



## **40-Wonder Man** **ph as f, -ion, -ior**

Dan made Rat return all the videos, then Dan called Rat and made Rat sit down.

“Rat, your behavior has caused us to be in catastrophe after catastrophe,” Dan told Rat.

“But we've had lots of fun!” said Rat.

“No,” said Dan. “These catastrophes may be fun for a cat, but people have responsibilities. You put all your emphasis on fun, and I like to

have fun too. But we need to put more emphasis on doing what is right. On just being good. Simple goodness.”

“What?” asked Rat. “Did you have some sort of epiphany, Dan?”

“No, Rat,” said Dan. “I guess it's just time to get better. We need to be more responsible. And I need to do more good in the world. No more getting blown up in a circus. No more selling my land and home.”

“Do you mean no more diving onto rocks or riding mean mules?” Rat asked. “No more eating from the trash with Chicken Fred? No more Captain P.P.? What will we do for fun?”

“Rat, you don't have to lead a rebellion or get caught in a catastrophe to have fun. We are going to have a new philosophy around here.”

“What philosophy is that, Dan?” Asked Rat.

*“Death By Boredom?”*

“No,” said Dan. “Rat, there comes a time in life when you have to shut off the TV and go try make the world a better place, to add some goodness to the world. So from now on we are going to have fun doing *good* things.”

“Not in a million years, Dan,” said Rat. “Nothing beats eating from the trash!”

“That's only your opinion right now,” said Dan. “And anyway, I don't want you to lose your fun spirit, you make my life fun too. I just want us to have some focus.”

Dan walked to his trophy case. He picked up a trophy and took it over to show Rat.

“See this?” Dan asked Rat.

“Yes,” said Rat. “It's a little naked man made of metal.”

“Oh, he's not naked!” said Dan. “He has on

shorts! I won this trophy for being the best junior wrestler in the nation.” Dan went and got another trophy from the trophy case.

“More little naked metal men?” asked Rat.

“No,” said Dan. “I won this trophy for being the best senior wrestler in the nation.”

“Dan, I'm not going to wrestle you if that's what you want,” said Rat.

“No, Rat,” said Dan. “Here's what I mean: Remember at the circus how I took care of Paul and Wally?”

“Yeah!” Rat exclaimed. “Dan was *the man* that day!”

“Well, Rat, you said if you could wrestle like that you would choose to be a superhero.”

“I would,” said Rat. “I'd be Dolphin Man, running my nose into every bad guy I met!” Rat jumped up and plowed his head into Dan.

“Oooof!” Dan grunted.

“Or I would be Pheasant Man,” said Rat, strutting around popping his head forward, “stalking the nation's milo fields, protecting my fowl friends!”

“Until the first hunting season,” said Dan. “Then you'd be Bullet Hole Man!” Rat sat back down.

“Right, Dan,” said Rat. “So what do you have in mind?”

“This!” said Dan. Dan reached up to a high shelf and pulled down a costume. On the front of the costume was a circle, and inside the circle was a big W on top of a big M.

“Wonder Man!” said Dan. “I was going to do this a long time ago. That's why this logo is painted on the side of our van. So what do you think, Rat?”

“About what?”

“About Wonder Man, Rat! Wonder Man!”

“Well, you're already making me wonder,” said Rat. “I wonder if you're losing your marbles.”

“Oh, come on Rat,” said Dan. “You like adventure. You like fun. So let's go have adventures doing good instead of being blown up and shot from cannons!”

“But Dan,” said Rat, “a superhero needs bad guys to fight.”

“There are plenty of phantoms and fiends,” said Dan.

“No, there are not,” said Rat. “Superman and Batman beat them all up. I saw it on television.”

“Aha!” said Dan. “You have been blinded, Rat!” “What about Television Head and Screen

Head?”

“Not quite Lex Luthor or The Joker,” said Rat. “You'll never get famous fighting those guys. Plus, every superhero needs a trusty sidekick.”

“Rat, I don't want to get famous. I used to, but now I just want to do some good. And you can be my sidekick! We still have your Captain Power Purrson costume!”

“Right Dan,” said Rat. “And I can change into my costume in a garbage can. I can fight onion breath. Captain Mouthwash.”

“Rat, you have a bad attitude,” said Dan. “Whatever we decide your name should be, can't you see the adventures that await us? Forget about Captain Mouthwash. We can fight Television Head and Screen Head and all the other phantoms and fiends the other

superheroes missed. So what do you say, Rat? Is it a deal?”

Rat thought a moment, then said, “Why not, Dan? We may as well get beat up by bad guys instead of all the old catastrophes.”

“Great!” said Dan.

Dan and Rat took a selfie to commemorate the moment Wonder Man and his trusty sidekick, Captain P.P., became a crime-fighting team. Then Dan shouted out:

“Let the bad guys beware!”

“Be where?” Rat asked.

“No, beWARE,” said Dan. “Shall we go get your costume?”

“Yes,” said Rat, and Rat smiled a satisfied smile. “Let the bad guys beware!”



## **Vocabulary**

### **ph**

phantom	phone	trophy	emphasis
photograph	phony	phrase	pamphlet
philosophy	phonics	physical	epiphany
catastrophe	phonetic	dolphin	pheasant

### **-ior / -ion**

junior	senior	behavior	superior	union
million	billion	trillion	opinion	onion

### **some silent b words**

thumb crumb dumb plumber lamb climb limb

### **some silent d words**

hedge edge ledge bridge dodge  
lodge budge judge

### **some silent g words**

sign resign align gnu gnash  
gnome gnaw gnarl

### **some silent k words**

knee knock knight knife knuckle  
knob know knowledge

### **some silent h words**

ghost ghastly ghetto heir  
hour honor honest

### **some silent w words**

wrestle wreck write wreath wriggle  
wrong wrap wring wrench

## **some silent n words**

condemn autumn solemn

## **some silent p words**

psalm psychic psychology  
ptarmigan pterodactyl ptomaine

## **Weird Words**

sidekick	focus	superhero	instead
famous	return	milo	automatic
wrestle	spirit	logo	declare
wrestler	boredom	circle	fiend
lose	metal	marbles	selfie

## **Dictation**

Do you have a trophy case?

Rat saw a pheasant and a dolphin at the zoo.

Are you a junior or a senior this year?

Rat saw a million stars in the sky.

Rat and Dan will catch a phantom.

Rat can be physical if he has to.

Now Rat has a cell phone.

Will you eat an onion for a dollar?

Rat says he has superior fur.

Don't miss "Rat The Cat And The  
Space Dogs From Planet X-K9"