



Reader 1: _____ Date: _____

Reader 2: _____

Reader 3: _____

Words to Preview

Point & Say

- 1 **tuber** – a short, thick stem that grows under the ground.
*A potato is a **tuber**.*
- 2 **fertilize** – add natural or chemical substances to make the soil better for growing crops.
*The farmer wanted to **fertilize** the soil so he could grow a large crop.*
- 3 **mature** – to become ripe or fully developed.
*Some vegetables **mature** more quickly than others.*
- 4 **famine** – a drastic food shortage that affects a large area.
*Many people died during the **famine** that struck several African countries.*

vitamins
minerals
fiber
Ireland

Potatoes

Note: Hyphenated words count as one word.

READER 1

The potato is a vegetable. About 80 percent of a potato is water. The rest 15
is made of vitamins, minerals, and fiber. These are things that make foods 28
healthy to eat and help young people to grow. 37

Potato plants are bushy, with dark green leaves and small flowers. The 49
plants can grow up to three feet tall, but the potatoes themselves do not 63
grow above the ground. Potatoes are tubers, which are roots that grow 75
under the ground. They store energy in the form of food. 86

Potatoes can be a variety of different colors. They can have white, 98
brown, red, blue, or purple skin. The inside of potatoes is usually yellow 111
or white. 113

READER 2

Potatoes also have different shapes and sizes. Some potatoes are round, 124
and others are closer to an oval shape. The smallest potatoes weigh 136
about an ounce, but the largest weigh more than two pounds. 147

One potato plant usually produces three to twenty potatoes. The 157
number depends on the soil, the type of plant, and the climate. 169



Growing potato plants takes work. Farmers fertilize the soil to help their crops grow. They use machines to plant perfect rows of potatoes. They have to keep weeds and pests from harming the crops. 181
193
203

Potatoes must be planted every year. It takes about 70 to 180 days for plants to mature. The vines must be brown before potatoes can be harvested. Farmers also use machines to dig up the potatoes. Then, they must be sorted and checked by hand. 217
229
240
248

READER 3

Potato plants can grow in many areas, but they grow best when it is warm during the day and cooler at night. Farmers need to harvest crops before heavy frosts because cold weather can make it easy for potatoes to bruise. Cold can also cause potatoes to rot. 262
275
287
296

People have grown potatoes for thousands of years. Potatoes were first grown in South America. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers took potatoes back to Europe. Before long, the potato was a common food in parts of Europe. They were a very important food in Ireland. 307
318
332
341

In the 1840s, many Irish people depended on potato crops. Sadly, in 1845, disaster hit the country. The potato crops failed because of disease. This was called the Great Irish Famine. Many people did not have enough to eat. Others got sick. More than two million people left Ireland or died. 353
365
377
390
392

Potatoes are still an important food in Ireland. They are also eaten in most other parts of the world. People like potatoes cooked many ways. They like them boiled, fried, mashed, or baked. Cooks put them in stews, soups, and salads. 405
417
430
433

		Reader	Reader
		2	3
	Reader 1		
	Number of Words at Bracket		
	Subtract: Number of Words at Subhead	-113	-248
Number of Words at Bracket			
Subtract: Number of Errors	-	-	-
Equals: Words Correct per Minute (WCPM)			
Accuracy Percentage	%	%	%



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Investigate the Text

- 1 Underline the sentence that tells **what percentage** of a potato is water. Write ① at the beginning of this underlined sentence.
- 2 Underline the sentence that tells **how many** potatoes usually grow on a potato plant. Write ② at the beginning of this underlined sentence.
- 3 Underline the sentence that tells **how long** it takes potato plants to mature. Write ③ at the beginning of this underlined sentence.
- 4 Underline the sentence that tells **when** the Great Irish Famine happened. Write ④ at the beginning of this underlined sentence.

Calculation Boxes

		Reader 2	Reader 3
	Reader 1		
Number of Words at Bracket			
Subtract: Number of Words at Subhead		-113	-248
Equals: Number of Words Attempted			
Subtract: Number of Errors	-	-	-
Equals: Words Correct per Minute (WCPM)			
Accuracy Percentage	%	%	%



Mark It!

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | b e l o n g | 7 | a n k l e t |
| 2 | c h i p m u n k | 8 | l i f e l o n g |
| 3 | r e t h i n k | 9 | c l i f f h a n g e r |
| 4 | b o o m e r a n g | 10 | s n o w b a n k |
| 5 | d o n k e y | 11 | i n k b l o t |
| 6 | r e s t r u n g | 12 | f i n g e r |

Read It!

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | chipmunk | finger | snowbank |
| 2 | anklet | boomerang | donkey |
| 3 | rethink | inkblot | restrung |
| 4 | cliffhanger | lifelong | belong |
| 5 | boomerang | donkey | chipmunk |
| 6 | inkblot | snowbank | anklet |
| 7 | belong | cliffhanger | lifelong |
| 8 | finger | restrung | rethink |



Word Sort

Write chunks and all vowel spellings in the correct columns. The schwa spellings are circled and filled in.

CHALLENGING

1 @•long

2 scout•@ed

3 frank•ly

4 c@m•plain

Chunk	Schwa	Short	Long	Other	R-Controlled
ong	a				
	e				
	o				

MORE CHALLENGING

5 skate•board

6 mus•tang

7 o•ver•think

8 pro•gram

Chunk	Schwa	Short	Long	Other	R-Controlled

MOST CHALLENGING

9 ex•plo•sive

10 thank•ful

11 mon•@•tone

12 coun•ter•sunk

Chunk	Schwa	Short	Long	Other	R-Controlled
	i_e				
	u				
	o				



CHALLENGING

- 1 a small trinket to remember me (6)
- 2 sang a tune like the pretty songbird (7)
- 3 likes to drink oolong tea with her bagel (8)
- 4 cannot pull the long bee stinger out of his finger (10)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 will slink away quickly if I ever encounter a skunk (10)
- 6 flung a thick fingerling potato to the pink kangaroo (9)
- 7 play ping-pong with the prankster in the clown costume (9)
- 8 did a tango, a conga, and the limbo at a swanky party (12)

CHALLENGING

- 1 First, find out if the subject of the phrase is singular or plural. (13)
- 2 Sandra never wore the anklet with the shiny mustang charm. (10)
- 3 The trunk of that oak tree is a hangout for a noisy woodpecker. (13)
- 4 Albert's old swim trunks shrank in the laundry, so he had to bring his newest pair. (16)

MORE CHALLENGING

- 5 Greta said she will bring me a boomerang from her yearlong trip around the world. (15)
- 6 When I awoke yesterday, I saw that snow had blanketed the embankment near my shed. (15)
- 7 Books with really good cliffhangers at the end of each chapter make me linger in bed a little longer. (19)
- 8 My cranky bunkmate at camp is finally in a better mood after hearing that we are eating pancakes for dinner. (20)



SENTENCES

1. Read each sentence.
2. Underline all of the chunks.
3. Circle the words that have a chunk **and** are more than two syllables.

- 1 A prankster connected all of the notes in the songbook before the Thanksgiving musical.
- 2 The lanky kangaroo sank down into the fuzzy blanket and rested.
- 3 I think I'll stop by the fishmongers to get some fresh halibut and longneck eel for the chowder.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Create **one** sentence with at least **three** words that rhyme with **sink**. Underline those rhyming words. For an extra challenge, try to include more than three rhyming words in your sentence.
