



39-The Video hiatus, gh

One Friday night after Dan and Rat came back from their circus adventure, Dan said to Rat, “Rat, I want to watch a video.”

“Now Dan,” said Rat, “you know we *stream* videos these days. And we call them 'movies,' or 'shows,' not 'videos.' Nobody goes to a store to rent videos like you and George Washington and Thomas Jefferson did. We don't live in

caves anymore, like how you grew up, and we don't say 'video.'”

“Well,” said Dan, “I liked it the old way better. You went to video store and you could hold the video and read about it. And you could rent it or buy it. Plus, the old movies were better. I miss them. Anyway, let's pick out a vid... uh, a *movie* to watch.”

“Are you sure?” asked Rat. “Every time we try pick out a movie you get angry because the movie I pick is so bad.”

“Well, I thought this time might be different,” said Dan. “It's been a long time.”

“I thought the last time would have taught you, Dan,” said Rat. “You got so angry I thought you would explode. I wanted to watch 'The Neon Spiderchicken,' and you blew a gasket.”

“This time Rat, I have a plan,” said Dan. “We’ll get a documentary.”

“What’s a documentary?” asked Rat.

“It’s nonfiction — it tells a true story. But it’s more like news than like a movie. That way we can avoid all the trash they create these days.”

“Should I just puke now?” said Rat.

Dan said, “Never mind that. You will like a good documentary, an art or science movie. Get the remote and let’s find us a video.”

“A *movie*,” said Rat. “It’s a *movie*, Dan.” Rat began looking for movies.

“Here’s a new movie channel,” Rat said. “It says it has every movie we would ever want to watch.”

“Check it out then,” said Dan. Rat did.

“Here’s a good one!” said Rat. “The Giant Eel That Ate Hawaii!” Dan looked disgusted. “But

if you want a different movie,” Rat continued, “something a little more, uh...”

“Intelligent?” said Dan.

“Yeah, intelligent,” said Rat. “If you want to get something more intelligent it's fine with me.”

“How about we do this, Rat,” said Dan. “You go to the basement TV and look for a good science movie, and I'll look for something artsy up here. Then we'll get back together and pick one to watch.”

“Good idea,” said Rat, and Rat was off to the basement.

“Give it a thorough search, Rat!” Dan yelled behind him. “We want a good one! Write down your choices!”

A while later Dan and Rat met in the kitchen.

“I'll tell you about a movie I picked out,” said Dan, “then you tell me about one that caught your eye.”

“Okay,” said Rat.

“Well,” Dan began, “the first one I liked is this poetry film. It's from the 1972 Blue Hills Poetry Festival. In this film over one-hundred poets read their poems.”

“Can I puke now or later?” said Rat.

“Rat, you have no culture or class,” said Dan. “It's rough trying to keep my mind sharp while living with you. But now tell me about a movie you found in the science movies.”

“Okay!” Rat was excited. “My first movie is called 'The Day All The Dogs Ate.' It's about a medical trial that went bad. A giant cloud of poison gas went up and all the dogs in New York City became zombies. I think I heard

about it on the radio.”

“What?” said Dan. “That's not a true story and you DID NOT hear about it on the radio, Rat! You didn't pick a science movie, you picked a science *fiction* movie!”

“No, it's true Dan,” said Rat. “I'm pretty sure.”

“No,” said Dan. “You didn't pick a good movie. Now, my next movie is GREAT. It's called 'Classical Magic' and I wrote down what it's about:

'Chuck Bison's playing of a minuet on the piano, combined with a duet sang by Mitch Moose and Tammy Turtle, create a magical night of music.'”

“Sounds more like a pitiful night of puking to me,” said Rat.

“Rat! Your brain has already been ruined by watching too much TV!” said Dan.

“No it has not,” said Rat. “And I'll prove it. Just listen to my next choice. It's called 'Laugh Out Loud—Stupid People Caught Doing Stupid Things,'” said Rat.

“Are you the star?” asked Dan.

“Ha ha, Dan,” said Rat.

“Rat,” said Dan, “I must do something to help you, and soon. You have ruined your mind with TV, and you have done a thorough job of it. Maybe the world does need a superhero. I don't expect you to like everything I like, but I hoped you would find something better this time. So let's forget the movie, little buddy. I have an idea. I'm going to my shop.”

The next day Dan was hard at work in his shop when he heard a big truck pull up in front

of the house. Dan went to talk to the driver.

“There must be some mistake,” said Dan.
“We didn't order anything.”

“I have the order sheet right here,” said the driver. “It says the guy who bought all these wanted them brought here right away.”

“Whose name is on the order sheet?” asked Dan.

“Some guy named 'Rat,'" said the driver.

“And what's in the truck?” Dan asked.

“A ton of old movies, every old format we had. Says here this Rat guy wanted to make his buddy happy, and his buddy liked old videos.”

“Rat!” Dan yelled.

The driver dumped the whole load of videos on the lawn.

What a riot!

Vocabulary

short o sound with -gh words

bought	wrought	brought	caught
thought	cough	ought	taught

long o sound -gh words

dough though although thorough

short u sound -gh words

enough tough rough

hiatus words

fluid	science	riot	ruin
duet	video	Hawaii	lion
area	giant	create	idiot
neon	trial	quiet	hernia
poet	piano	radio	hiatus
poem	idea	pliers	idiom

Weird Words

disgusted	different	documentary	house
basement	continued	nonfiction	already
together	replied	intelligent	pitiful
behind	one-hundred	listen	didn't
zombies	heard	search	kitchen
excited	front	poison	choices

Dictation

Rat bought pills for his cough.

Dan thought Rat brought the giant cake.

Rat thought Dan ought to make the tough cake.

Rat taught the king to dance.

The fox was caught in a trap.

Rat ate the cookie dough.

I like Rat, though he is tough to deal with.

Although Rat was thorough, he lost.

Is Rat tough enough to win the long race?

The Race is on tough ground in Hawaii.

Did the poet read her poem on the radio?

There was a giant riot in Hawaii.

There is a quiet lion in the area.

Rat bought an old video about a giant eel.

Do not ruin the neon sign, it is tough to fix.

We will play a duet on the piano.

The lion ate the poet to much applause.

If you can read this, that is good enough.

We were thorough in our work.

Rat brought a dog to the cat riot.