

# THE FUN THEY HAD

by Isaac Asimov

*Story Activities*

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# THANK YOU!!!

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## About this Resource

Are you looking for a story that can help your (ESL) students expand their reading, writing, and speaking skills? If so, this resource is here to help! You will unleash your students' potential through these activities to help them deepen their understanding of the text and hone their language skills in a relevant and meaningful context.

Inside, you'll find ...

- Warm-up activity
- Multiple Choice Quiz
- Plot Graphic Organizer
- Language Work
- Speaking Task
- Mini Project
- Writing Task
- Answer Key

Who is this for?

- Secondary school learners
- Students with an intermediate, or upper-intermediate level of English.

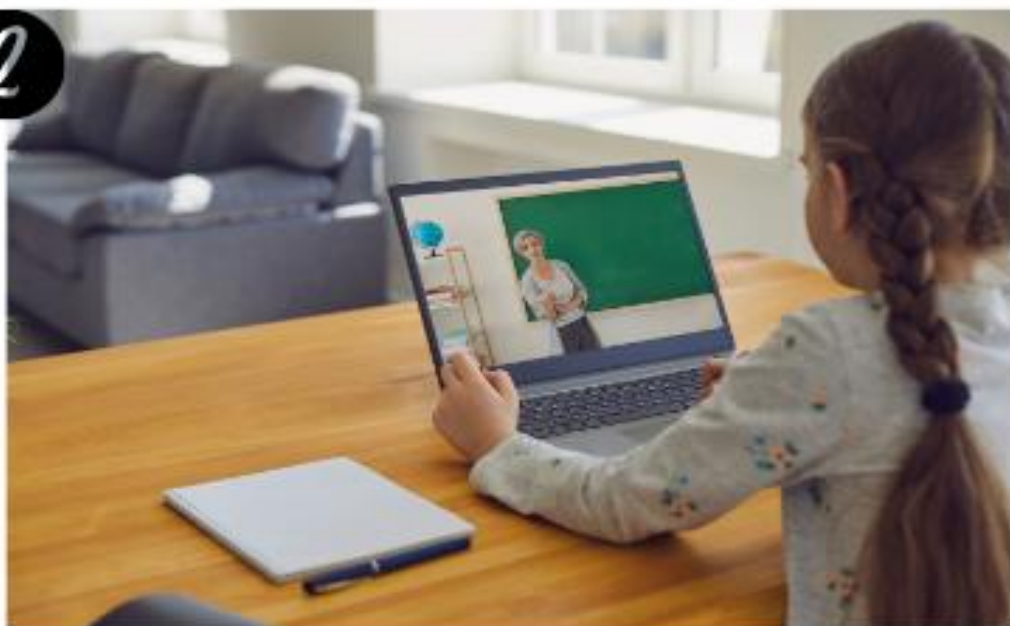
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Warm-up: Compare and Contrast the pictures. Then, answer the question below.

1



2



What type of school do you prefer? Why?

Keywords: online learning, distance learning, traditional schools, face-to-face interaction, attend, curriculum, campus, communication, flexibility.

