

- [The Fun They Had Summary](#)

The Fun They Had Summary

"The Fun They Had" is a science fiction story set in a futuristic world about 150 years ahead. In this future, education is highly computerized and mechanized. Children learn at home using telebooks, which are electronic books with moving words on a screen. Their teachers are mechanical robots, and the school is a room adjacent to their house. The learning process is solitary and lacks human interaction, making it dull and unengaging.

The story revolves around Margie, an eleven-year-old girl, and her older brother Tommy. One day, Tommy discovers a real paper book in the attic, something they have never seen before. The book describes the old-fashioned schooling system where children went to a separate school building, studied in classrooms with many students, and were taught by human teachers. This system allowed for interaction, cooperation, and fun among students, which Margie finds fascinating and misses in her own education. She begins to dislike her computerized schooling even more after learning about the past.

Key Elements

- **Setting:** A futuristic world with advanced technology in education.
- **Main Characters:** Margie, an eleven-year-old girl, and Tommy, her older brother.
- **Theme:** The contrast between traditional and modern education, highlighting the importance of human interaction in learning.
- **Literary Devices:** Imagery (description of futuristic schooling), contrast (between old and new education), and irony (advanced technology making learning less enjoyable).

Important Quotes and Explanation

- "Today Tommy found a real book." – This line shows the excitement and novelty of discovering a traditional book in a world dominated by electronic media.
- "Margie used to dream of a lot of kids going to school together, laughing, playing and helping each other." – This reflects Margie's longing for social interaction and a more engaging learning environment.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the main character of the story?
- What is a telebook?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the difference between the old school system and the futuristic school system.
- Why does Margie dislike her school?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the theme of the story and how it is relevant today.
- Discuss the role of technology in education as portrayed in the story.

Answer Key

- **Level 1**
 1. Margie is the main character.
 2. A telebook is an electronic book with moving words on a screen used for learning.

- **Level 2**

1. The old school system had a separate building, human teachers, and many students learning together, allowing interaction. The futuristic system is computerized, with mechanical teachers and students learning alone at home.

2. Margie dislikes her school because it is boring, lacks human interaction, and she cannot ask questions.

- **Level 3**

1. The theme highlights the importance of human interaction and social learning, showing that technology alone cannot replace the joy and effectiveness of traditional schooling.

2. Technology in the story is shown as advanced but isolating, making learning less enjoyable and interactive.

Quick Reference

- **Futuristic:** Relating to the future or advanced technology.
- **Telebook:** An electronic book with moving words used for learning.
- **Interaction:** Communication or involvement with others.
- **Mechanical Teacher:** A robot that teaches students in the story.

Glossary

- **Futuristic:** Pertaining to the future or advanced technology.
- **Development:** The process of growth or improvement.
- **Adjacent:** Next to or near something.
- **Interaction:** Communication or direct involvement.
- **Concept:** An abstract idea or general notion.
- **Computerised:** Controlled or managed by a computer.