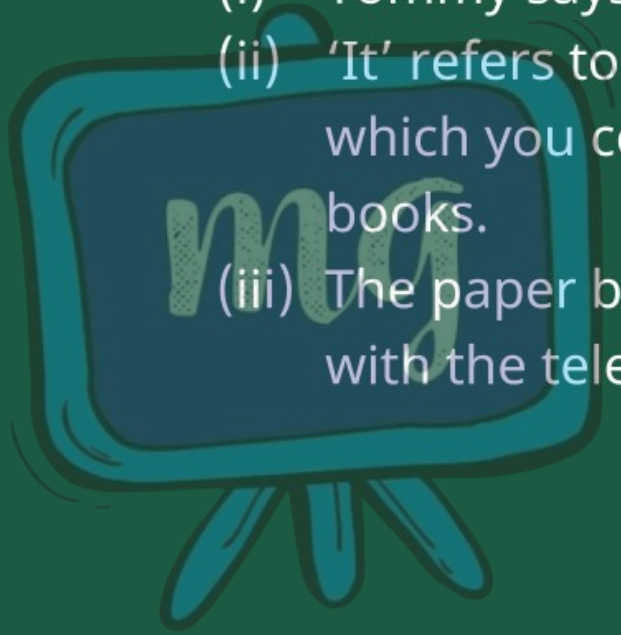
(iii) What is it being compared with by the speaker?

Answer :

(i) Tommy says these words.

(ii) ‘It’ refers to the television screen, on which you could read over a million books.

(iii) The paper book is being compared with the telebook by the speaker.



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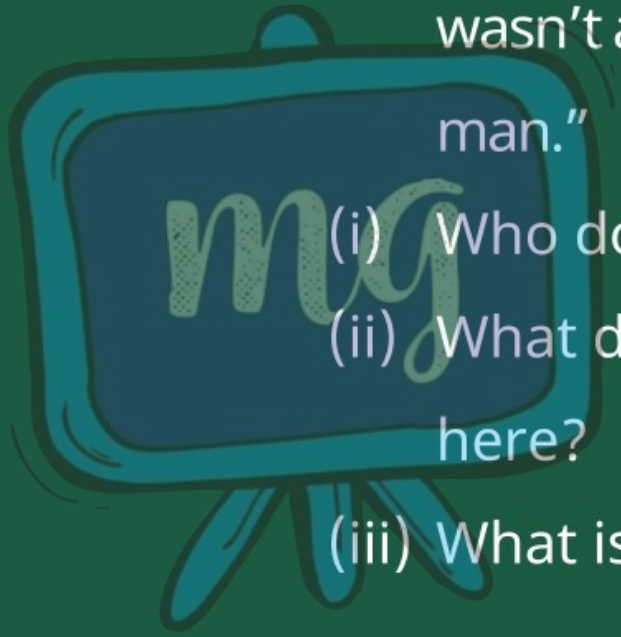
Q.2 “Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn’t a regular teacher. It was a man.”

(i) Who does ‘they’ refer to?

(ii) What does ‘regular’ mean here?

(iii) What is it contrasted with?



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Answer:

(i) They refer to the students who studied in the old kind of schools centuries ago.

(ii) Here, ‘regular’ refers to the mechanical teachers that Tommy and Margie have.

(iii) The mechanical teacher is contrasted with the human teacher of the earlier times.



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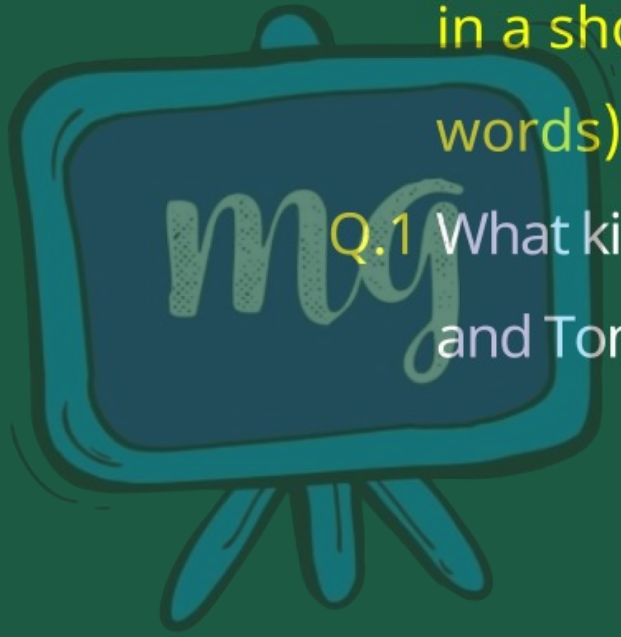
III. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).



