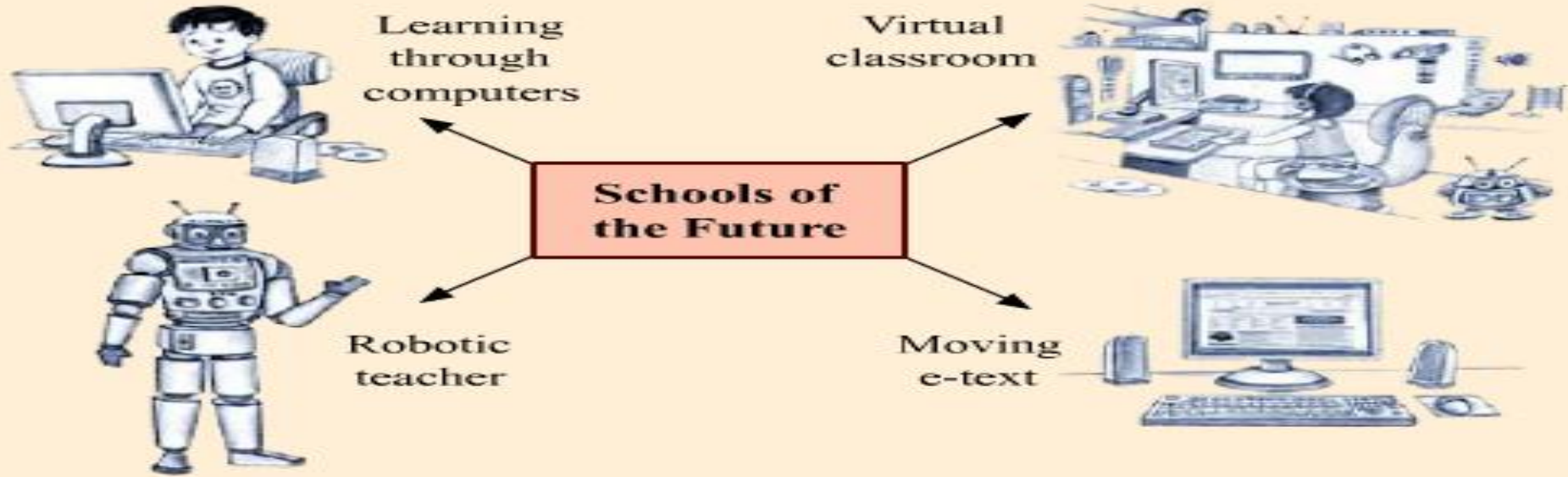


‘The Fun They Had’ by Isaac Asimov



The story we shall read is set in the future, when books and schools as we now know them will perhaps not exist. How will children study then?

Introduction/PKA



Try to answer these questions:

- What kind of a school would you want to have in future?
- How much will the computer be involved in the future education?
- Will you feel more happy in a more developed, high- tech society? Why or why not?

- To distinguish the characteristics *of a* human teacher and the virtual teacher.
- To increase the analytical skills.
- To enrich the vocabulary.
- To acquaint the students with a scientific story.
- To write fluently and correctly.

- Reading of the text
- Explanation of the text
- Comprehension check
- Discussion of questions



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

■ **Issac Asimov** was born on **02 January 1920** in **Petrovichi (Russia)**. He immigrated with his family to the **United States** and became a **bio-chemistry professor** while pursuing writing. He published his first novel, *Pebble in the Sky*, in **1950**. An immensely prolific author who penned nearly **500 books**, he published influential sci-fi works like *A Robot* and the *Foundation* trilogy, as well as books in a variety of other genres. He died in **New York city** on **06 April 1992**.



Text

MARGIE even wrote about it that night in her diary. On the page headed 17 May 2157, she wrote, “Today Tommy found a real book!”

It was a very old book. Margie’s grandfather once said that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper.

They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to — on a screen, you know. And then when they turned back to the page before, it had the same words on it that it had had when they read it the first time.

“Gee,” said Tommy, “what a waste. When you’re through with the book, you just throw it away, I guess. Our television screen must have had a million books on it and it’s good for plenty more. I wouldn’t throw it away.”



Text

Same with mine,” said Margie. She was eleven and hadn’t seen as many telebooks as Tommy had. He was thirteen

She said, “Where did you find it?”

In my house.” He pointed without looking, because he was busy reading. “In the attic”.

What’s it about?”

“School”

Margie was scornful.

“School? What’s there to write about school? I hate school.”

Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever.



Text

The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfully and sent for the County Inspector.

He was a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart. Margie had hoped he wouldn't know how to put it together again, but he knew how all right, and, after an hour or so, there it was again, large and black and ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked. That wasn't so bad. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She always had to write them out in a punch code they made her learn when she was six years old, and the mechanical teacher calculated the marks in no time.



