

## GETTING THE BEST OF EDUCATIONS

- 1 *Read Part I of the story In The Classroom and answer the question: What did the children speak with their new teacher about?*

### In The Classroom

#### Part I

(from *Stuart Little* after E. B. White)

Stuart ['stjuət], Gunderson ['gʌndəsən],  
Elizabeth Gardner ['lɪzəbəθ 'gɑ:dnə],  
Mary Smith ['mɛəri 'smɪθ], Harry James ['hæri 'dʒeɪmz]

At a quarter to nine the schoolchildren gathered in School Number Seven. When they learned that Miss Gunderson was ill and heard that they were going to have a new teacher, they began to whisper to each other: "A new teacher! We shall have a new teacher!"

The news travelled fast<sup>1</sup>. The children were very glad to have a teacher whom nobody knew.

Stuart came at nine. He parked his car<sup>2</sup> at the door of the school and boldly<sup>3</sup> entered the classroom. He climbed up the leg of the teacher's desk, and then jumped on to the top of it. There he found a bottle of ink, a pointer, some pens and pencils, a piece of chalk, and three or four books. Stuart climbed up to the top of the books and said: "Attention<sup>4</sup>, please!"

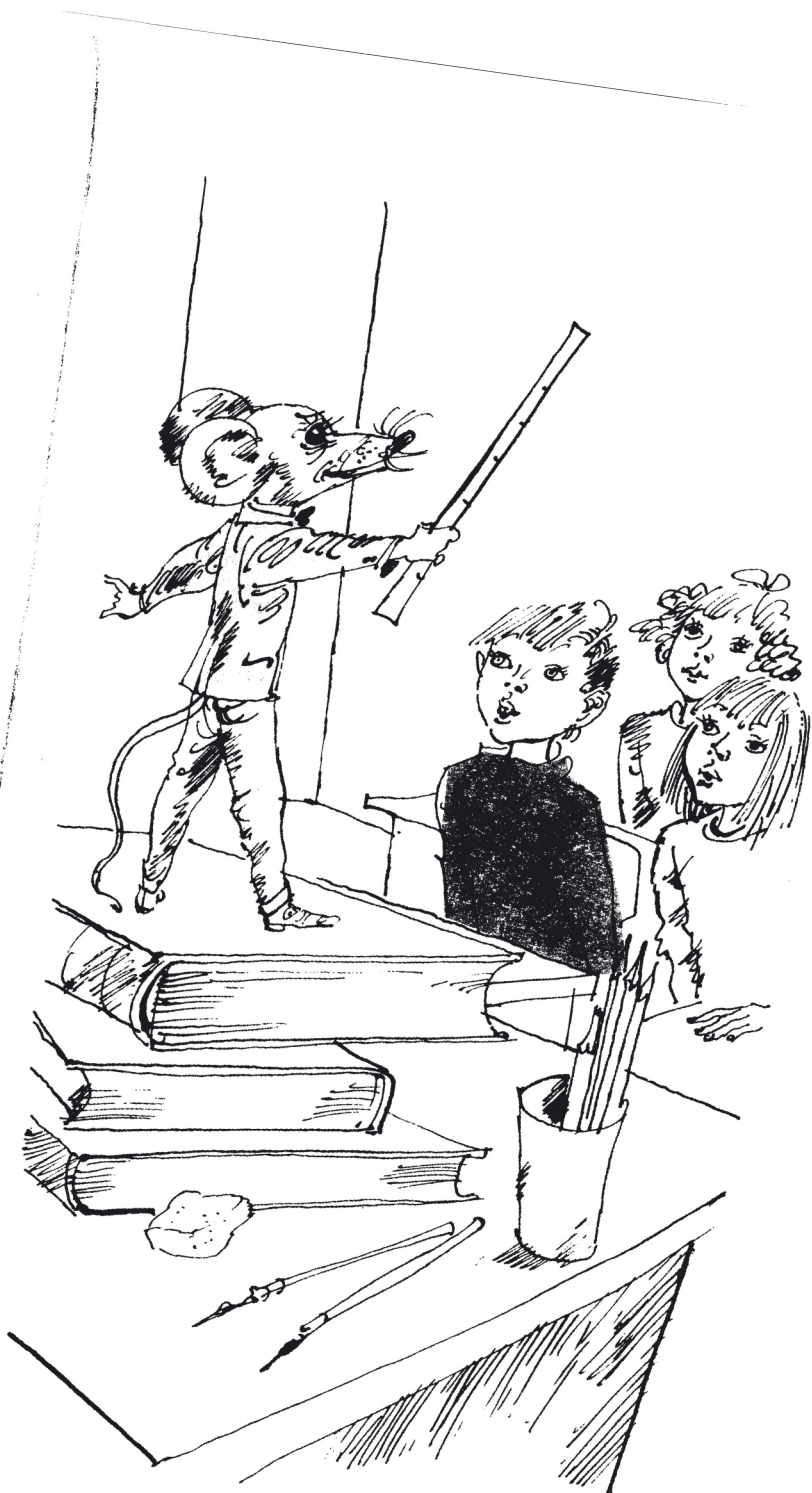
The boys and girls gathered around the desk to look at the new teacher. Everybody talked at once. The girls giggled and the boys laughed. They were pleased to see such a small teacher.