Q.1 What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?

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Answer : Margie and Tommy had mechanical teachers. They were large, black and ugly and had big screens on which all the lessons were shown and questions were asked.

These mechanical teachers had a slot in which the students had to put their homework and test papers. They had to write their answers in a punch code and the mechanical teacher calculated the marks immediately.

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Q.2 Why did Margie's mother send for the County Inspector?



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Answer : Margie had been given many tests in geography by the mechanical teacher, but there was no improvement in her performance. It only kept getting worse. Her mother was concerned and sent for the County Inspector.

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Q.3 What did he do?



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Answer : The County Inspector gave Margie an apple and started working on the mechanical teacher. He took it apart and then checked it. Margie had hoped that the Inspector would not know how to put the mechanical teacher together again, but he managed to reassemble it. He slowed down the geography sector of the teacher because it was geared a little too quick for an average ten-year-old.

Q.4 Why was Margie doing badly in geography? What did the County Inspector do to help her?



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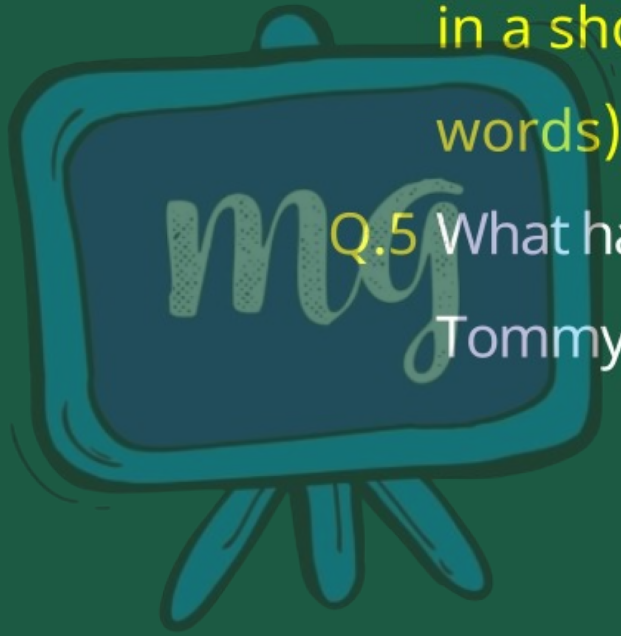
Answer : Margie was doing badly in geography because the geography sector of the mechanical teacher had been geared a little too quick. The County Inspector slowed down the geography sector of the mechanical teacher to an average ten-year level. He also told Mrs. Jones that Margie's overall progress pattern was satisfactory.

III. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).

Q.5 What had once happened to Tommy's teacher?



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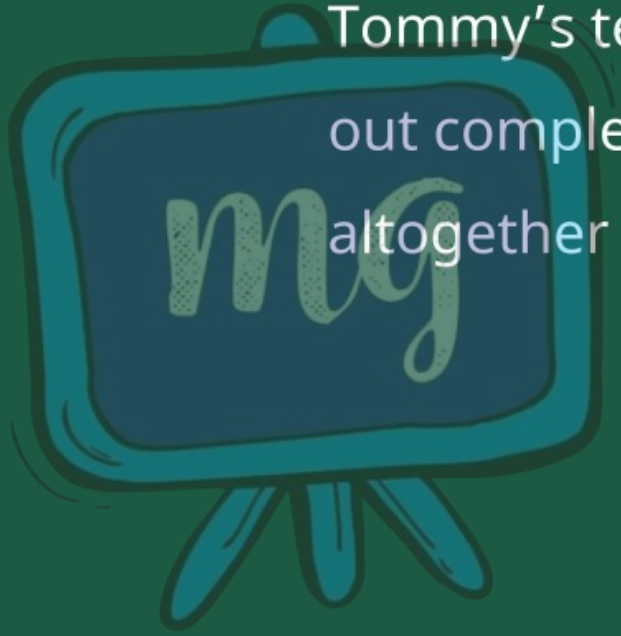
Answer : The history sector of Tommy's teacher had once blanked out completely and taken away altogether for a month.



