

The Good Old Days

Jada was helping Ms. Funes dig a space for a new porch. “Be careful,” Ms. Funes said. “There used to be a library on this site, about 100 years ago, and we might discover some books buried underground.”

“It would be amazing to unearth real books!” Jada exclaimed. She had learned about them in her twenty-first century culture class.

Suddenly, Jada felt a large object that had pages and seemed to be made of paper. “Is this what you call a book?” Jada asked, and Ms. Funes nodded. The title of the book was *A Guide to Collecting Postage Stamps*. Jada looked at the photographs and wondered what postage stamps were. Ms. Funes explained that they were used on letters. Letters were an ancient form of writing that people used to communicate.

“Why didn’t they just communicate by mental telepathy, like we do?” Jada asked.

“Their technology was very ancient,” Ms. Funes responded. An instant later, Jada felt something much bigger than the book. The two amateur archaeologists spent several minutes unearthing something that had a large viewing screen and a keyboard.

“It is one of the first computers ever created!” Ms. Funes cried.

“But why,” Jada asked, “would they make a computer so immense?” Ms. Funes tried to explain. “They must have appreciated things that were massive and solid. It is hard to comprehend, isn’t it?”

1. What is this story mostly about?
2. Why didn’t Jada know what a real book was?