

The Couch Potato

by Jory John

Hello, everyone. My number is _____. Today I'm going to read you a story.
It's called "The Couch Potato".

I am a potato. Not a small potato, like my brother. Not a sweet potato, like my mother. Not a mashed potato, like my uncle. I'm a couch potato. I spend all my free time sitting in this exact spot. "AHHHHHHHHH." Why would I ever leave this comfy, cozy couch?

And check this out! This button serves me snacks and drinks whenever I press it. I don't have to move.

The best part about my whole setup is the sea of shimmering screens! What joy! These screens have my favorite shows, my messages, my video games, and a livestream of my best friend.

My friend and I don't have to meet up somewhere. We can spend quality time together through video chat. With just a few taps and a couple clicks, I can control everything in my life from this couch. "AHHHHHHHHHHHHH." This is the life!

This is what I thought until something strange happened. I

got a delivery. “Woo-hoo!” It was my newest device, a video camera. I was so excited to plug it in... But suddenly... “PEW-WWWWWW” Everything went dark! “Look out! Whoop! Oof! Ow!” I pulled back the curtains. The sun seemed brighter than I remembered. There was nothing to do, so I decided to walk my dog, Tater, outside.

Everything was so vivid. The air smelled fresh. I wandered down the street. At last, I found a park with a hill. There was a tree at the top. It looked like a desktop background... only it was real. I leaned against the tree. It wasn't as comfortable as my couch, but after a while, it wasn't so bad.

“AHHHHHHHHH.” Any worries about the power outage and what I might be missing drifted away. I was amazed by the beautiful view in front of me. I spent some time enjoying the orange clouds and sunset.

By the time I got home, the power was back on. I wondered how much of my time had been spent on the couch. And I made a decision that I want to hang out with my friends outside more often! We go biking, hiking, and swimming. Sometimes we

have snacks, play board games, and talk all day. Now I'm a funny potato, a smart potato, and a sit-on-a-hill-and-watch-the-sunset potato. I want to be part of the great, big world in person.

“AHHHHHHHHH.” But it's also nice for me to slouch on the couch after a long day.

Thank you for listening.