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Q.6 Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?



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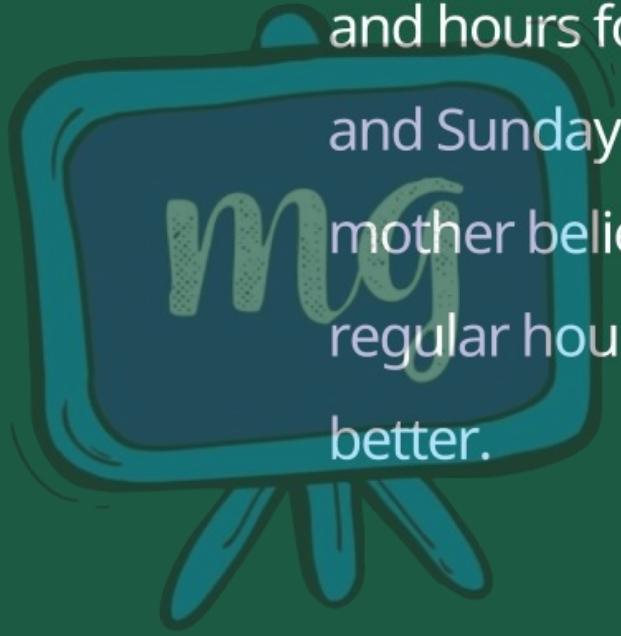
Answer : Yes, Margie had regular days and hours for school except Saturday and Sunday. This was because her mother believed that learning at regular hours helped little girls learn better.



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Q.7 How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?



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Answer : Tommy described old kind of school as a special building where all kids studied together. There were hundreds of students studying and playing together. They used to shout and laugh together in an open yard.

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Q.8 How does he describe the old kind of teachers?



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Answer : Tommy said that the old kind of teachers were humans, who taught the students inside a special building. The teachers taught the children in groups and gave them homework and asked questions.

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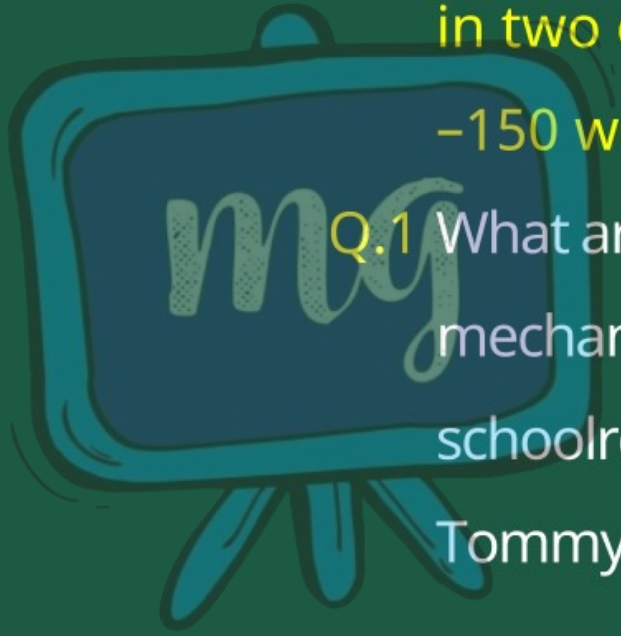
IV. Answer each of these questions in two or three paragraphs (100 –150 words).



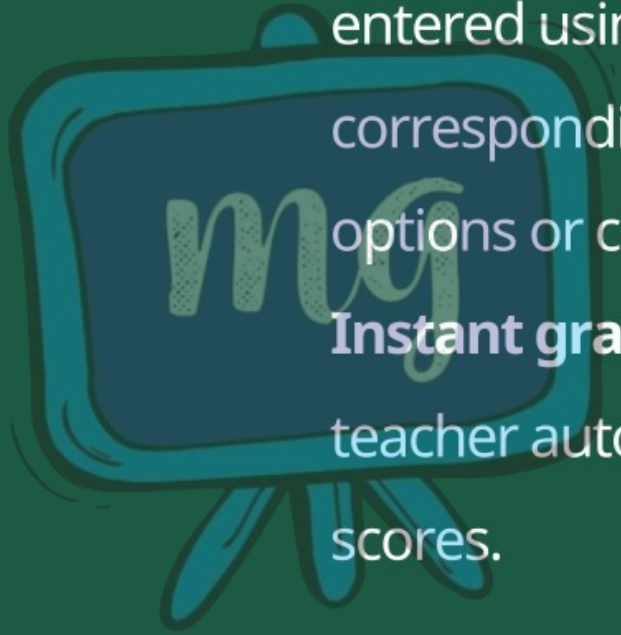
Q.1 What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?