<sup>1</sup> **The news travelled fast.** — Новость быстро распространилась.

<sup>2</sup> **to park a car** — припарковать машину

<sup>3</sup> **boldly** ['bouldli] — смело, храбро

<sup>4</sup> **Attention!** [ə'tenfɪn] — Внимание!



“Attention, please!” repeated Stuart. “As you know, Miss Gunderson is ill and I am taking her place.”

“What’s the matter with her?” asked a boy called Roy Hart.

“Vitamin trouble,”<sup>1</sup> said Stuart. “She took Vitamin D when she needed A, and Vitamin B when she needed C. Let it be a lesson to all of us!” He looked angrily at the children and they did not ask anything more about Miss Gunderson. “Now everyone will take his or her seat,” commanded [kə'ma:ndɪd] Stuart.

The pupils sat down and in a moment there was silence in the classroom. Stuart got down from the books, walked to the front of the desk, cleared his throat<sup>2</sup> and asked:

“Anybody absent?”

The children shook their heads.

“Anybody late?”

They shook their heads again.

“Very well,” said Stuart. “Now we begin. What is the first subject that you usually study in the morning?”

“Arithmetic!” shouted the children.

“Bother arithmetic!” said Stuart. “Let’s skip it.”<sup>3</sup>

At these words the children shouted with joy. Everybody in the class was glad to skip arithmetic for one morning.

“What is the next subject?” asked Stuart.

“Spelling,” cried the children.

“Well,” said Stuart, “of course, people must spell correctly. It is dreadful<sup>4</sup> when people make mistakes in spelling. I advise you to buy a dictionary<sup>5</sup> and look up the

<sup>1</sup> **Vitamin** ['vɪtəˌmɪn] **trouble** ['trʌbl] — Витаминная болезнь

<sup>2</sup> **to clear one’s throat** [θrəʊt] — откашливаться

<sup>3</sup> **Bother** ['bɒðə] **arithmetic!** **Let’s skip it.** — Долой арифметику! Давайте пропустим ее.

<sup>4</sup> **dreadful** ['dredfʊl] — ужасный

<sup>5</sup> **dictionary** ['dɪkʃənəri] — словарь

words in it. So much for spelling<sup>1</sup>. What is next?"

The children were very glad to skip spelling too, and again shouted with joy. They looked at each other and laughed and waved their handkerchiefs<sup>2</sup> and rulers, and some of the boys threw paper balls at the other boys. Stuart had to climb to the top of the books again.

"Quiet, please!" he said. "What is next?"

"Drawing," cried the children.

"Oh, dear," said Stuart angrily. "Don't you know how to draw yet?"

"Of course we do!" cried the children.

"So much for that then," said Stuart.

"History comes next," cried a little girl called Elizabeth Gardner.

"History? I don't like that subject," said Stuart. "I don't like to talk about the past. Let us talk about something interesting."

The children looked at each other.

"What shall we talk about?" they asked.

"Let us talk about snakes," said Arthur Green.

"I don't like snakes," said Stuart.

"Can we talk about Miss Gunderson?"

"No, we can't," said Stuart. "Let us talk about the King of the World." He looked at the children.

"There is no King of the World," said Harry James. "Kings are out of fashion<sup>3</sup>."

"All right," said Stuart. "Then let us talk about the Chairman<sup>4</sup> of the World. The world often gets into trouble because it has no chairman. I would like to be Chairman of the World myself."

<sup>1</sup> **So much for spelling.** — И так, с правописанием покончено.

<sup>2</sup> **to wave handkerchiefs** ['hæŋkətʃɪfs] — размахивать носовыми платками

<sup>3</sup> **be out of fashion** ['fæʃn] — выходить из моды

<sup>4</sup> **chairman** ['tʃeəməŋ] — председатель

“You are too small,” said Mary Smith.

