

# 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.
- The teacher might write 1-4 of the vocab words on the board before each chapter and pause while reading so students may guess the meaning in context.
- 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 makes 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?

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## 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.