



The Fun They Had	
Fertigkeit: Leseverstehen	Niveau B1 Ich kann in unterschiedlichen Texten das Wesentliche erfassen. Auch wenn ich nicht alles verstehe, kann ich die Bedeutung einzelner Wörter und Äußerungen aus dem Zusammenhang erschließen.
Deskriptor: Ich kann den Sinn von Geschichten, Theaterstücken, Gedichten, Liedtexten usw. erfassen.	
Beschreibung: Die Schülerinnen und Schüler lesen Text und Aufgabenapparat selbstständig durch und bearbeiten die Aufgaben. Danach vergleichen sie ihre Ergebnisse mit dem Lösungsblatt. Für diejenigen, die nicht alle Aufgaben richtig gelöst haben, gibt es <i>follow-up tasks</i> .	
Organisationsform: Einzelarbeit; geeignet für Freiarbeitsphasen	
Zeitaufwand: ca. 60-90 Minuten	
Erfüllungsgrad: Die Aufgabe gilt als erfüllt, wenn bei Task 1: die richtige <i>summary</i> angekreuzt wurde Task 2: 5 von 8 Aussagen richtig zugeordnet wurden Task 3: 6 von 8 Ausdrücken gefunden wurden Task 4: 7 Beispiele gefunden wurden.	
Spiegelbild-Aufgabe: <u>Schreiben</u> : Die Schülerinnen und Schüler beschreiben ihre ideale Schule. <u>Sprechen</u> : Die Schülerinnen und Schüler halten eine Debatte/Podiumsdiskussion über die Vorteile/Nachteile der modernen und traditionellen Schule ab.	
Material / Medien: Arbeitsblätter mit Text und Aufgaben für alle Schülerinnen und Schüler Lösungsblätter und <i>follow-up tasks</i> in geringerer Anzahl zum Nachsehen	

- Read the following text.

Isaac Asimov, *The Fun They Had*

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 a 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 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 Margie 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 black 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 Margie 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 Margie's 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 over-all 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?"

Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago." He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, "Centuries ago."

Margie was hurt. "Well, I don't know what kind of school they had all that time ago." She read the book over his shoulder for a while, then said, "Anyway, they had a teacher."

"Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher. It was a man." "A man? How could a man be a teacher?" "Well, he just told the boys and girls things and gave them homework and asked them questions." "A man isn't smart enough." "Sure he is. My father knows as much as my teacher." "He can't. A man can't know as much as a teacher." "He knows almost as much, I betcha."

Margie wasn't prepared to dispute that. She said, "I wouldn't want a strange man in my house to teach me."

Tommy screamed with laughter. "You don't know much, Margie. The teachers didn't live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there." "And all the kids learned the same thing?" "Sure, if they were the same age."

"But my mother says a teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently."

55 "Just the same they didn't do it that way then. If you don't like it, you don't have to read the book."

"I didn't say I didn't like it," Margie said quickly. She wanted to read about those funny schools.

They weren't even half-finished when Margie's mother called, "Margie! School!" Margie looked up. "Not yet, Mamma."

60 "Now!" said Mrs. Jones. "And it's probably time for Tommy, too."

Margie said to Tommy, "Can I read the book some more with you after school?"

"Maybe," he said nonchalantly. He walked away whistling, the dusty old book tucked beneath his arm.

65 Margie went into the schoolroom. It was right next to her bedroom, and the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday, because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

The screen was lit up, and it said: "Today's arithmetic lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday's homework in the proper slot."

70 Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighborhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another on the homework and talk about it.

75 And the teachers were people...

The mechanical teacher was flashing on the screen: "When we add the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$..."

Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.

in: Isaac Asimov, *The Complete Stories of Isaac Asimov*, Vol. 1, Random House 1957

- Now deal with the tasks connected with this text:

Task 1

Lies die Zusammenfassungen der Geschichte und entscheide, welche korrekt ist. Unterstreiche die falschen Elemente in den anderen Zusammenfassungen.

