**adversary: (n.)**

an enemy or opponent

I once had an adversary named Captain Cartwheel. If you think he sounds easy to capture, let me remind you that I also went up against the Marshmallow Master.
trivial: *(adj.)*

unimportant

Who let the dog into the bathroom is trivial. What I’d like to know is who taught him to brush his teeth?
pilfer: (v.)
to steal

This is what you get when you try to pilfer flowers from a neighbor who’s also a police officer.
ornate: (adj.)
fancy or showy

Is there any way we can keep my crown ornate but make it lighter?
**famished**: *(adj.)*
very hungry

I’m *famished*. What’s for breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
**immaculate**: (adj.) very clean; spotless

I think this place was **immaculate** once. Look what I found under the mud at the entrance.
cuisine: (n.)
a style or type of food or cooking

Can I treat you to some delicious vending machine cuisine?
obstacle: (n.)
someone or something that gets in your way

Since when are a bunch of trees an obstacle to taking a treasure that’s left in plain sight?
vivacious: (adj.)
lively; full of life and spirit

I’ll fetch the stick, but if you want to see my most vivacious side, let’s play a little one-on-one basketball.
lenient: *(adj.)*

not strict; relaxed about rules

It looks like we have a substitute today – and one that is more **lenient** than Mr. Chang.
defy: (v.)
to challenge or dare

I defy you to kiss them all!
etiquette: (n.) manners

Yes, it is bad etiquette to put your feet on the table even if you put a floor mat there first.
eloquent: (adj.)
well-spoken

I speak to humans all the time, but I have a feeling they can’t tell how eloquent I am.
**malady:** *(n.)*
an illness

It’s fascinating that the Aztecs thought chocolate could help cure a **malady**, but we’re sticking with chicken soup.
**rotund:** *(adj.)*
Round; plump

I grew bored making **rotund** snowmen.
gargantuan: (adj.)
huge; immense

My gargantuan mittens may seem funny to you, but at least I never lose one.
cherish: (v.)
to care for or value

I cherish the time we’ve spent together, but I really should be getting back to my own nursery rhyme.
predicament: (n.)
a dangerous or embarrassing situation

Well, this is an unexpected predicament.
detest: (v.)
to hate

I detest my new haircut, but I can’t ask for my money back. I was the barber!
nimble: (adj.)
able to do something quickly and easily; handy; skillful

I’ve never seen someone nimble enough to eat pizza with chopsticks.
meddle: (v.)
to interfere or butt in

Okay, your action figures can visit my dollhouse, but please ask them not to meddle in Clarissa and Vanessa’s tea party.
**unique:** *(adj.)*

unusual

I’m not trying to be unique. I just get dizzy when I’m upside down.
meander: (v.) to turn or wind; wander

Why should we meander through the forest following bread crumbs when there's a trail marked with glazed donuts only 50 yards over there?
wrath: (n.)
great anger; rage; fury

If you disobey this sign you will see my wrath, as well as huge piles of dirty laundry.
dilly-dally: (v.)
to waste time; dawdle

I like to *dilly-dally* when I shop. That gives me a better chance of being in a store when a sale starts.
accelerate: (v.)
to speed up

I didn’t even need to **accelerate** to win this.
stifle: (v.)
to hold back or stop something from happening

To be good at hide and seek, you have to be able to **stifle** any laugh. Darren’s method seems to work well.
haphazard: (adj.) disorganized

I know it looks haphazard, but I do have a system. The stuff on the bottom is the oldest, and the stuff on the top is the newest.
triumph: (v.)
to overcome or win

Is that the book where a Viking and a lifeguard team up and triumph over an evil dinosaur and a talking pumpkin? The ending was so unrealistic.
acquire: (v.)
to get

Why buy a new car? For the same price, we could acquire thousands of really cool skateboards.
**radiant**: *(adj.)*
very bright; shining

I’d like to thank my brother for my *radiant* smile.
abundant: (adj.) plentiful

I’ve got a delivery of an abundant amount of shampoo here, addressed to “Rapunzel.”
transport: (v.)
to carry from place to place

In the future, can you please transport my food here in a paper bag instead of your mouth?
astonish: (v.)
to surprise or amaze

This may astonish you, but you’re adopted.
persevere: (v.)
to keep trying despite difficulties

Finding clouds shaped like turtles or fish is easy, but you’ll have to persevere a lot longer when looking for a whale fighting a giant squid.
novice: \((n.)\)
a beginner

Technically, I was never a novice at this. I’ve known how to fall since I was a toddler.
drench: (v.)
to get really wet all over; soak

Step right up and drench our volunteer with your choice of water or Uncle Melvin’s maple syrup, proud sponsor of this year’s carnival!
candid: (adj.)
honest; truthful

I’ll be candid — I’m not from around here.
essential: (adj.)
very important

I can’t shake the feeling that we’re missing something essential here.
reluctant: (adj.) unwilling

I’m reluctant to dive unless I’m sure my bathing suit won’t come off when I hit the water.