

READING PRACTICE

JIMMY WOODARD: COMPUTER WHIZ KID



by Chris Winger

Why is Jimmy different from the kids around him?

1 Where do you see yourself at
2seventeen? Owning a business?
3Owning a car? Saving for
4college? Chances are you'll
5eventually do these things, but
6maybe not when you're
7seventeen... unless you're
8someone like Jimmy Woodard!
9Jimmy Woodard is a high school

10student from Manchester, Vermont, U.S.A. In many ways, Jimmy is a normal teenager
11who spends a lot of time online every day. But in other ways, Jimmy has always been
12different from the kids around him. When Jimmy was very young, his parents realized
13he had a special gift. While other children were playing with toys, Jimmy would take
14his toys apart to find out how they worked. But Jimmy's gift really became obvious
15when he started using computers. Jimmy was only six when he started using his
16parents' computer. That's not so unusual these days. However, in Jimmy's case, if he
17had a problem with the computer, he figured out how to fix it by himself! When Jimmy
18was in fifth grade, his technology teacher gave him a computer to work on. Jimmy
19took the computer apart and put it back together again. Since then, Jimmy has been
20working with computers in his school, even helping teachers with their technology
21problems. When he was fourteen, Jimmy decided to open his own technology
22consulting company. Since that time, he's brought in about 200 regular customers.
23One of them is former astronaut Gerald Carr. "It feels funny sometimes," said Jimmy
24with a smile. "I can't believe I'm helping an astronaut with his computer!" Jimmy has
25done more than just work on computers. Since he was eleven or twelve, Jimmy has
26been helping and working in his community. He's managed the sound and lights for a
27local TV show and for theatrical performances. Jimmy has also worked as a DJ. "I've
28been a DJ at more than fifty dance events already," he said. "It's really fun." Jimmy has
29saved a lot of money over the past three years. "I've just bought my own car," he said
30happily. "I've used some of my money to buy more computers or equipment for my
31company. But I'm trying to save the rest of it for college." As for his future, Jimmy
32explained, "I don't know what I want to do yet. I know I want to do something with
33computers. But I'm interested in a lot of different things. I'd like to live in a big city
34someday. I can't wait to see what happens next."

Read the questions and the answers in the text.

1. **How has Jimmy helped his teachers? EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. He has helped them with their lesson problems.
- B. He has helped them with their homework problems.
- C. He has helped them with their technological problems.

2. **How long has Jimmy brought in customers?** **EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. He has brought in customers since he was ten.
- B. He has brought in customers since he was fourteen.
- C. He has brought in customers since he was seventeen.

3. **What has Jimmy been doing since he was eleven or twelve?** **EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. He has been helping and working in his community.
- B. He has been helping with technological problems.
- C. He has been managing the sound and lights.

4. **How long has Jimmy saved money?** **EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. He has saved money for about three months.
- B. He has saved money for about three years.
- C. He has saved money for about five years.

5. **Was Jimmy more interested in knowing how toys worked than playing with them when he was a kid?** **EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. Yes, he was
- B. No, he wasn't

6. **Has Jimmy helped other professionals with their computers?** **EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. Yes, he has
- B. No, he hasn't

7. **Has Jimmy spent all his money on buying a car, computers and equipment?** **EVIDENCE LINE:**

- A. Yes, he has
- B. No, he hasn't

8. **What is the first paragraph of the story ?**

- A. Title
- B. Body
- C. Introduction