

THE TV KID – READING TEXT

Lennie was a television addict – he never seemed able to get enough. When he was supposed to be doing his homework his eyes would wander towards the TV set, until one day, whilst sitting, supposedly doing his homework, he drifted off to sleep.

‘And now, Lennie, you have won over three thousand dollars in cash and merchandise and, more important, you have won the chance to spin our Vacation Wheel. How do you feel about that, Lennie?’

‘Real good, sir.’

‘Then join me over here at the Vacation Wheel. Now, Lennie, I don’t have to remind you that up there on the wheel are twenty, all-expenses paid vacations to places all over the world, do I?’

‘No, sir.’

‘That’s’ twenty, all-expenses paid vacations! You can go to Rome, to London, to Paris. You can go to beautiful Hawaii, exotic Mexico or sunny Spain. All in all, there are twenty, all-expenses paid vacations up there on the wheel. But, Lennie, as you know, there are also what we call zonk trips. How do you feel about those, Lennie?’

‘Well, I hope I don’t get one.’

‘And that’s what we’re all hoping too, aren’t we, folks? Hear that applause, Lennie? They’re all with you. Now step up close to the Vacation Wheel. That’s right. The three zonk trips as we call them are here and here and here. Try not to land on them.’

‘I will, sir.’

‘All right, put up your hand now, Lennie, right here on the Vacation Wheel, and Lennie, give it a spin!’

‘Here goes!’

‘Good boy! The wheel is spinning, folks. Lennie really gave it a good spin, didn’t he? Where do you want to go Lennie?’

‘Any of those places is all right with me.’

‘Except the zonk places, right?’

‘Right!’

‘It’s still spinning, and now it’s beginning to slow down. Watch the wheel, folks. Where is Lennie going? To Paris? Rome? London? It’s almost stopped. It looks like Egypt! No!



Rio! No! Oh, no! Look at that! Lennie, you have landed on number thirteen, one of our zonk trips, and I don't have to tell you what that means.'

'It means that I'm going to have to take a zonk trip.'

'Right.'

'Where?'

'Well, let me look in my zonk envelope. Oh, Lennie.'

'What?'

'Oh, Lennie!'

'What? I want to know. What is it?'

'Lennie, you are going to have to spend one night, all expenses paid, in a haunted house!'

'A what?'

'Yes, Lennie, you heard correctly, you are going to Haunted House Number Thirteen located right on the outskirts – that's the dark, scary outskirts, I might add – of beautiful downtown.'

'But I don't want to spend the night in any haunted house.'

'Of course, you don't, but you take your chances, Lennie, just like all the other contestants. Remember that paper you signed when you came on the show?'

'Yes, but I didn't – I mean I couldn't – I mean ...'

'Oh, all right, Lennie, I tell you what I'm going to do. You go to the haunted house, spend one night there, and if you survive – I say, if you survive – then come back next week and we'll let you spin the Vacation Wheel again. How about that?'

'But, sir, couldn't I take my three thousand in cash and merchandise and ...'

'How many want to see him take the cash and merchandise and go home?'

Silence.

'How many want to see him go to the haunted house?'

Wild applause.

'But, sir ...'

'See, the audience is with you. Hear that applause? Well, it's time for a commercial break now, but stay with us, folks, for the second half of Give It a Spin, the show where you pick your prizes and we see that you take them ...'

Source: *Collins Focus on Comprehension Book 4*

English Primary Department