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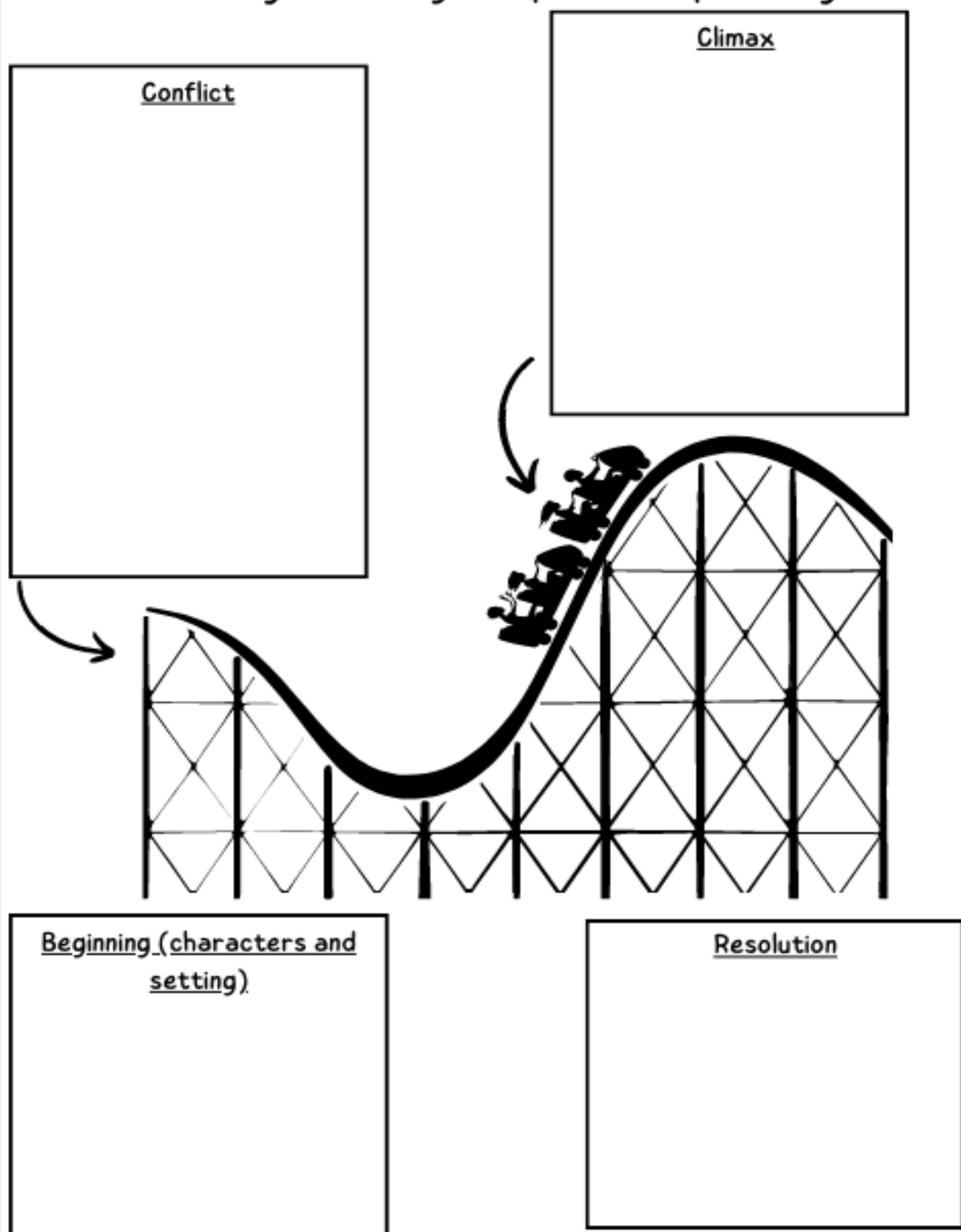
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Read the story and do the multiple choice.

1. The main character in the story is ...  
a) a robot b) a girl c) a teacher
2. The story is set...  
a) in a school b) in the future c) in another planet where teachers are robots
3. This story is told from a ...  
a) a First-person point of view  
b) a Third-person point of view
4. The two children in the story read their books on ...  
a) mobile phones b) television screens c) robots
5. Tommy found a book in ...  
a) his school b) the street c) his house
6. This book was very ...  
a) old b) brand new c) expensive
7. Margie hated school more than ever because ...  
a) she didn't understand the teacher  
b) the television screen didn't work  
c) she had a lot of tests
8. Margie's mother called the county inspector because...  
a) her daughter wanted to change the teacher  
b) her daughter failed the exams  
c) they needed a better device
9. Margie was surprised when Tommy told her the teacher was...  
a) a robot b) a man c) a woman
10. By the end of the story, how does Margie feel about teachers?  
a) She feels that a machine would be a better teacher because machines are smarter than people.  
b) She feels that a human would be more fun than a machine teacher.  
c) She feels that she would learn more with a person teaching her instead of a machine.

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After reading the story, complete the plot diagram.



## The fun they had by Isaac Asimov.

### Language work!

1 Fill in the blanks with a linker from the box!

and (2) - but - so - because - then

- a) He pointed without looking \_\_\_\_\_ he was busy reading.
- b) Margie hated school, \_\_\_\_\_ now, she hated it more than ever.
- c) The county inspector smiled at Margie \_\_\_\_\_ gave her an apple. \_\_\_\_\_, took the teacher apart.
- d) The kids learned the same things \_\_\_\_\_ they could help one another.
- e) They had a special building \_\_\_\_\_ all the kids went there.

2 Explain why these tenses are used in the following sentences.

- a) She was thinking about the old schools they had.
- b) They had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher.
- c) The inspector had smiled after he was finished.

3. Which word in the text means...

- a) showing a very strong feeling of no respect for someone or something that you think is stupid or has no value. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) a piece of thin metal thread that can be bent, used for fastening things, and for making particular types of objects that are strong but can bend. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) to touch someone or something gently and usually repeatedly with the hand flat. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) a long, narrow hole, especially one for putting coins into or for fitting a separate piece into. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) in a casually calm and relaxed manner. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) having or showing arrogance. \_\_\_\_\_

