

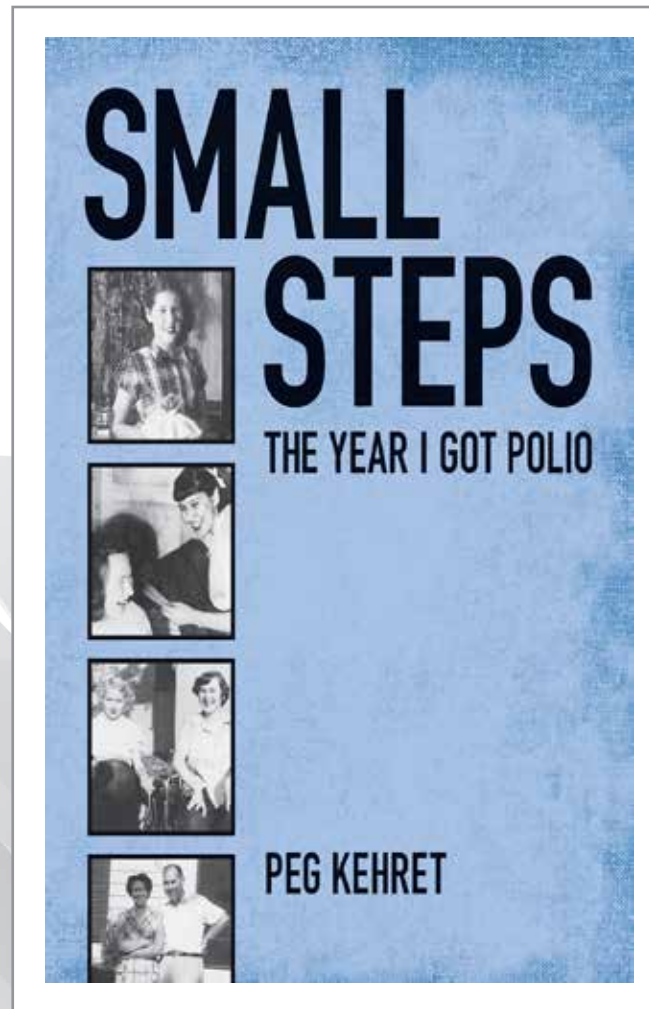


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

Peg Kehret



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-984-1

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Name _____

spasms (13) virus (16)	analyzed (15) contaminate (17)	diagnosis (15) isolation (17)	epidemics (16) exhausted (17)
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Directions: Using context clues, match each of the underlined words to its correct definition.

- ___ 1. David’s leg had a spasm. It twitched and jerked.
- ___ 2. The science experiment did not work. The teacher told the students to try to analyze what went wrong.
- ___ 3. After examining the sick baby, the doctor said his diagnosis is that the baby has pneumonia.
- ___ 4. Every day more and more students at Jefferson School stayed home sick. They all showed the same symptoms of the flu. The principal announced over the loudspeaker that there was a flu epidemic at the school.
- ___ 5. SARS is a serious virus that spread throughout China in 2003. Many people became ill and even died.
- ___ 6. When my brother had the chicken pox, he couldn’t play with the other children because he might contaminate them.
- ___ 7. The prison guard put the dangerous prisoner in isolation so he wouldn’t hurt anyone else.
- ___ 8. Sue ran a mile in the track meet. She was so exhausted at the end that she collapsed.
- a. illness, disease caused by a microscopic parasite
 - b. the identification or determination of an illness or injury
 - c. to expose to an illness or virus
 - d. to examine methodically
 - e. to be set apart or cut off from others
 - f. to be worn out completely
 - g. the rapid and widespread increase of an infection
 - h. the sudden contraction of a muscle

Chapters 15 & 16, pp. 135–155

1. Is Peg looking forward to Christmas at the Sheltering Arms? Why or why not?
2. What event helps take her mind off of home?
3. Who plays the parts of Mary and Joseph?
4. What part in the pageant does Peg convince Miss Ballard to give to Alice?
5. What happens that almost prevents Mary and Joseph from walking down the aisle together? What solution does Peg come up with?
6. Who does Peg consider the hit of the pageant?
7. What happens to Dorothy that prevents her from going home at Christmas?
8. What surprise awaits Peg at home? How does she feel about it at first? Why?
9. Peg's mother is concerned that the children at the Sheltering Arms don't have enough toys and books. What is her solution? How does Peg react to this idea?

Chapters 17–Epilogue, pp. 156–174

1. What does Miss Ballard do to help Peg walk straight and tall?
2. What is Peg's major accomplishment in Chapter 17?
3. Why isn't Peg completely happy about going home?
4. Where do Peg and her mother stop on their way home? What promise does Peg fulfill?
5. Describe Peg's routine during her first days at home.
6. Although she is happy to see her friends, why doesn't Peg completely enjoy their visits?
7. Why do both Peg and Dorothy miss life at the Sheltering Arms?
8. Has Peg fallen behind her fellow students at school?
9. Describe Peg's life as an adult.
10. What is post-polio syndrome?

Name _____

