

My Life as a Potato: Vocabulary Guide



Contents:

- This guide includes four vocabulary words per chapter (totaling 100 words) as well as one pre-reading journal prompt per chapter.
- Each journal prompt utilizes a vocabulary word. This will help students internalize the word while introducing them to themes in the coming chapter.
- At the end, two vocabulary-related (and potato-related!) activities are explained.

Chapter 1:

Reserved
Oblivious
Bicker
Ricochet

Journal prompt: Would you consider yourself more **reserved** or outgoing? In what situations are you more reserved? In which situations are you more outgoing?

Chapter 2:

Tolerate
Chortle
Menacing
Compromise

What behaviors do your teachers not **tolerate** in their classrooms? Why do they not?

Chapter 3:

Mimic
Impression
Assume
Critique

Sometimes **mimicking** and making **impressions** of others can be funny, and other times it can be mean. When is it okay to make **impressions**? When is it not?

Chapter 4:

Rickety
Evaporate
Morale
Momentum

Write about a time you either participated on a sport or watched a sporting event. What factors help to keep a sports team's **morale** high? What helps to keep the crowd's morale high?

Chapter 5:

Debut
Lurk
Mutual
Alias

If you were a spy and had to come up with a false identity, what would your **alias** be? What would your backstory be?

Chapter 6:

Bewildered
Annihilated
Harassment
Sanctuary

What special place in your life do you consider a type of **sanctuary**? Describe this place. What do you do when you are there? Why does it make you feel peaceful?

Chapter 7:

Rummage
Confiscate
Radioactive
Solemn

Have you ever made a **solemn** promise to keep a secret? What kinds of secrets are okay to keep? What kinds of secrets are not okay to keep?

Chapter 8:

Blackmail
Overreact
Enchantment
Concoction

Think about a time you or someone you know **overreacted**. What was the situation? How did things turn out in the end?

Chapter 9:

Exclusive
Obligated
Interrogation
Morph

Think of a time you felt **obligated** to do something you didn't want to do. Did you follow through anyway? Describe what happened.

Chapter 10:

Insist
Persevere
Unsettled
Indecipherable

Write about a time you encountered a difficult challenge and had to **persevere**. What happened?

Chapter 11:

Tense
Loiter
Reluctant
Crescendo

Write about a time you felt **reluctant** to talk to someone. Did you ever end up talking to them? If so, how did it go?

Chapter 12:

Karma
Routine
Portable
Rogue

Do you believe in **karma**? Why or why not? Describe a situation in which doing good acts will lead to good things happening to you.

Chapter 13:

Masterpiece
Barge
Acquired
Execution

What is a skill you have **acquired**? What did you do to **acquire** it?

Chapter 14:

Jingle
Baffled
Eager
Implied

Invent a silly cartoon **jingle** for one of your favorite products. Make sure it rhymes!

Chapter 15:

Thorough
Encourage
Redeem
Wallow

What do you do to **wallow** when you are sad? What do you do to cheer yourself up when you are done wallowing?

Chapter 16:

Neglect
Signature
Disintegrate
Disperse

What might others consider to be your **signature** phrase? What is one of your parent's signature phrases? What is one of your teacher's signature phrases?

Chapter 17:

Limp
Literally
Racket
Scuttle

Journal Prompt: When was the last time you were so tired your body felt **limp**? What happened to make you feel so **limp**?

Chapter 18:

Askew
Hesitate
Endorphins
Bluff

Many activities cause our bodies to release **endorphins**, like exercising, laughing, and riding roller coasters. Write about a time you have felt a rush of happiness after participating in one of these activities.

Chapter 19:

Wary
Inherit
Dysfunctional
Non-confrontational

If you can tell someone is upset with you, is your first instinct to talk to them about it, or to avoid them? Why? Overall, would you consider yourself a confrontational or a **non-confrontational** person?

Chapter 20:

Universal
Assortment
Humiliate
Tight-knit

Write about a **tight-knit group** you belong to. This may be your family, a group of friends, a club, a church group, etc.

Chapter 21:

Scrawl
Transform
Carnivorous
Consciousness

What do you usually think about before you fall asleep, right before you lose **consciousness**?

Chapter 22:

Wince
Circumstance
Fidget
Residue

Under what **circumstances** is it okay to miss school? List at least three circumstances.

Chapter 23:

Rendition
Heckle
Archnemesis
Supersonic

If you were a superhero, who would your **archnemesis** be? Describe their name, personality, appearance, and actions. Make sure your archnemesis would be a challenge for you to beat.

Chapter 24:

Hijack
Flourish
Hoist
Boisterous

Write about a time your class got overly **boisterous**? If you can't think of an incident that happened at school, write about a time you got boisterous with your siblings or friends.

Chapter 25:

Ecstatic
Disruptive
Consequence
Appalled

Write about a time you broke a rule and had to suffer the **consequences**. What were the consequences?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:

Potato Pics!

Have the students choose ten vocabulary words and draw a picture representing each word. Bonus points if the picture includes a potato!

Skit in a Bag

Divide students into groups of three. Let each group draw three vocabulary words out of a hat. Hand them a bag with three props (one being a potato!) Each group must write and perform a mini-skit including their vocab words and their props.