Writer Task – A Potatoes Journey

**General Concept:**

**“**A Potatoes Journey” is a short IDN that follows a young spud named Poe. Poe was born and raised in the country; in fact, it is all he knows. When the prophesized harvest day approaches, Poe is faced with the ultimate challenge, what is it he wants to become?

**Settings:**

1. A potato field with row after row of potato plants as far as the eye can see. As the story progresses a harvester can be seen in the distance. This harvester will take the potatoes to their true destiny.
2. The factor where potatoes were shaped and packaged. The environment is vast, cold, and metallic. As one enters the room, they are engulfed by the sound of slicing, stamping, sealing, and packaging.
3. Kroger. Here spuds reach their destination to be purchased by both those within the community. Spuds are either sold as they were harvested or in another form.
4. McDonald's. Here spuds awake to find themselves in a plastic sleeve before taking a warm bath and meeting their new friends.
5. Lowes. Here spuds eagerly await in the garden section to be purchased, planted, and start a new generation.

**Opening Dialogue:**

Only two more days, Poe thought. Two more days and he gets to leave his country roots behind and become what he was always meant to be a **……..**

Wait a second. What am I supposed to be? Poe looked at the others around him and suddenly felt out of place. **Pomme de Terre** was ready to fly off to France and become **la puree.** His buddy Taters knew he was always meant to be a tater tot and Aloo was ready to be a mom. That is a problem for later, Poe thought. I still have **three** days.

**“Make that, two days.”**

**Ehh, I still got one night.”**

Before Poe knew it, Pomme de Terre was plucked and so was Tater. As Aloo was saying her goodbyes, Poe felt himself uprooted as well. As Poe was being lifted into the harvester an idea came into his mind! “I am going to be **myself, a French fry, a father!”**

**1)** “Omg, I could be a father! Start my own family and spread my family roots.”

**2)** “Still, I really do not want to do anything. I just want to be me.”

**3)** “I have heard everyone loves French fries! I really cannot go wrong.”

After a brief moment of panic and a short ride on the harvester, Poe finds himself and his friends in a place they have not seen before. It is cold and loud. Poe tried to look around but before he could, he found himself tossed onto a conveyor belt. As Poe passed under a waterfall of warm water, he noticed that his friends were each rolling in different directions. Thinking quickly, Poe uses all his might to roll after **Pomme de Terre, Tator, or Aloo.**

**Branching Narratives:**

A. As Poe rolled towards Pomme de Terre, he found himself suddenly dropping. He did not have time to think before being dried off and placed into a mesh bag. Looking around he sees Aloo! **“Where are we going?”** Poe asks.

“To Lowes” Aloo responds. “We are going to be **parents**.”

The very next day Poe found himself cozied up with Aloo looking out between the mesh. He could not wait to get back to the fields. To feel the soil on his skin and to enjoy the darkness he knows his tiny sprouts would enjoy as well. One day soon, they will be faced with the same question he was.

What do they want to become?

B. Rolling towards Tator, Poe realizes he made the wrong decision. \*SLICE SLICE SLICE\* right before his eyes and coming closer and closer was a sharp blade. Poe had to think quickly.

Should he try to **run** or **keep going**?

1. Running did not work! Instead of avoiding the slicer he ran right into another. Yet this one missed him entirely. He made it, he was whole, but the same could not be said for those around him. Poe had to get out. As Poe rolled off the belt, he found himself at the top of a box, “so this is my journey” he thought. “I guess I get to be myself.”

And be himself, he was. For the next week, Poe enjoyed his quiet life. A life of observation as he sat on his shelf in the produce department of Kroger. He was himself but he knew with the right friend he could be so much more.

Still Poe found himself, right back where he started. Wondering what it was, he would yet become.

2.“Let’s just get this over with,” Poe thought. **\*SLICE SLICE\***

Looking at his reflection in the metallic equipment Poe thought to himself “Dang I look good!” All of Poe’s beautiful curves were replaced with the sharp edges of a chiseled potato. For the first time in his life, he could even stand up straight!

Ready to take on his next adventure, Poe jumped into the closest open bag mark “McDonalds” and found himself falling asleep. When he woke, he was dipped into a warm slippery bath! “Could life get any better!”

After soaking, Poe was scooped up, salted, and placed in the most beautiful red packaging. He knew his life would be short, but at least he could make another happy.

C. Rolling towards Aloo he realized he was not yet ready for sprouts. After all, he was only born a few days ago. Making a sharp turn, Poe jumped to reach a lower conveyor belt. To his dismay, he underestimated the distance and fell to the floor with a hard **THUD.**

Looking at his surroundings, Poe did not quite understand where he was. It wasn’t cold anymore, but it was still noisy, in a new way. He could feel the sun struggling to reach him and the tickle of grass at the edge of his curves. If only he could get himself back

**R**

**O**

**L**

**L**

**I**

**N**

**G**

Using the last of his energy Poe twisted one more time and found himself staring at the most beautiful dirt he had ever seen. Poe did not want to be a parent or French fry. He wanted to be himself and within this soil that is just what he will be.

**Flow Chart:**

