Chip is sure he has the annual Spud City Festival sack race in the bag—he's been practicing all year. The Home Fries and Sweet Potatoes are all rooting for him. The French Fries even bring their tots over for pictures. But when Curly the springy curly fry shows up, Chip knows he's in trouble. Can Chip win the race or will his dream of winning be mashed?
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Pennsylvania Core Standards for Reading Language Arts

CC.1.2 – Reading Literature 1.3.K.A, 1.3.K.B, 1.3.K.C, 1.3.1.A, 1.3.1.B, 1.3.1.C, 1.3.2.A, 1.3.2.B, 1.3.2.C, 1.3.3.A, 1.3.3.B, 1.3.3.C, 1.3.4.A, 1.3.4.B, 1.3.4.C, 1.3.5.A, 1.3.5.B, 1.3.5.C, 1.3.K.G, 1.3.1.G, 1.3.2.G, 1.3.3.G, 1.3.4.G, 1.3.5.G

CC.1.4 – Writing 1.4.K.M, 1.4.K.N, 1.4.K.O, 1.4.1.M, 1.4.1.N, 1.4.1.0, 1.4.2.M, 1.4.2.N, 1.4.2.0, 1.4.3.M, 1.4.3.N, 1.4.3.0, 1.4.4.M, 1.4.4.N, 1.4.4.0, 1.4.5.M, 1.4.5.N, 1.4.5.0

Ways to use Chip and Curly, the Great Potato Race in a classroom:

This picture book is about a potato chip with a dream of winning a Golden Bushel Award at the Annual Spud City Sack Race. Chip practices until he feels confident he can win. Then Curly shows up and he has quite a spring in his step. Chip worries if he can win the race or if his dream of winning will be mashed.
BEFORE YOU READ…

- Look closely at the cover of CHIP AND CURLY, THE GREAT POTATO RACE. Can you guess what the story may be about? What do you see in the illustration to support your thoughts?

- Read the book summary on the jacket flap. What does this description tell you about the story?

- Have students guess who will win the race. Take a vote. How many think Chip will win? Curly? Neither? How many think the sack race will end in a tie?

READING AND LANGUAGE:

- Read CHIP AND CURLY, THE GREAT POTATO RACE to the class. Pause the reading after Curly trips and Chip is pondering what to do. Ask students to share what they think will happen.

- Explain to the students that a pun is a joke that uses a clever play on words. Point out some of the puns to the class.

- There are lots of different types of potatoes (as well as words associated with potatoes) in this book. Have students make two lists: one with the types of potatoes mentioned in the book and one with words associated with potatoes.

WRITING ACTIVITIES:

- Pretend you are a news reporter writing an article on the event. What would you write? What would your headline be?

- The Shoestring Fries show up at the end of the story in time to compete in the relay race. Have students write a continuation of the story showing who will win the relay race.
CRITICAL THINKING:

- This book deals with the themes of competition and sportsmanship. Start a discussion about the virtue of good sportsmanship. Is it more important to win at a sporting event? Or, is it more important to help another competitor? Ask students to explain their answers.

- Discuss obstacles and challenges that Chip faces in the story. How does he overcome them?

- Chip turned around to help Curly after he fell. Ask students to think about whether or not they would have done the same thing. Why or why not?

- Ask students if they ever tried to win something but ended up losing. Ask for volunteers to share how they felt. Did they learn anything from the experience?

- Ask students to think about which character they relate to more - Chip or Curly. Have them share their answers.

ART:

- There are lots of potatoes listed in the book. Have students choose their favorite potato and draw a picture of it.

- Have a contest. Encourage students to decorate a potato like a book character and bring it to school. Students can vote on their favorite one.
Did you ever...

win an award or try to earn an award (a medal, a ribbon, a trophy, or a certificate)?
What was the award for?

Some examples are:
Spelling Bee, perfect attendance,
good citizenship, sports, grades, etc.

______________________________________________________________

What did you do to prepare for it?

______________________________________________________________

In the box below, draw a picture of an award you won or an award you would like to win some day.
Number the events (1 through 7) in the order they take place in the story.

1. Curly arrives at the sack race
2. The Shoestring Fries arrive at the relay race
3. Chip practices for the sack race
4. Curly trips and falls
5. Chip and Curly practice for the relay race
6. The other potatoes race past Chip and Curly
7. Chip helps Curly get back up
DIRECTIONS:
Find a friend and join the race. Use two buttons or other small items as playing pieces. Then, flip a coin. If it lands on heads, move ahead two spaces. If it lands on tails, move one space. Who will get to the finish line first?
Extra! Extra! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Pretend you are a news reporter writing an article on the Spud City Sack Race. What would you write? What would your headline be?

In the large box below, write a brief article describing what happened at the race. Be sure to include details about who competed, what happened, etc. In the smaller box, you can draw a picture of the racers.
One Potato, two potato, three potato, four!

There are a lot of potatoes listed in the book. Can you match up the type of potato with the pictures listed below?
What kind of potato is your favorite? Circle the name of your favorite potato listed in the word-bank below.

Word Bank:

- French Fries
- Home Fries
- Twice Baked Potatoes
- Waffle Fries
- Tater Tots
- Potato Chips
- Shoestring Fries
- Yams
- Red-skinned Curly Fries
- Sweet Potatoes
- Baked Potatoes

There are lots of words ABOUT potatoes in this book (hashed, mashed, etc.). How many you can find?
WORD SEARCH

Find the words from the word bank in the Word Search Puzzle below.

CHIP AND CURLY, THE GREAT POTATO RACE

Announcer  Curly  Rotten  Chip  Shoestring
Waffle  Award  Race  Route  Spud
Win  Relay  Sack  Team  Yarn
Chip and Curly, the Great Potato Race

Down:
1. The Shoestring Fries are lean and ________
2. Curly tripped over a _____ root
5. These potatoes sat and watched the race from the sidelines
6. The one with a spring in his step
9. This type of potato cheered along the race route

Across:
3. The ____ fries couldn't decide who to cheer for
4. The type of race Chip wants to win
6. He dreamed of winning the race
7. The Roasted _____
8. The Golden _____ Award
Chip and Curly, the Great Potato Race

Down:
1. The Shoestring Fries are lean and ______
2. Curly tripped over a ____ root
3. These potatoes sat and watched the race from the sidelines
4. The one with a spring in his step
5. This type of potato cheered along the race route

Across:
1. The _____ fries couldn't decide who to cheer for
2. The type of race Chip wants to win
3. He dreamed of winning the race
4. The Roasted _____
5. The Golden _____ Award

Answer Key
Chip and Curly
Connect The Dots
How are Chip and Curly alike? How are they different?

Spud Buds

Chip

Curly

Both