

Q2.13 Innocuous

Innocuous means “harmless, safe, or inoffensive”; it comes from a Latin prefix that means “not” and a root word that means “to harm.” Often *innocuous* turns up in sentences to describe something that was thought to be harmless, but turned out to be dangerous, or something that is so dull and safe it’s painful.

Apparently they died from overfeeding. Apparently I overfed them. Apparently fish are terrible gluttons with absolutely no self-control who just don’t know when they’ve had enough and will stuff themselves to death with those innocuous little beige flakes imaginatively labeled “fish food.”

—*A Fraction of the Whole*
by Steve Toltz