Read the summaries and decide which one is correct. Underline the wrong elements in the other summaries.

Summary 1

Margie and her brother Tommy find an old book in the attic of their house. They start to read it because it is very funny for them to read a real book. As they live in the 23rd century they are only used to telebooks which are displayed on a screen. This television screen belongs to the mechanical teacher which every child then has at home.

Tommy reads the book but he doesn't really care about the old kind of school. Margie, however, is very much interested in it since she hates school the way it is in her century. The only thing she likes about school is the geography lessons because she has been doing well in her most recent tests.

The little girl reads about the old days and although she can't really imagine exactly what school must have been like, she assumes that the children at that time must have had a lot more fun together in one school than she has alone in front of her mechanical teacher.

Summary 2

Margie, an 11-year-old girl who lives in the 22nd century, is very excited about the fact that her friend Tommy has found a real book which deals with school in the distant past. The content of the book is especially interesting to her as she doesn't like the school of her own time where children are taught by a computer at home. Moreover, Margie's mechanical teacher has to be fixed by the County Inspector because it has given her tests in geography that were too demanding. This is one of the reasons why the little girl dislikes school. Another thing she particularly hates about the mechanical teacher is the slot of the machine where she has to insert her tests and homework.

Margie can't really imagine what school must have been like centuries ago with a lot of children in one room and a real human teacher who is not adjusted to one pupil's mind like the mechanical teacher is to hers. Nevertheless she can't stop thinking about the old schools and how much fun it must have been for the pupils to be there.

Summary 3

Margie and Tommy, two 11-year-old friends who live in the 22nd century, read a book about school as it was long ago. This is a very special situation for them because they are not used to reading real books. They usually read telebooks given to them by their teachers who adjust their computers to fit their minds. Margie is very keen to learn more about school as it was long ago because she doesn't like her kind of school at all. This is partly due to the fact that her computer has given her one test after the other in maths. The County Inspector has had to come by and repair it because every child is taught by a computer at home. The little girl is happy when her computer works properly again and she can go back to studying but she still thinks about how much fun it must have been for the children back in those old days to go to school together.

For your answers (make a tick (✓)):

summary 1	summary 2	summary 3

Task 2

Verbinde die Textpassagen auf der linken Seite (1-8) mit der passenden Erklärung auf der rechten Seite (a-g).

On the left, you find passages taken from the story, and on the right explanations of their possible meaning. Match the passages (1-8) with the corresponding explanation (a-g).

1) Margie even wrote about it that night in her diary.
2) Margie was disappointed. She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether.
3) "[...] If you don't like it, you don't have to read the book." "I didn't say I didn't like it," Margie said quickly.
4) "A man? How could a man be a teacher?"
5) So she said to Tommy, "Why would anyone write about school?"
6) "[...] Please insert yesterday's homework in the proper slot." Margie did so with a sigh.
7) And the teachers were people...
8) Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days.

a. Margie is very much interested in reading about school in former times.
b. Margie prefers the old kind of school to the school of her own time.
c. Learning about the old kind of school means a lot to Margie.
d. Margie would like to have a human teacher.
e. Margie can't imagine that a school can exist without a mechanical teacher.
f. Margie carries out the teacher's instructions but she is not happy about it.
g. Margie doesn't like her mechanical teacher.
h. Margie can't imagine why anyone would be interested in school.

For your answers:

1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	
7)	
8)	

Task 3

Finde die Ausdrücke in der Geschichte, die das Folgende bedeuten:

Find the words and expressions in the text which express the following ideas:

1) Tommy feels superior to Margie.

2) the room at the top of a building, directly under the roof

3) The part of her computer which dealt with history didn't work at all.

4) Put your homework into the opening made for it.

5) On the whole, Margie has become better at school.

6) a long time ago

7) Margie's mother was very worried about Margie's bad geography tests.