## The fun they had by Isaac Asimov.

### Speaking Task and Mini Project

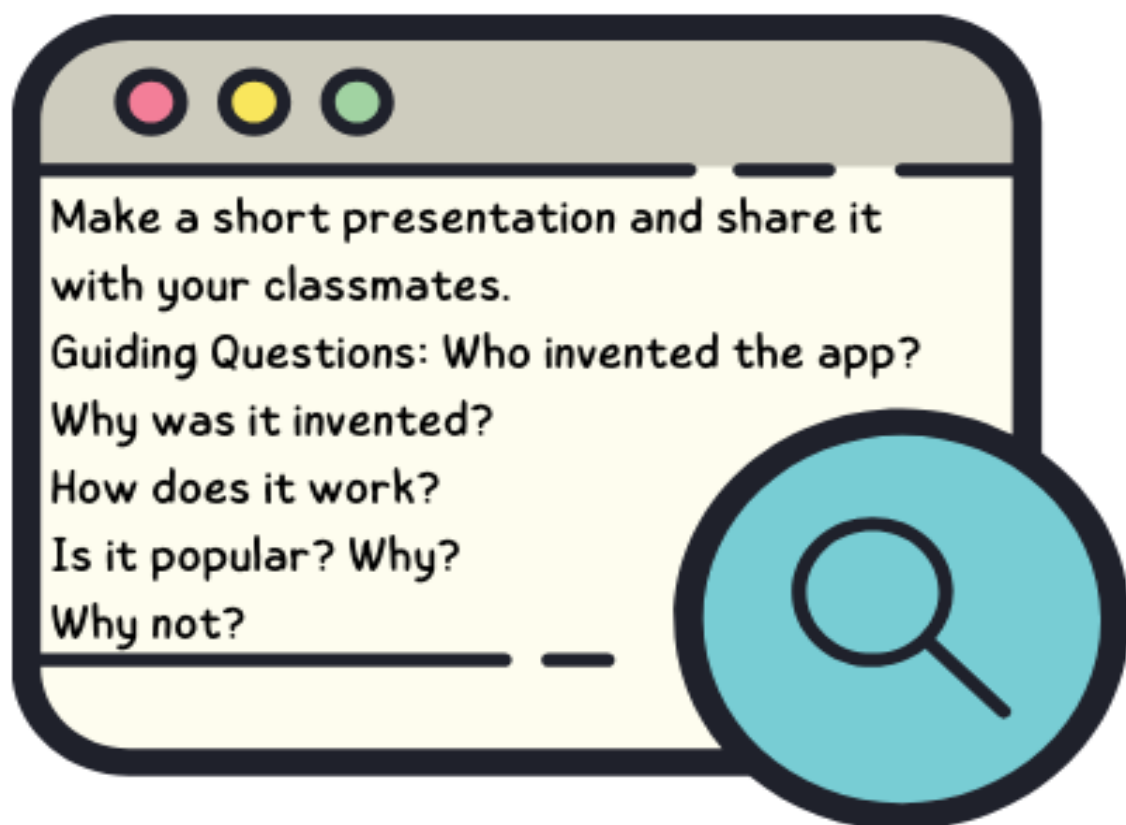
1. Discuss these questions in pairs, then, share your ideas with the class.

a) Why does Maggie ask, "How could a man be a teacher?". What does she mean?

b) What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a robot teacher?

c) Can technology become dangerous? If so, why?

2. Find an app that helps people with disabilities learn.









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After reading the story, complete the plot diagram.

## Conflict

The conflict of the story is presented as Margie lists reasons of disliking school. The conflict stem from technology taking over society starting by doing the jobs that humans would usually do. This external conflict is between society and technology.

## Climax

Margie goes to school and the robotic teacher begins teaching. Then she realizes that schools were probably better in the past.



## Beginning (characters and setting)

Margie, Tommy, the county inspector, the mechanical teacher. The Future.

## Resolution

The story ends with Margie thinking about the advantages of the schools of the past.



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## Language work!

1 Fill in the blanks with a linker from the box!

- a) He pointed without looking **because** he was busy reading.
- b) Margie hated school, **but** now, she hated it more than ever.
- c) The county inspector smiled at Margie **and** gave her an apple. **Then**, took the teacher apart.
- d) The kids learned the same things **so** they could help one another.
- e) They had a special building **and** all the kids went there.

1 Explain why these tenses are used in the following sentences.

- a) She was thinking about the old schools they had. **ACTION IN PROGRESS AT A CERTAIN MOMENT IN THE PAST.**
- b) They had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher. **PAST EVENT.**
- c) The inspector had smiled after he was finished. **ACTION THAT HAPPENED BEFORE ANOTHER ACTION IN THE PAST.**

3. Which word in the text means...

- a) showing a very strong feeling of no respect for someone or something that you think is stupid or has no value. **SCORNFUL.**
- b) a piece of thin metal thread that can be bent, used for fastening things, and for making particular types of objects that are strong but can bend. **WIRE.**
- c) to touch someone or something gently and usually repeatedly with the hand flat. **PAT.**
- d) a long, narrow hole, especially one for putting coins into or for fitting a separate piece into. **SLOT.**
- e) in a casually calm and relaxed manner. **NONCHALANTLY.**
- f) having or showing arrogance. **LOFTLY.**

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