

## Laika by Nick Abadzis, Ch. 1-2 16 words

September 12, 2014 By [Jason B.](#)

This list was created by Mr. Jason Brunken for use in the Happy Kids Middle School Program. It contains 16 vocabulary words for students learn from chapters 1 and 2.

### 1. maxim

a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You've perhaps heard the old **maxim**, "You can be anything you want to be."*  
— [Time \(Aug 26, 2014\)](#)

### 2. delusion

a mistaken or unfounded opinion or idea

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Are you suffering from the **delusion** that you're super cool?" he asks.*  
— [Slate \(Jul 28, 2014\)](#)

### 3. gulag

a Russian prison camp for political prisoners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His father, a dentist from Hungary who spent time in a Russian **gulag** for being anti-Communist, met his Ukrainian mother at a displacement camp.*  
— [Washington Post](#)

### 4. satellite

man-made equipment that orbits around the earth or the moon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In New York, 8 million **satellites** beep and glow as they go about their daily rituals.*  
— [Salon \(Sep 10, 2014\)](#)

### 5. propaganda

information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In **propaganda** videos, the group lays out ambitious expansion plans that include targets such as Baghdad, Damascus and Islam's holiest city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.*  
— [US News \(Sep 2, 2014\)](#)

### 6. strut

to walk with a lofty proud gait, often in an attempt to impress others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The actors are unprepossessing: they wear street clothes and **strut** and slouch like everyday people.*  
— [The Guardian \(Sep 3, 2014\)](#)

## 7. allegation



(law) a formal accusation against somebody (often in a court of law)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The party is also considering the potential damage to its reputation if the **allegations** against Zhou are aired in a public trial.*

— [Reuters \(Sep 12, 2014\)](#)

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## 8. coup



a brilliant and notable success

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After that **coup** David Bowie held her hands as he raved that hearing her moody pop was like "listening to tomorrow."*

— [New York Times \(Sep 11, 2014\)](#)

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## 9. socialist



advocating or following the socialist principles

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As a younger man, he was a **socialist** and a devotee of Che Guevara.*

— [The New Yorker \(Aug 20, 2014\)](#)

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## 10. oblige



provide a service or favor for someone

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The restaurant's **obliging** nature forgives some of the lesser selections.*

— [Washington Post](#)

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## 11. moronic

having a mental age of between eight and twelve years

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Give up your **moronic** game of pedestrian versus car or I suspect there won't be many more birthdays in your future.*

— [Seattle Times \(Jun 28, 2014\)](#)

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## 12. maverick



independent in behavior or thought

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An unbridled wave of enthusiasm is hard for even the most daring **maverick** teacher to generate.*

— [BBC \(Aug 13, 2014\)](#)

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## 13. scruffy

shabby and untidy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His hair was shorter, his face was thinner and **scruffily** bearded, and his clothes were like everyone else's: denim shirt, denim jeans.*

— [New York Times \(Sep 10, 2014\)](#)

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## 14. spectacle



a blunder that makes you look ridiculous; used in the phrase `make a spectacle of' yourself

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We shall see, and it promises to be a **spectacle** of sorts.*  
— [The Guardian \(Sep 8, 2014\)](#)

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## 15. **drown** ✓

kill by submerging in water

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Only 172 people were rescued and the remainder are all presumed to have **drowned**.*  
— [Reuters \(Sep 9, 2014\)](#)

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## 16. **premier** ✓

the person who is head of state (in several countries)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

***Premier** Li also gave words of reassurance on China's economy, saying it won't face a sharp slowdown.*  
— [BBC \(Sep 11, 2014\)](#)

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