Text

The Inspector had smiled after he was finished and patted Margie's head. He said to her mother, "It's not the little girl's fault, Mrs Jones. I think the geography sector was geared a little too quick. Those things happen sometimes. I've slowed it up to an average ten-year level. Actually, the overall pattern of her progress is quite satisfactory." And he patted Margie's head again.

Margie was disappointed. She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether. They had once taken Tommy's teacher away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely. So she said to Tommy, "Why would anyone write about school?"

Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago." He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, "Centuries ago."

Margie was hurt. "Well, I don't know what kind of school they had all that time ago." She read the book over his shoulder for a while, then said, "Anyway, they had a teacher."



NEW WORDS

Crinkly : with many folds or lines

Scornful : contemptuous

Slot : a given space

Geared : adjusted to a particular level

Loftily : in a superior way

Differentiation

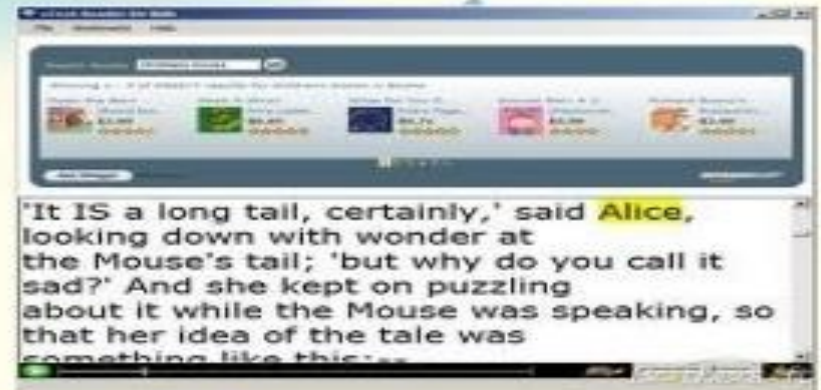
- Make sentences with Crinkly , Scornful , Slot , geared ,loftily
- Write the synonyms of the words given above.
- Write 2 words to describe Margie and Tommy.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRESENT (OLD) SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE SCHOOL

- The basic difference between the Present (Old) and the future Schools as follows:-

- 1. MATERIALS:-

- PRESENT SCHOOL:- Real book:-Printed on papers; yellow; crinkly.



- FUTURE SCHOOL:- Tele-book:-E-book; on the screen ; can be changed.

2. TEACHERS:-

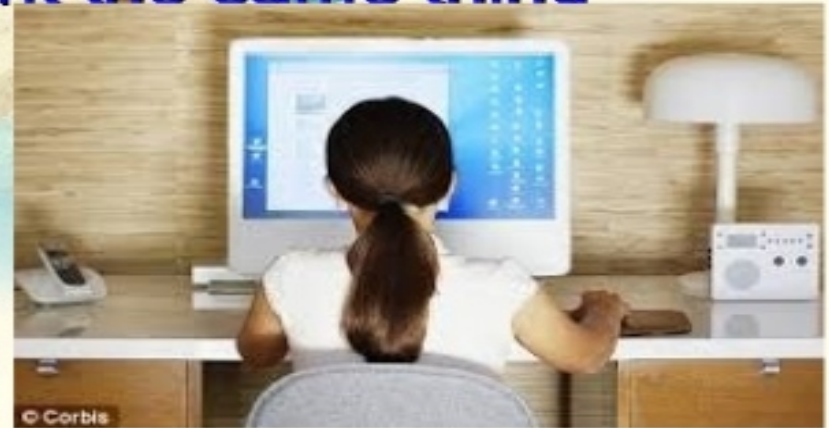
PRESENT SCHOOL:- Teacher:-a real man;
communication; emotional; caring



FUTURE SCHOOL:- Robotic or mechanical
teacher; giving test after test; no
communication; large; cold; black; ugly

3. CLASSROOMS:-

- PRESENT SCHOOL:- Teaching in a building; many students are taught the same thing



- FUTURE SCHOOL:- In his or her own house; needless to leave home; each kid could be taught differently; the classes are always on at the same time every day.

4. HOMEWORK & TEST:-

- PRESENT SCHOOL:- Exam; Test; Paper Writing; Essay Writing.



- FUTURE SCHOOL:- Write them out in a computer by pressing the keys; then put them on the slot.



Assignment

SPEAKING / DISCUSSION

Technology in education can never replace the teacher.

Next Session

- Reading and explanation (part 2)
- Comprehension check
- Key words (part 2)
- Discussion – intext questions