8) very quickly

Task 4

Welche Sätze zeigen, dass die Geschichte aus Margies Perspektive erzählt wird?
Finde sieben Beispiele.

Which sentences tell you that the whole story is told from Margie's point of view?
Find seven examples.

line(s)	sentence(s)

Lösungsblatt - Solutions and follow-up tasks**Task 1**

No.	Solution	If you have ticked the wrong summary, look again in the following lines of the short story:	Write down the words / expressions which are wrong or not appropriate for a summary:
1	wrong	14	
		1	
		14/15	
		17-19	
2	correct		
3	wrong	12-13	
		17-18	
		33-34 and 70	

Lösungsblatt - Solutions for the follow-up task:

Task 1

Summary 1

Margie and her brother Tommy find an old book in the attic of their house. They start to read it because it is very funny for them to read a real book. As they live in the 23rd century, they are only used to telebooks which are displayed on a screen. This television screen belongs to the mechanical teacher which every child then has at home.

Tommy reads the book but he doesn't really care about the old kind of school.

Margie, however, is very much interested in it since she hates school the way it is in her century. The only thing she likes about school are the geography lessons because she has been doing well in her most recent tests.

The little girl reads about the old days and although she can't really imagine exactly what school must have been like, she assumes that the children at that time must have had a lot more fun together in one school than she has alone in front of her mechanical teacher.

Summary 3

Margie and Tommy, two 11-year-old friends who live in the 22nd century, read a book about school as it was long ago. This is a very special situation for them because they are not used to reading real books. They usually read telebooks given to them by their teachers who adjust their computers to fit their minds. Margie is very keen to learn more about school as it was long ago because she doesn't like her kind of school at all. This is partly due to the fact that her computer has given her one test after the other in maths. The County Inspector has had to come by and repair it because every child is taught by a computer at home. The little girl is happy when her computer works properly again and she can go back to studying but she still thinks about how much fun it must have been for the children back in those old days to go to school together.

No.	Solution	If you have ticked the wrong summary, look again in the following lines of the short story:	References from the short story:
1	wrong	14	"In my house."
		1	... May 17, 2157, ...
		14/15	He pointed without looking because he was busy reading.
		17-19	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...
2	correct		
3	wrong	12-13	She was eleven and hadn't seen as many telebooks as Tommy had. He was thirteen.
		17-18	The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography...
		33-34 and 70	Margie was disappointed... Margie did so with a sigh...

Lösungsblatt - Solutions**Task 2**

text passage	meaning	If you haven't found the right meaning, check the context in line(s)
1)	c)	1
2)	g)	33-34
3)	a)	54-57
4)	e)	42-43
5)	h)	36
6)	f)	69-70
7)	d)	75
8)	b)	78-79

Lösungsblatt – Solutions**Task 3**

	expression in the text	If you haven't found the right meaning, check the context in line
1)	He looked at her with very superior eyes.	37
2)	attic	14
3)	The history sector had blanked out completely.	35
4)	Insert your homework in the proper slot.	69
5)	The over-all pattern of her progress is quite satisfactory.	31
6)	centuries ago	39
7)	had shaken her head sorrowfully	19
8)	in no time	27

Follow-up task**Task 4**

If you haven't found enough examples, look again in line(s)	sentence(s)
5-6	
16	
17	
21-22	
24-25	
33-34	
40	
47	
56-57	
70-75	
78-79	

Lösungsblatt – Solutions**Task 4****examples:**

line(s)	sentence(s)
5-6	... it was awfully funny to read words...
16	Margie was scornful
17	Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever.
21-22	Margie had hoped he wouldn't know...
24-25	The part Margie hated most...
33-34	Margie was disappointed. She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether.
40	Margie was hurt.
47	Margie wasn't prepared to dispute that.
56-57	She wanted to read about those funny schools.
70-75	She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy...
78-79	Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.