



The Console Button

Diego loved playing video games, but one summer afternoon, something strange happened. As he pressed the glowing start button on his console, the screen swirled like a whirlpool. Suddenly, Diego was pulled inside! He landed in a pixelated world full of floating coins and jumping mushrooms. At first, he was amazed, but then a booming voice echoed: *"Complete the level, or stay here forever!"* Diego gulped. He picked up a controller that appeared in his hand and whispered, "Game on."

Close Reading Questions

1. What unusual thing happened when Diego pressed the start button?
2. How is the world Diego lands in described?
3. Why do you think the author included the booming voice's warning?
4. What does Diego's reaction ("Game on") show about his character?
5. If you were pulled into a video game, what kind of challenge would you hope to face?