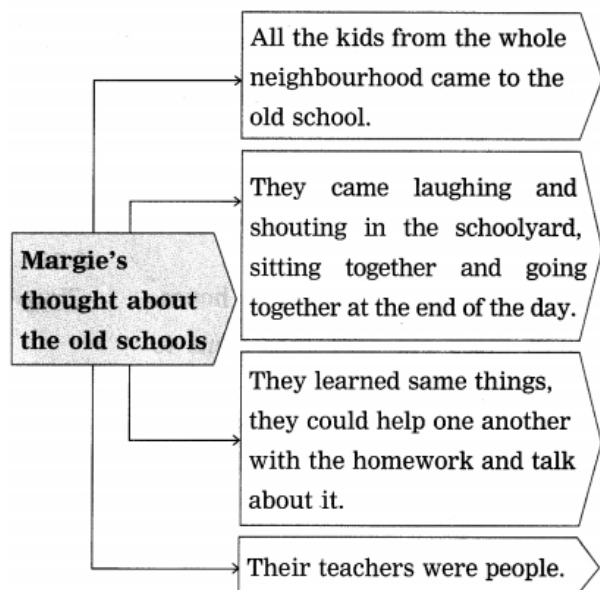
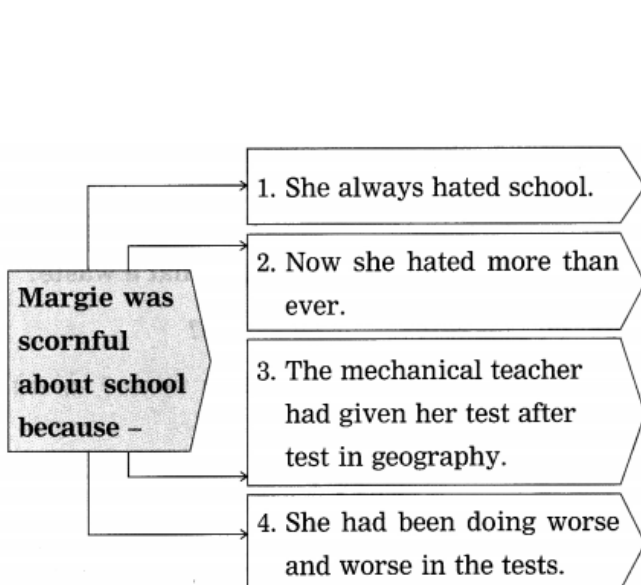
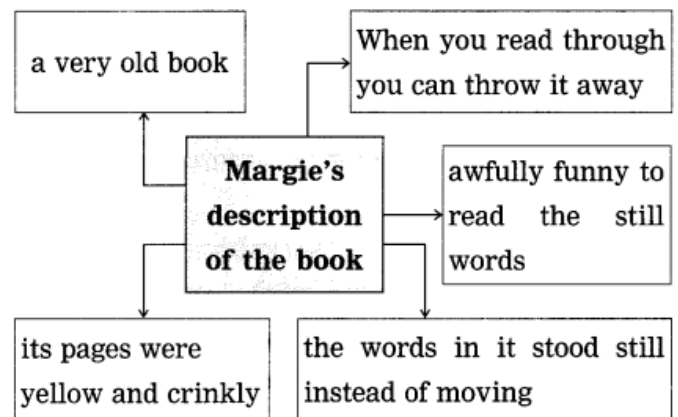
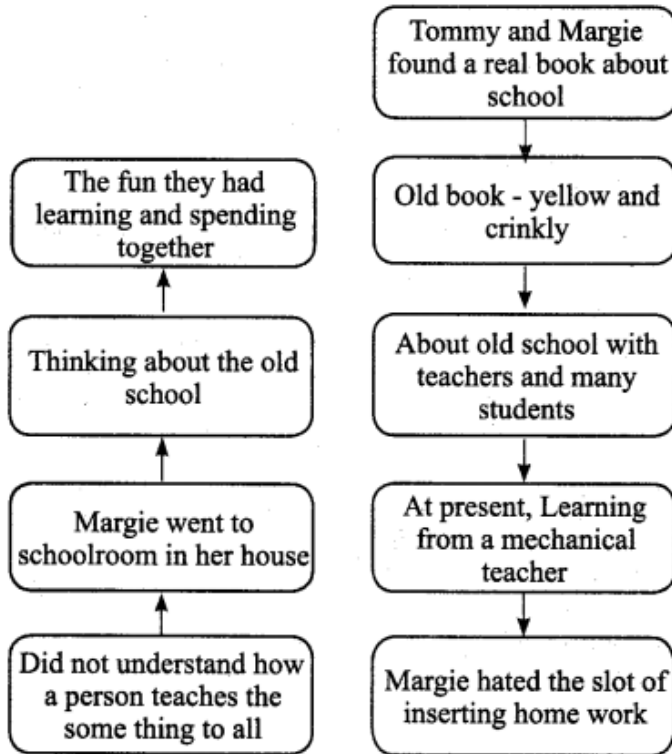
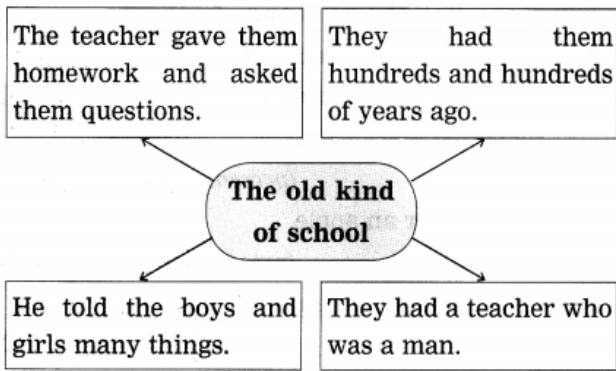


Teaching & Learning Material

Unit -1 Prose : The Fun They Had





Summary

The Main characters are :

Margie, Tommy, Mrs Jones, Mechanical Teacher and the County inspector.

The short story 'The fun they had' written by Isaac Asimov deals with a boy and a girl, Tom-my and Margie, who find out something about school in the past. On 17th May 2157, Tommy, a thirteen year old boy finds a 'real book', which has been printed on paper. He is at the house of Margie, an eleven year old girl. They both take a look at it together. The book is really old and the pages are yellow and cranky.

In the year 2157, this kind of book doesn't exist anymore. Tommy has found the old book in the attic of his house. While reading the book, Tommy says that it is about school. Margie hates school and cannot understand why someone would write about it. Nowadays, in the year 2157, they read everything on the computer. She was having problems with learning geography from her mechanical teacher, which was black, large and had a screen on it.

It teaches the students, gives them exercises and asks them questions, all in a special room in their own house. It can calculate the marks in no time. Marge hates the slot, where she has to insert her home-work or test papers. Once, the geography sector of her mechanical teacher was geared too quickly, and her marks got worse and worse. The county inspector rebuilt it after one hour.

Tommy informed Margie that the book, he found, was not about their type of school. It is about a school centuries ago. They had a human being as a teacher, who told different things, taught them to learn, gave them home-work and asked them questions. The children then had a special building for this and all the kinds of the same age learned the same thing.

Margie thought that was a funny school and she wanted to read more about it, as she was told by her mother that each kid has to be taught differently. Then it was time for Margie and Tommy to go to their school, which was right next to her bedroom. There the mechanical teacher was already on because the lessons were always at regular hours. She was thinking about the old school system and how much fun the children must have had, learning and spending time together.