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**SUBJECT** : ENGLISH  
**TEXTBOOK** : BEEHIVE (MCB)  
**UNIT** : 1-PROSE-1  
**TITLE** : THE FUN THEY HAD  
**GENERE** : (PROSE/STORY/FICTION)  
**AUTHOR** : ISSAC ASIMOV

**GLOSSARY**

Crinkly : with many folds or lines.  
Awfully : badly/terribly/very/exceedingly  
Attic : a space below the roof.  
Scornful : disrespect/contempt  
Loftily : in a superior way/proudly  
Dispute : disagree with  
Nonchalantly : not showing interest  
Sigh : a deep breath shows unwillingness

**Questions and Answers**

**Short answers**

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

Answer: Margie and Tommy had mechanical teachers. They were taught on computers and television screens. They didn't have a living person as a teacher who would teach the pupils in a classroom.

2. Why did Margie's mother send for the County Inspector? What did he do?

Answer: Margie's mother sent for the County Inspector because Margie was not performing well in her geography tests. The mechanical teacher was not functioning efficiently. She had been doing worse and worse so the county inspector slowed down the mechanical teacher's speed up to an average ten-year level. The County Inspector assured that the overall pattern of Margie's progress was quite satisfactory.

3. What had once happened to Tommy's teacher?

Answer: Tommy's teacher was taken away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely. So, Tommy had nothing to do during that period. He only relaxed and enjoyed.

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

Answer: Yes, Margie had regular days and hours for school because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

5. How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?

Answer: Tommy says that the old schools were different. They had a special building and all the kids went there to study. They laughed and shouted in the schoolyard. They enjoyed time together and learned lessons together in a classroom.

6. How does he describe the old kind of teachers?

Answer: He says that the old teachers did not live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there. They gave homework to students. They were not mechanical teachers, but living human beings. They used to teach face to face.

### **Long answers**

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

Answer: Margie and Tommy have mechanical teachers. They need not go to school for getting a formal education. Their school was at home. The mechanical teacher is placed in one of the rooms of the house and they can get the knowledge of various subjects of individually from the mechanical teacher. They don't have such classrooms where students sit together. They study from the e-books. So they don't require books and exercise books. The examination system is very different. They do homework in a different way. Margie has to write them out in a punch code. She learnt it when she was six years old. So the system of their education is technologically advanced and not based on printed books.

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

Answer: Margie hated her school because she had a mechanical teacher. It was in her house. She was supposed to sit in that room alone to complete her home task or assignments. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put homework and test papers. She thought that the old schools must have been fun because the students used to sit together in the classroom. They enjoyed, laughed and shouted in the schoolyard. Children needed company to enhance their skills. If they are isolated, they get depressed and dejected.

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

Answer: There is no doubt that today's schools are funnier than the future school discussed in the story. This school has nothing but a mechanical teacher with no emotions and sentiments. It does not have the ability to understand the psychology of a child. Moreover, it guides a pupil according to its adjusted modes. But today's schools work for the overall development of a child. They learn the same thing. The teachers are real human beings. They learn how to adapt themselves to the new surroundings and cope with the strangers. The students sit and learn together. These activities don't give vent to the feelings of depression, alienation and segregation.

**SUBJECT** : ENGLISH  
**TEXTBOOK** : BEEHIVE (MCB)  
**UNIT** : 1-POEM-1  
**TITLE** : THE ROAD NOT TAKEN  
**GENERE** : (POEM)  
**AUTHOR** : ROBERT FROST

### GLOSSARY

Diverged : separate in to two directions.  
Undergrowth : dense growth of plants and bushes.  
Wanted wear : had not been used.  
Perhaps : rare/may be/by chance  
Claim : demand/plead  
Lay : to place down/cover  
Hence : here; in the future

### Questions and Answers

#### Short answers

1. Where does the traveler find himself? What problem does he face?  
Answer: The traveler finds himself at a point where two roads diverge. His problem is to decide on which road he should walk.
2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.
  - a) A yellow wood
  - b) it was grassy and wanted wear
  - c) the passing there
  - d) leaves no step had trodden black
  - e) how way leads on to wayAnswer:
  - a. A forest in the autumn season
  - b. The road was grassy because it was a less travelled road. It wanted people to move on it.
  - c. It implies walking on the road.
  - d. It means the leaves had not been crushed under the feet of travelers.
  - e. How one road leads to another?
3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them?
  - a) In stanzas two and three?
  - b) In the last two lines of the poem?Answer:
  - a) There is no difference between the two roads in stanzas two and three
  - b) In the last two lines of the poem the poet tells that the road he opted for is less travelled.

## Long answers

1. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

Answer: The last two lines have the quintessence of the poem. The poet expresses his opinion that it becomes difficult for a normal human being to change his/her decision. The poet intends to walk on the first road but he couldn't do so because life does not offer multiple chances to choose. The decision taken may mar one's future or lead one to success. It makes all the differences. He now repents for not getting a chance to travel on the first road.

2. What is the theme or the message of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?

Answer: Robert Frost's 'The Road Not taken' deals with the complexities of life. Life and its ways never woven in a straight line. Life provides many options. The web of life consists of many paths and sub-ways. Naturally, these complexities of life confuse a person. Out of many options and alternatives, he has to make a choice. Only a judicious choice make us reach our destination. Most of people choose the least risky and off-trodden ways of life. They don't want to take any risk. Only a few persons like the poet dare to choose a different path of like. They are bold enough to face risks and challenges in life. One has to make a choice. His success or failure in life depends on his choice. The poet chose a different path. Popular fame and fortune are sacrificed in favor of art, literature and poetry. Nobody knows what he would have gained had he followed the least risky and safe path of life.