

FIRST, part 1

EXTRA FIRST AND IELTS READING PRACTICE

You are going to read an extract from a novel in which a girl from the future finds a book about school. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (a, b, c or d) which you think fits best, according to the text.

Margie even wrote about it that night in her diary. On the page headed May 17, 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 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 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."

"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.

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 her 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 ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked. That wasn't so bad. The part she 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 mark in no time.

The inspector had smiled after he was finished and patted her 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?"

Extract from I. Asimov, "The Fun They Had"



- 1** Why did Margie write "Today Tommy found a real book!" with an exclamation mark?
 - a. She was annoyed.
 - b. It was an exceptional event.
 - c. She was surprised, but not interested.
 - d. She used to write everything in her diary.

- 2** What does the word "crinkly" in paragraph 3 mean?
 - a. In perfect condition.
 - b. New.
 - c. With thin folds.
 - d. Rough.

- 3** Why was Margie scornful?
 - a. She was not interested in school.
 - b. She hated her mechanical teacher.
 - c. She hated her classmates.
 - d. She was happy to hear about school.

- 4** What did Margie hate most about school?
 - a. The lessons and the questions.
 - b. Writing in punch code.
 - c. The hole where she had to put her homework.
 - d. How the teacher calculated her scores.

- 5** What is the inspector's attitude?
 - a. He's not worried. Mechanical teachers sometimes have problems.
 - b. He's surprised. Mechanical teachers usually work well.
 - c. He's self confident. He's done a good job.
 - d. He's sorry for the inconvenience.

- 6** What does "it" in line 5 from the bottom mean?
 - a. The mechanical teacher.
 - b. The girl's fault.
 - c. The inspector's job
 - d. The geography sector.