Answer : The main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story are:

Mechanical Teachers:

Large black screens: Lessons, questions, and instructions are displayed visually.

Homework and test slots: Students submit completed work through designated openings.



Punch code answers: Responses are entered using a button system, likely corresponding to multiple-choice options or coded answers.

Instant grading: The mechanical teacher automatically calculates scores.

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Schoolrooms:

Located at home: Margie's schoolroom, for instance, is right next to her bedroom.

Individual learning: There's no mention of classmates, suggesting Margie and Tommy learn alone.

Scheduled learning: School operates at specific times each day, with breaks on weekends.

Q.2 Why did Margie hate school?
Why did she think the old kind
of school must have been fun?



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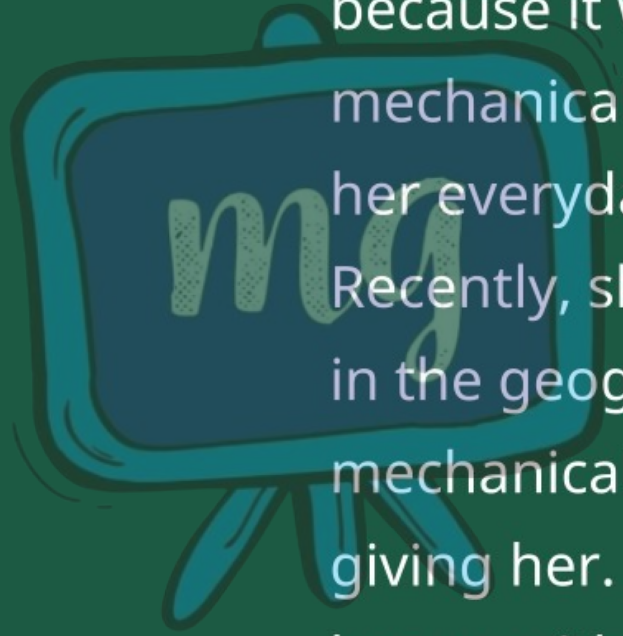

Answer : Margie hated school because it was not fun. A mechanical teacher used to teach her everyday at a fixed time. Recently, she had been doing badly in the geography tests that her mechanical teacher had been giving her. Her mother was not happy with the performance and sent for the County Inspector.

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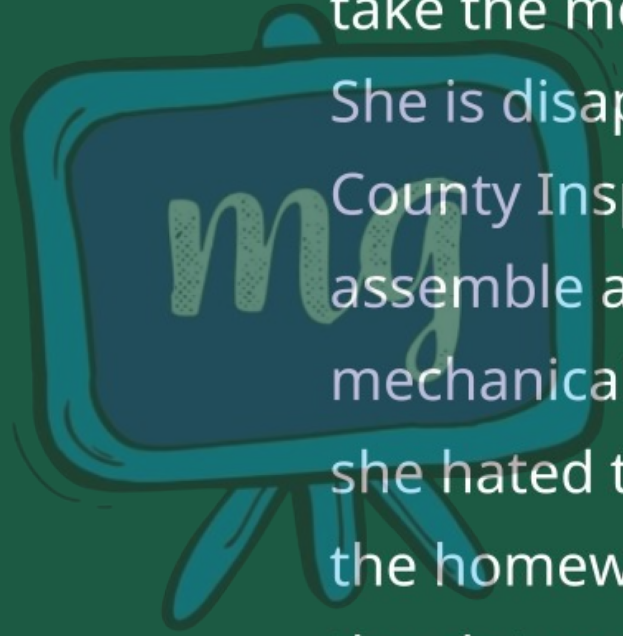
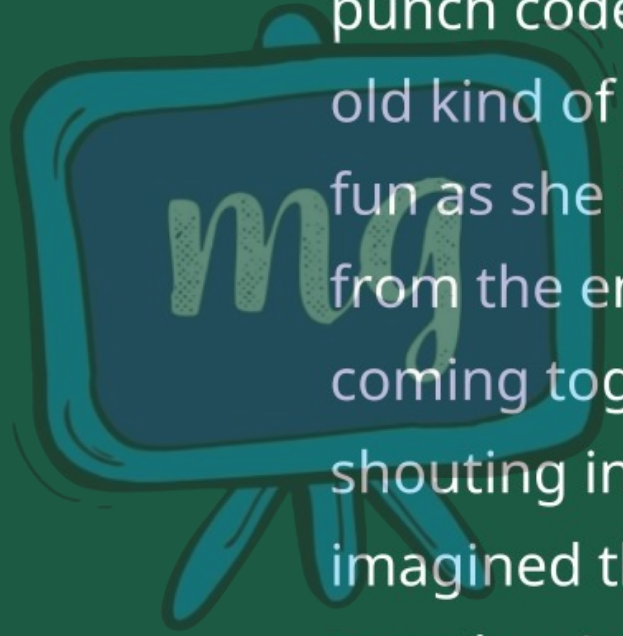


