1.The Fun They Had

II.PQ1: What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?

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

Q2: Why did Margie’s mother send for the County Inspector?

A: Margie’s mother sent for the County Inspector because the mechanical teacher was not functioning efficiently. It had been giving test after test in Geography and she had been doing worse and worse.

Q3: What did he do?

A: He slowed down the mechanical teacher’s speed upto an average ten-year level. The mechanical teacher’s speed was controlled and adjusted according to the IQ level of Margie.

Q4: Why was Margie doing badly in Geography? What did the County Inspector do to help her?

A: Margie had been doing badly in Geography. This was because the mechanical teacher was very fast in displaying the questionnaire. The County Inspector adjusted its speed upto an average ten-year level. Thus, the mechanical teacher’s speed was controlled appropriately. The County Inspector assured that the overall pattern of Margie’s progress was quite satisfactory.

Q5: What had once happened to Tommy’s teacher?

A: 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.

Q6: Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?

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

Q7: How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?

A: 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.

Q8: How does he describe the old kind of teachers?

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

IV. Q1: What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?

A: Margie and Tommy have mechanical teachers. They need not go to school for getting a formal education. 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 telebooks. 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.

Q2: why did Margie hate school? Why did she think the old kind of school must have been fun?

A: 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 homework or assignments. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put her 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 school yard. Children needed company to enhance their skills. If they are isolated, they get depressed and dejected.

Q3: Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer?

A: Yes, I agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story. This school has nothing but a mechanical teacher. It does not have the ability to understand the psychology of a student. It guides a pupil according to its adjusted modes. But today’s schools work for the overall development of a child. All the students learn the same thing in a class. They sit and learn together. They can help one another at studies. Besides it they learn moral values and other extra-curricular activities in their schools.

P1. The Road Not Taken

In the poem, ‘The Road Not Taken’, the poet Robert Frost says that once, he was walking down the road and reached a fork. He could walk over one of the paths only. He inspected them to decide which was a better option. Then he chose the one which seemed less walked over. He kept the other one for some other day. Although he knew that he would never get the chance to walk over it. He would go further on the chosen path and not get a chance to walk back on it. As he walked on the chosen path, he realized that both the paths were similar. He felt that his future depended on the choice that he made.

Q1: Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

A: The traveller finds himself standing on a fork in the path. He is in a problem as he must choose one path and is unable to decide which one is to choose.

Q2: Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

1. A yellow wood

A: ‘Yellow wood’ refers to the forest which has withering leaves. As in the season of autumn. It represents a world full of aging people.

1. It was grassy and wanted wear

A: It means that the path had a lot of grass on it. This means that it had not been walked over by many people. It had to be worn out by the steps of the people who walked on it.

1. The passing there

A: It means that when he walked over the path that he had chosen.

1. Leaves no step had trodden black

A: It means that no one had walked over the leaves as they were still green. If they had been walked over, they would have turned black.

1. How way leads on to way

A: It means that as we walk on a path, we come across more options and make choices further. We keep on walking ahead on that way.