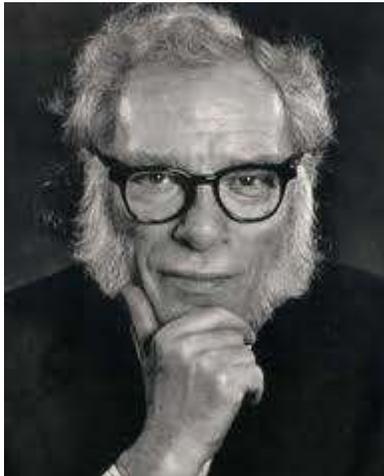


Book title

The fun they had

Author

Isaac Asimov



Bibliographic information

Publisher: Doubleday

The Best of Isaac Asimov

ISBN: 978-0385050784

Links (adaptations, reviews, full texts etc.)

- <http://visual-memory.co.uk/daniel/funtheyhad.html>
- http://schr.ws/hosted_files/readwrite/9f/Fun-They-Had-ST.pdf

Theme

The things we take for granted because we don't know more; we grow up with them and we don't even imagine they can be different.

Short summary

Set in the year 2155 (2157 in some later versions), when children learn individually at home using a mechanical teacher, the story tells of eleven-year-old Margie Jones, whose neighbour Tommy finds a real book. The book tells about a time when children learned by age group in large schools that were not merely designated rooms in private houses as in the year 2157. Margie and Tommy discuss what it must have been like to study together with a real person as a teacher, and though at first Margie is skeptical



about the notion, by the end of the story she daydreams about what it must have been like and 'the fun they had'.

Why is the story appropriate for the targeted groups of RSP readers?

1. It reflects readers' interests
2. It's highly motivational
3. It reflects political/historical moment
4. recommendations and the report emerged from the survey results

What are the distinguished readers interests reflected by this book/story?

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Why is this story motivational for the pupils?

The short story is a memory of traditional schools when students still visited schools. There is the irony that our students do not appreciate the possibility of visiting schools and having classmates.

Is there a historical, political, multi/inter cultural, migrant or similar context recognized in this book/story?

The story depicts the future vision of schools and there is a comparison with the contemporary schools.

Is there a principle of inclusion reflected in this book/story and does it promotes understanding of cultural diversities and heritage?

The short story shows that schools do not provide only education but relationships and cooperation with teachers and classmates can contribute to our personal development.

METHODOLOGY

Title of Activity

The fun they had

Description of educational activity

Duration: 90 minutes

Pupils' age: 15-19

Organization of the class of pupils: group work



The aim of the lesson: The aim of the activity is to develop reading literacy of pupils, to support their reading skills, to use their competencies to analyse the source text, to compare the present based on their experience and the future based on the text, to reinforce their language skills when verbalizing the results of their work.

Support materials:

- A collage of pictures representing different books.
- A short story – The fun they had. Each student is given a copy of it.
- A sheet of paper, pencils, colour pencils for each group.

Activities:

1. Warm up activity (competition) – students work in groups. Each group is given a collage of pictures representing different books. Their task is to find as many books as they can.
 - Fire - Kristine Cashore
 - Harry Potter and the cursed child – J.K.Rowling
 - The fault in our stars – John Green
 - The catcher in the rye – J.D. Salinger
 - The hunger games – Suzanne Collins
 - The maze Runner – James Dashner
 - City of bones – Cassandra Clare
 - Red Queen – Victoria Aveyard
 - Throne of glass – Sarah J. Maas
 - The kite runner – Khaled Hosseini
 - Twilight – Stephanie Meyer
 - A clockwork orange – Anthony Burgess
 - The Hobbit – J.R. Tolkien
 - Ann of Green Gables (- L.M. Montgomery)
 - Lord of the flies – William Golding
 - Paper towns – John Green
 - Thirteen reasons why – Jay Asher
 - The princess diaries series – Meg Cabot
 - The chocolate war – Robert Cormier
 - Stardust – Neil Gaiman
 - Prince of Thorns – Mark Laurence
 - Metro 2033 – Dmitry Glukhovsky
 - Precious stones – Kerstin Gler



- Little women – Louisa May Alcott
 - The last wish – Andrzej Sapkowski
 - The sun is also a star – Nicola Yoon
 - The picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde
 - Inkheart – Cornelia Funke
 - A thousand splendid suns – Khaled Hosseini
2. The texts are handed out. The students read the short story.
 3. The students discuss the story which shows us how the future education will probably look like. They can express what they like or do not like about this type of education
 4. After that students are divided in to groups. Each group is given a piece of paper and colourful markers. Their task is to draw a comic. The students will set the characters from the story in to the present school. They will try to depict their feelings about the present school system.
 5. The students will present the results of their work.

Connection to curriculum

Grade: 2nd grade of bilingual studies

Bilingual curriculum: The study of literature is focused during the second year on reading comprehension of literary texts which are based on the interests of the students which involves fantasy, too. The aim of the curriculum is to teach students to work with the text, to analyse the texts. Understanding texts, weighing their merits, and utilizing the information they offer are skills that teenagers draw on throughout the curriculum.

Knowledge:

- Students understand a text being read.
- Students find characters in the text and can describe them
- After reading the story they can identify the advantages and disadvantages of the present and future school system.
- They select information.

Skills:

- Students analyse the text.
- They work with different sources of information.
- They search for and classify information.
- They can identify and interpret correctly the feelings of the characters in the story
- They are able to work in groups.
- They can create a characteristic of a character based on the story.



- They can complete the tasks successfully

Competences:

- They can identify and interpret correctly the feelings of the characters in the story
- They are able to work in groups and individually, too.
- They can accept other members of the group
- They can understand the emotions of the characters, they are emphatic

Bibliographic reference to be used during the activity

The fun they had

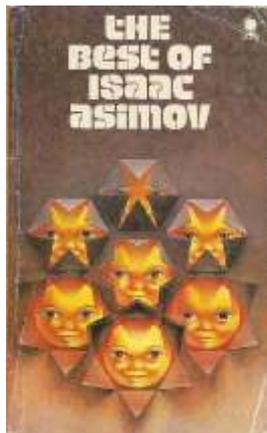
Isaac Asimov

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Digital sources

- <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2923828-the-best-of-isaac-asimov>
- http://www.gs.cidsnet.de/englisch-online/klasse11/asimov_funtheyhad.htm
- <http://www.studyrankers.com/2017/01/study-material-and-summary-of-the-fun-they-had.html>

Results

The expected outcomes of the lesson are:

- The students will be able to understand the text and to compare the present system of education to the future one.



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- To offer observations, make connections, speculate, interpret, and raise questions in response to the text.

Recommendations

Both the teaching method and the text can help in increasing students' interest in reading. This text describes the possible future system of education and can help students to discuss its positives and negatives.

The teacher monitors the students so as to make sure they cooperate effectively.