“Nonsense!<sup>1</sup>” said Stuart. “Size has nothing to do with it<sup>2</sup>. The Chairman must be clever and he must know what is important. How many of you know what is important?”

All the children raised their hands.

“Very good,” said Stuart. “Jimmy Rock, tell us what is important.”

“Sunlight, blue sky, and a bird’s song,” answered Jimmy.

“Correct,” said Stuart. “These things are very important. But you forgot one thing, Jimmy. Mary Smith, what did Jimmy forget?”

“He forgot ice-cream with chocolate on it,” said Mary quickly.

“You are right,” said Stuart. “Ice-cream is very important. Well, I shall be Chairman of the World this morning. But we need some laws<sup>3</sup> if we are going to play this game. Can anybody think of any good laws for the world?”

The children began to think. Stuart wiped his face with his handkerchief, because he was very tired, and said:

“Let us have a break now, and after the break we shall continue<sup>4</sup> our lesson.”

And he sat down to have a little rest<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> **Nonsense** [ˈnɒnsəns]! — Вздор! Чепуха!

<sup>2</sup> **Size has nothing to do with it.** — Рост (размер) здесь не при чем.

<sup>3</sup> **law** [lɔ:] — закон

<sup>4</sup> **to continue** [kənˈtɪnju:] — продолжать

<sup>5</sup> **to have a little rest** — немного отдохнуть

## Do You Understand The Story?

2 *Number the facts below in the order in which they come in the story. You may look back at the story.*

- Everybody in the class was glad to skip arithmetic for one morning.
- The children were glad to have a teacher whom nobody knew.
- Stuart wanted the children to speak about something interesting.
- The boys and girls gathered around the desk to look at the new teacher.
- Stuart asked the children to think of some good laws for the world.

3 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 The children were very glad:
  - to have a new teacher.
  - to hear that Miss Gunderson was ill.
  - to find out that school was over.
- 2 Stuart skipped arithmetic, spelling, drawing and history because:
  - the children did not like these subjects.
  - he did not know how to teach these subjects.
  - he wanted Miss Gunderson to teach these subjects.
- 3 The girls giggled and the boys laughed because:
  - their new teacher was so small.
  - Stuart spoke with them about funny things.
  - they thought Stuart was playing a joke on them.
- 4 Stuart wanted to have a break because:
  - he needed more time to think.
  - he was tired.
  - the children asked him to give them some rest.

- 4 *Answer the questions.*
- 1 How did the children meet Stuart? Were they surprised? Happy? Curious? Angry?
  - 2 What did Stuart say to explain to the children what was the matter with Miss Gunderson?
  - 3 What did Stuart think about spelling?
  - 4 What advice did Stuart give the children about how to learn to spell words correctly?
  - 5 Why didn't Stuart like history?
  - 6 Why did Stuart think that the world needed a chairman?
  - 7 What did the children think to be important?

### How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 32—33)

### What Do You Think?

- 5 *Try and explain :*
- ✓ • why the girls giggled and the boys laughed when they first saw Stuart;
  - why the children shouted with joy when they heard Stuart's words "Bother arithmetic!";
  - ✓ • why Stuart skipped all the subjects the children learnt at school;
  - ✓ • why Stuart thought that it was not important how small the Chairman was;
  - why the children enjoyed speaking with Stuart.
- 6 *Do you think the children liked their new teacher? Why?*
- 7 *What do you think the children will discuss after the break?*

**8** *Agree or disagree.*

- 1 It is dreadful when people make mistakes in spelling.
- 2 It is not interesting to speak about the past.
- 3 One cannot be Chairman if he/she is too small. Size and age are very important.

**9** *What must they be able to do? Choose and say what you think ...*

*a) teachers must be able to do:*

- to explain the rules clearly;
- to advise how to study properly;
- to speak about everything in an interesting way;
- to drive a car.

*b) pupils must be able to do:*

- to listen attentively;
- to spell correctly;
- to climb trees;
- to talk about snakes.

*c) the chairman must be able to do:*

- to understand what is important;
- to explain different laws;
- to play games;
- to speak beautifully.

**10** *Do you agree that these things are important? Why or why not?*

The children named sunlight, blue sky, a bird's song and ice-cream among the most important things.





