1. **Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.**

1. **How old are Margie and Tommy?**
   **Answer.** Margie was ten years old and Tommy was thirteen years old.

2. **What did Margie write in her diary?**
   **Answer.** Margie wrote that on 17th May 2157, Tommy had found a real book.

3. **Had Margie ever seen a book before?**
   **Answer.** No. She had not seen a book before.

4. **What things about the book did she find strange?**
   **Answer.** She found it strange that it had pages that were yellow and crinkly, and that they had to be turned. The words on the pages stood still, and did not move away like the words in a tele book.

5. **What do you think a tele book is?**
   **Answer.** A tele book is a software based picture replica of a book. It can be read only on the screen of a computer. It cannot be touched by hand or held in a hand or carried anywhere as a hard copy.

6. **Where was Margie’s school? Did she have any classmates?**
   **Answer.** Margie school was inside her house, in a room just next to her bed room.

7. **What subjects did Margie and Tommy learn?**
   **Answer** Margie learnt addition of pure fractions, and Tommy learnt about how school were centuries ago, by reading the real book that he had found in the attic.

II. **Answer the following with reference to the story.**
1. **“I wouldn’t throw it away.”**
   a) **Who says these words?**
   **Answer.** In the sentence these words are spoken by Tommy to Margie. He is giving his first reaction after examining the real book. He turned the crinkly, yellow pages of the book till the end and then found that on
turning back, the pages had the same words standing still on each page.

b) What does ‘it’ refer to?
Answer. In the sentence ‘it’ refers to the ‘book’.

c) What is it being compared with by the speaker?
2. “Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn’t a regular teacher. It was a man.”
   a) Who does ‘they’ refer to?
      Answer. In the sentence, ‘they’ refers to students in a school centuries ago.
   
   b) What does ‘regular’ mean here?
      Answer. In the sentence, ‘regular’ means a robotic teacher. Mechanical devices and robots were regular teachers for Margie and Tommy.

   c) What is it contrasted with?
      Answer. The robot as a regular teacher is contrasted with a man as a teacher.

III. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).
1. What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?
   Answer. Margie and Tommy had mechanical robots as teachers. The teacher was adjusted to the age and pace of learning of each child. The teacher only gave lesson pages and test sheets.

2. Why did Margie’s mother send for the County Inspector?
   Answer. Margie’s mother had sent for County Inspector because the mechanical teacher had been giving test after test in geography to Margie and she had been doing worse after worse in each of those tests.

3. What did he do?
   Answer. He took the mechanical teacher apart and set it back again within an hour. Margie was hoping he would not be able to do it. But the teacher began showing the lessons on its black and ugly screen.
4. Why was Margie doing badly in geography? What did the County Inspector do to help her?
   Answer. Margie was doing badly because the geography sector was geared up at a higher level. To help her, the County Inspector had slowed down the geography sector to the ten year old level pace. This was to enable Margie to learn.

5. What had once happened to Tommy’s teacher?
   Answer: Once Tommy’s mechanical teacher was taken away to the workshop for nearly a month, because its history sector had blanked out completely.

6. Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?
   Answer. Yes Margie had regular school days from Monday to Friday, at exactly the same time. But her school was located, within the house next to her bedroom. She had a mechanical teacher, who gave lessons and asked questions on a monitor. For each test paper, Margie had to punch out the answers in codes and the teacher calculated the marks instantly.

7. How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?
   Answer. Tommy describes the old kind of school as a place outside the homes, where all the children came together to study. They had men as teachers. All the children learnt the same thing in one subject, and they taught different subjects by different teachers.

8. How does he describe the old kind of teachers?
   Answer. Tommy described the old kind of teacher to be like their father, who knew a lot about. One teacher taught only one subject and therefore, there were different teachers for different subjects. Children helped by discussing the lessons with one another.

IV. Answer each of these questions in two or three paragraphs (100 – 150 words).

1. What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the school rooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?
   Answer. The story describes a school in the year 2157. In future, all activities of life are likely to be dependent on technology and
mechanical services. Children have their school in a room in their house, in which they are taught by a robotic teacher. A computer monitor screen is used for explaining lessons, asking questions, and completing test papers.

The mechanical teacher is adjusted to the speed and level of learning of the student, for each subject. The lessons are taught for five days in a week at regular hours. The test papers are to be answers in codes that are taught in lower classes, similar to alphabets of a language taught today. The test papers were marked as soon as they were put in the homework and test papers slot.

As such everything in the schools of the future will be mechanical and instant.

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

Answer. Margie hated her home school because she had to learn her lessons from a mechanical teacher, who was large, black and ugly. He would spend a lot of time in answering the test papers by punching codes. Yet, the mechanical teacher marked the test papers instantly to show how poorly she had done her homework. She did not like the mechanical teacher and was hoping that the County Inspector would take it away for ever.

Margie thought that the schools of the old kind must have been fun, as all the children came together in the morning. They learnt the same thing from one man teacher. They talked and played together and went home in the evening. They could help one another with the homework and ask questions.

Margie who had to spend her life all alone at home, thought that meeting other children and learning together would be fun. She only had her elder brother Tommy to talk to.

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

Answer. Yes, I agree with Margie. Compared to the mechanical schools of the future, the schools of today are more fun because:

a) Children can study and learn better in groups as much learning is by seeing and doing what others do.

b) Children can make friends for talking and studying together.
This adds fun to studying and childhood.

c) Healthy competition among friends, at play and study, makes them improve and strengthen their values.

d) Discussing the lessons with classmates develops the habit of asking questions and innovating.

e) Schools of today combine study and play to develop social behaviour. The school in the story provides a lonely and no fun life to children.

For all these reason I agree with Margie that the schools of today are more fun.

(131 words.)