She hopes that the inspector would take the mechanical teacher away. She is disappointed when the County Inspector manages to assemble all the parts of the mechanical teacher. The part that she hated the most was inserting the homework and test papers in the slot on the mechanical teacher. She did not like the fact that she



had to write her answers in a punch code. She thought that the old kind of school must have been fun as she imagined all the kids from the entire neighbourhood coming together, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard. She imagined that they would sit together in the classroom and go home together at the end of the day.

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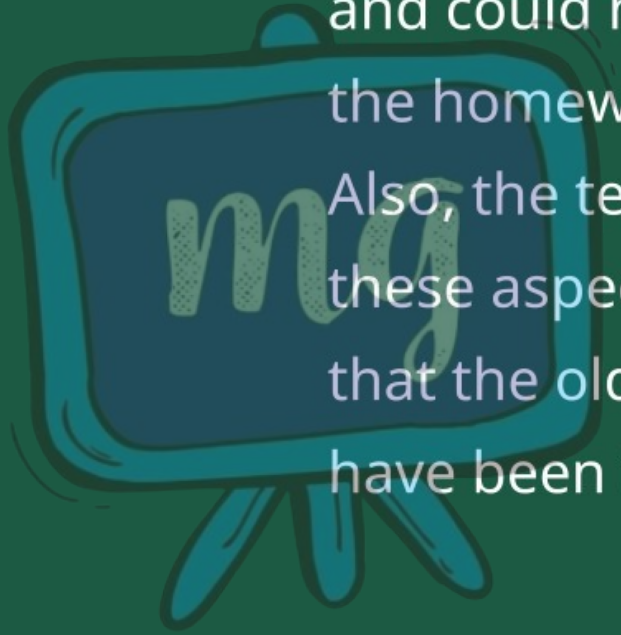
They would learn the same things and could help one another with the homework and talk about it. Also, the teachers were people. All these aspects made her believe that the old kind of school must have been fun.



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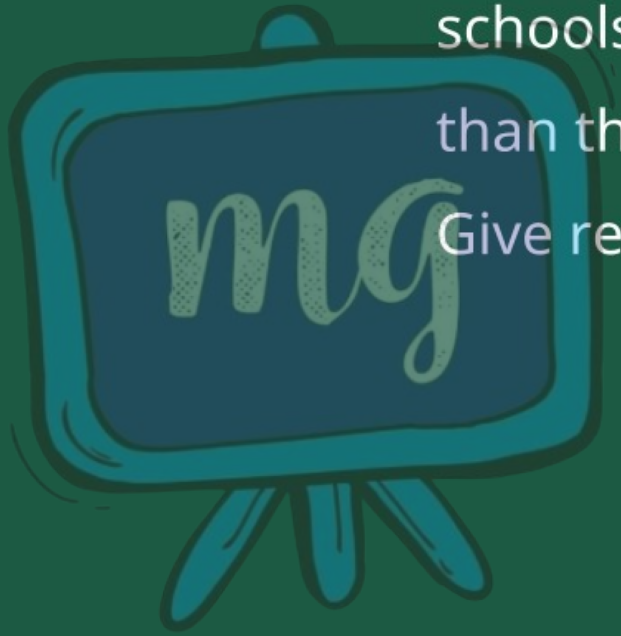
Q.3 Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer.