## How Good Is Your English?



11 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 There is ..... in the classroom when the teacher begins to speak.
- 2 Every class meeting begins with the words: "....., please!"
- 3 Some pupils are ..... from the school because they are ill.
- 4 Many pupils' favourite ..... at school are history and geography.
- 5 Some computers have programs which correct your .....
- 6 In the central part of the city there are monuments to some great men of the .....
- 7 If you want to know how to write a word, look it up in a .....

attention
dictionary
silence
subjects
absent
spelling
past

12 Find the words which are close in meaning.

well-known	to cry
to talk	famous
joy	clever
to shout	to begin
brave	happiness
to start	to speak
bright	bold



- 15 *Read Part II of the story In The Classroom and answer the question: What good laws for the world did the children think of?*

Arthur Green ['ɑ:θə 'ɡri:n], Roy Hart ['rɔɪ 'hɑ:t],  
Harry James ['hæri 'dʒeɪmz]

### In The Classroom

#### Part II

When the bell rang, all the children came back into the classroom and took their seats.

“Now, who wants to be the first?” asked Stuart.

Arthur Green raised his hand. “Don’t eat mushrooms, because there are many toadstools<sup>1</sup> in the forest,” he said.

“That’s not a law,” said Stuart. “It is a piece of friendly advice<sup>2</sup>. Very good advice, Arthur, but advice and law are not the same. Law is much more important than advice. Who else?”

“Don’t steal,” said Roy Hart.

“Very good,” said Stuart. “A good law.”

“Never poison anything but rats,”<sup>3</sup> said Harry James.

“That is not good,” said Stuart. “It is unfair to rats. A law must be fair to everybody.”

“Why must we be fair to rats?” asked Harry. “Rats are very unpleasant.”

“I know that they are,” said Stuart. “But from a rat’s point of view<sup>4</sup> poison is very unpleasant, and the Chairman has to see all sides of the problem<sup>5</sup>.”

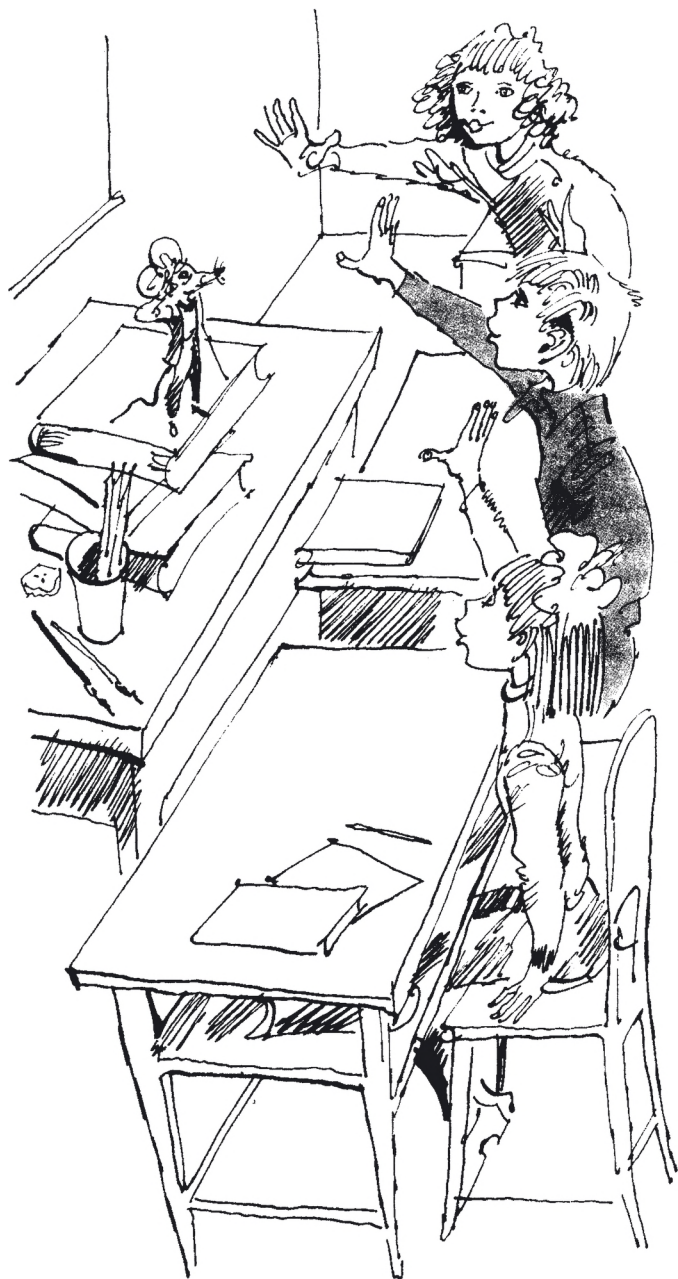
<sup>1</sup> **toadstool** ['tɔudstu:l] — поганка (*гриб*)

<sup>2</sup> **a piece of friendly advice** — дружеский совет

<sup>3</sup> **Never poison [ˈrɔɪz] anything but rats** — Никогда не давайте яд никому, кроме крыс

<sup>4</sup> **from... point of view** [ˈvju:] — с точки зрения...

