

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

The Fun They Had (Beehive)

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

THEME (prose): Technology cannot replace the human warmth and companionship of learning together.

IRONY (prose): Children of advanced 2157 ENVY the old, low-tech school — progress costs connection.

KEY FACTS: Date 17 May 2157 · Margie age 11 · Tommy age 13 · mechanical teacher · telebooks · paper book found in attic.

PLOT FIX: County Inspector slows the geography sector to the average-ten-year level — teacher is NOT removed.

TITLE: 'The Fun They Had' = wistful, past tense — the fun children of the OLD school had learning together.

DEVICES (prose): Situational irony · futuristic setting (sci-fi) · contrast (old school vs mechanical teacher) · nostalgia.

VALUE POINT: Human teachers + peer company are irreplaceable; learning is social, not just data delivery.

POEM theme (The Road Not Taken): the irreversibility of choices and how we later narrate them — NOT a 'be different' slogan.

POEM metaphor: the two diverging roads = life's choices; the 'yellow wood' = autumn of decision; the 'sigh' = ambiguous later reflection.

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

- 1 Why did Margie hate school / the mechanical teacher?**
3 marks · 85% of years
Geography sector geared too fast → poor scores; tests done in a slot, no fun, no friends. Give 2-3 textual reasons.
- 2 Reference-to-context extract (real book / telebook / mechanical teacher) with 3 sub-questions.**
4 marks · 80% of years
Name speaker + moment, paraphrase meaning (never copy), add one inference about theme.
- 3 What does the story suggest about future education and human connection?**
6 marks · 70% of years
Setting → reversed irony with evidence → value/message + link to today + ironic title.
- 4 Character sketch of Margie or Tommy.**
5 marks · 60% of years
Age/role → 2-3 traits each with proof → emotional close. Don't confuse the two children.
- 5 The Road Not Taken — which road, why, central metaphor.**
4 marks · 55% of years
Both roads about the same; chose one, can't return; metaphor = choices in life; avoid the 'less travelled is best' oversimplification.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Re-read the story once. On a slip, jot the five locked facts: date (17 May 2157), Margie 11, Tommy 13, mechanical teacher + geography fault, telebook vs paper book.

15-30 min

Write the THEME and the CENTRAL IRONY in your own one-sentence form each. Then list three reasons Margie hates her schooling, with a textual detail for each.

30-45 min

Draft a 100-120 word long answer on 'future of education and human connection' using the topper template (setting → irony+evidence → value+today+title).

45-60 min

Practise one reference-to-context extract: name speaker/moment, paraphrase, add inference. Then revise the 16 difficult words + Hindi meanings.

60-75 min

Revise 'The Road Not Taken': speaker's choice, the 'about the same' admission, the later 'sigh', and the central metaphor of roads = choices. Avoid the cliché reading.

75-90 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer; target ≥ 12/15. Re-read the notes-slide for every wrong answer.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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