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Answer : Yes, I agree schools today are more fun than the school in the story and the reasons are:

Schools Today vs. The Story's School

1. Lack of Social Interaction

(A) Isolation: The story's school involves solitary learning with a mechanical teacher, lacking any interaction with peers.

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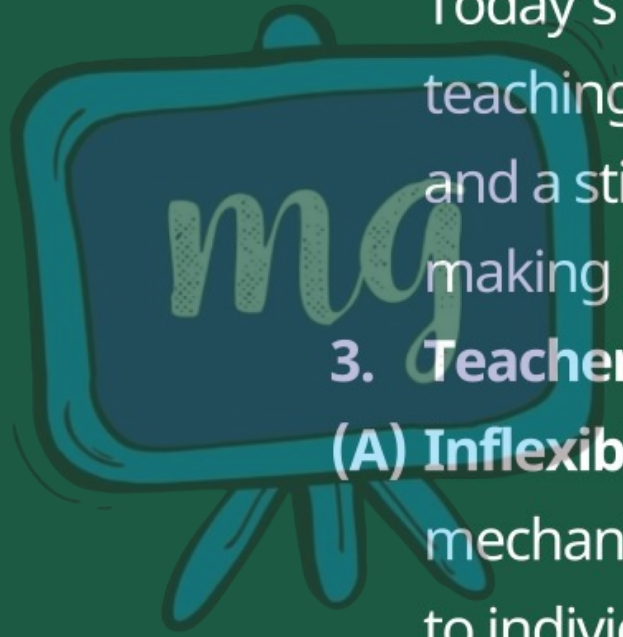
(B) **Social Development:** Modern schools emphasize social interaction, allowing students to learn from each other and develop essential social skills.

2. **Learning Environment**

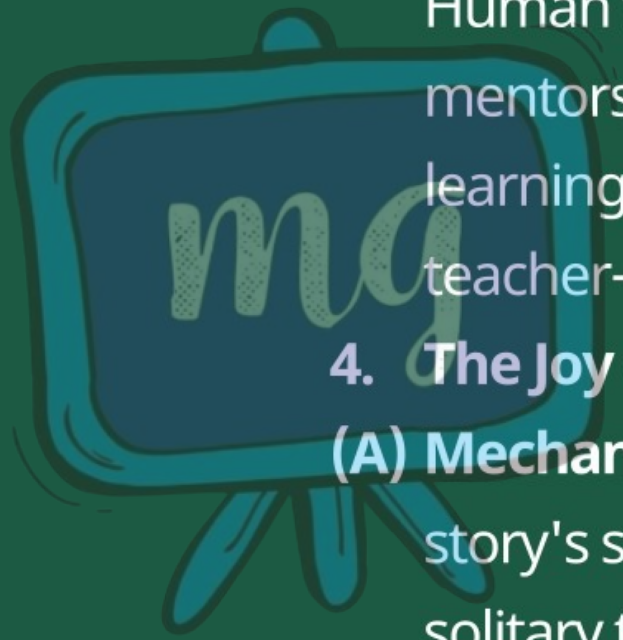
(A) **Boring and Monotonous:** The mechanical teacher and isolated learning environment in the story create a dull learning experience.



(B) Engaging and Interactive: Today's schools offer diverse teaching methods, group activities, and a stimulating atmosphere, making learning enjoyable.

3. **Teacher-Student Relationship**

(A) Inflexible and Impersonal: The mechanical teacher cannot adapt to individual student needs or provide emotional support.



(B) **Supportive and Personalized:** Human teachers offer guidance, mentorship, and cater to different learning styles, fostering a strong teacher-student bond.

4. **The Joy of Learning**

(A) **Mechanical and Isolated:** The story's school reduces learning to a solitary task, devoid of excitement and competition.

(B) **Collaborative and Engaging:** Modern schools promote teamwork, friendly competition, and a sense of achievement, making learning a rewarding experience.

5. **Overall Development**

(A) **Limited Growth:** The story's school focuses solely on academic learning, neglecting holistic development.

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(B) Well-Rounded Individuals:

Today's schools emphasize physical, emotional, and social development alongside academics, producing well-rounded individuals.