<sup>5</sup> **has to see all sides of the problem** ['prɒbləm] — должен принимать во внимание все стороны вопроса



“Have you a rat’s point of view?” asked Harry. “You look like a little rat.”

“No,” said Stuart. “I have a mouse’s point of view, but I think that everybody must have his rights in the world. Who else?”

Mary Smith raised her hand. “A law against fighting.”

“It is impractical,” said Stuart. “Boys like to fight, and they will fight all the same<sup>1</sup>. Elizabeth Gardner, your law!”

“Not to be mean<sup>2</sup> to one’s comrades,” said Elizabeth.

“A very fine law,” said Stuart. “But I must say it will be difficult to keep it. There are many mean people in the world. But if you, children, are not mean to each other, and teach all the other boys and girls not to be mean to anybody, perhaps we shall make the world a better place.”

He wiped his face with his handkerchief again because he was very tired. It was not an easy job to be Chairman of the World.

“Now, children, I wish you all a good summer. Summer is wonderful and summer is very important.”

“Like the sunlight” said Roy Hart.

“Like the blue sky!” said Harry James.

“Like a bird’s song!” said Mary Smith.

“That’s right,” said Stuart. “It has been a pleasure to know you all. The lesson is over.”

Stuart got down from the teacher’s desk, went quickly to the door, climbed into his car, waved his hand and drove off to the north. The children ran along the road after the car and shouted, “Good-bye, good-bye, good-bye!”

<sup>1</sup> **all the same** — все равно

<sup>2</sup> **mean** [mi:n] — подлый

## Do You Understand The Story?

- 16** *Answers the questions.*
- 1 What good laws did the children think of?
  - 2 What did Stuart say about laws and rights?
  - 3 What did Stuart say about the duty of the Chairman?
  - 4 What good advice did Stuart give to the children?

### How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 38—39)

### What Do You Think?

- 17** *Choose the sentences below that sum up the most important facts in the story.*
- 1 When the bell rang, the children came back into the classroom and took their seats.
  - 2 Stuart wanted the children to think of some good laws for the world.
  - 3 Stuart wiped his face with his handkerchief because he was very tired.
  - 4 It was not an easy job to be Chairman of the World.
- 18** *Choose the best title for Part II of the story.*
- 1 A Law Must Be Fair To Everybody.
  - 2 Good Laws For The World.
  - 3 Advice And Law Are Not The Same.
- 19** *Say what you think of:*
- a law against fighting;
  - a law not to be mean;
  - a law against stealing.
- 20** *Say what things, from your point of view, are important in life.*
- 21** *Agree or disagree.*
- 1 Children can make the world a better place.
  - 2 Everybody must have his rights in the world.
  - 3 The Chairman has to see all sides of a problem.



## How Good Is Your English?



22 *Use the proper word from the box.*

- 1 It's not ..... to take something that does not belong to you.
- 2 If people are not ..... to each other, they will make the world a better place.
- 3 Each ..... is very ..... and must be fair to everybody.
- 4 It's always a ..... to read books about adventures.
- 5 When you do not know how to act, ask your parents or friends for .....
- 6 From his ..... many school subjects are difficult.

point of view
fair
law
advice
mean
important
pleasure

23 *Find the words which are opposite in meaning.*

to give	impractical
pleasant	dreadful
fair	to go down
practical	the last
wonderful	healthy
to climb	unpleasant
the first	to take
ill	unfair

**24** Use the correct preposition.

- 1 Never be mean ..... anybody.
- 2 There must be strict laws ..... stealing.
- 3 ..... the boy's point of view people needed a law against fighting.
- 4 The car was moving fast ..... the road.
- 5 When you discuss something, you have to see all sides ..... the problem.

against  
to  
from  
of  
along

**25 a)** Write the missing forms of the verbs.

to ring	rang	ring
to eat		
to know		
to raise		
to keep		
to teach		
to drive		
to be		

**b)** Past Indefinite? Present Perfect? Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1 When the bell ..... (ring), the children took their seats.
- 2 The boy wanted to answer and ..... (raise) his hand.
- 3 "You drive wonderfully. Who ..... (teach) you to drive so well?" we asked Arthur.
- 4 "He is a good friend. He never ..... (be) mean or unfair to me", the boy said.
- 5 They could speak only about those laws and rules which we ..... (know).
- 6 He got into his car and ..... (drive) off.