



# Lonzo's Problem

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** Going to school is important. It's a school day, but Lonzo is still in bed. He tells his mom he may have a sore throat, but that may not be true. Maybe there is something else going on with him.

“Come on, Lonzo! You will be late for school,”

9 Mom yelled.

11 “I can't go to school today,” Lonzo said. “I feel sick.

22 I should stay home and rest. I may have a sore throat.”

34 Lonzo's mom gave him a stern look. She felt his

44 cheek and said, “You may have a sore throat. What do

55 you mean may? You have a sore throat, or you do not.”

## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** Lonzo might be using a sore throat as an excuse. Sometimes people pretend to be sick when they are afraid of something or because they feel bad about something.

67 “Well,” Lonzo said, “it's not a lot sore, just sort of

78 sore.” He gave his mom a look. “Do you think I snore

90 at night?” he asked. “That may make it sore. What do

101 you think?”

103 “I think you better explain why you would make

112 up this tale,” said Mom. “Your throat is not sore. Start

123 with that!”



### Part 3

**Teacher Reads** Read on to find out the real reason why Lonzo doesn't want to go to school and what happens.

125 Lonzo stopped to think, then said, "Well, you  
133 see, it's my art class. I did fine when we had to paint  
146 landscapes. But the teacher has started us on clay.  
155 I have to make a clay stork today and I just can't.  
167 When I try, my stork looks more like a horse.

177 "I got a sneak peek at Jeff's stork last week," Lonzo  
188 said. "His looks like a stork! When he sees mine, he  
199 will tease me for the rest of the day. Please, please let  
211 me stay home!"

214 "Well, Lonzo," Mom said. "What is important is that  
223 you work hard and do your best work. Will you have  
234 time to work on the stork today? Maybe you can spend  
245 more time on it."

249 Lonzo had to think for a bit. Then he said, "I could  
261 do that. I will keep working on it. I can tell Jeff I have  
275 more work to do on my stork."

282 Mom smiled. "That seems like a plan to me. Time to  
293 get going or you will be late for school."

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