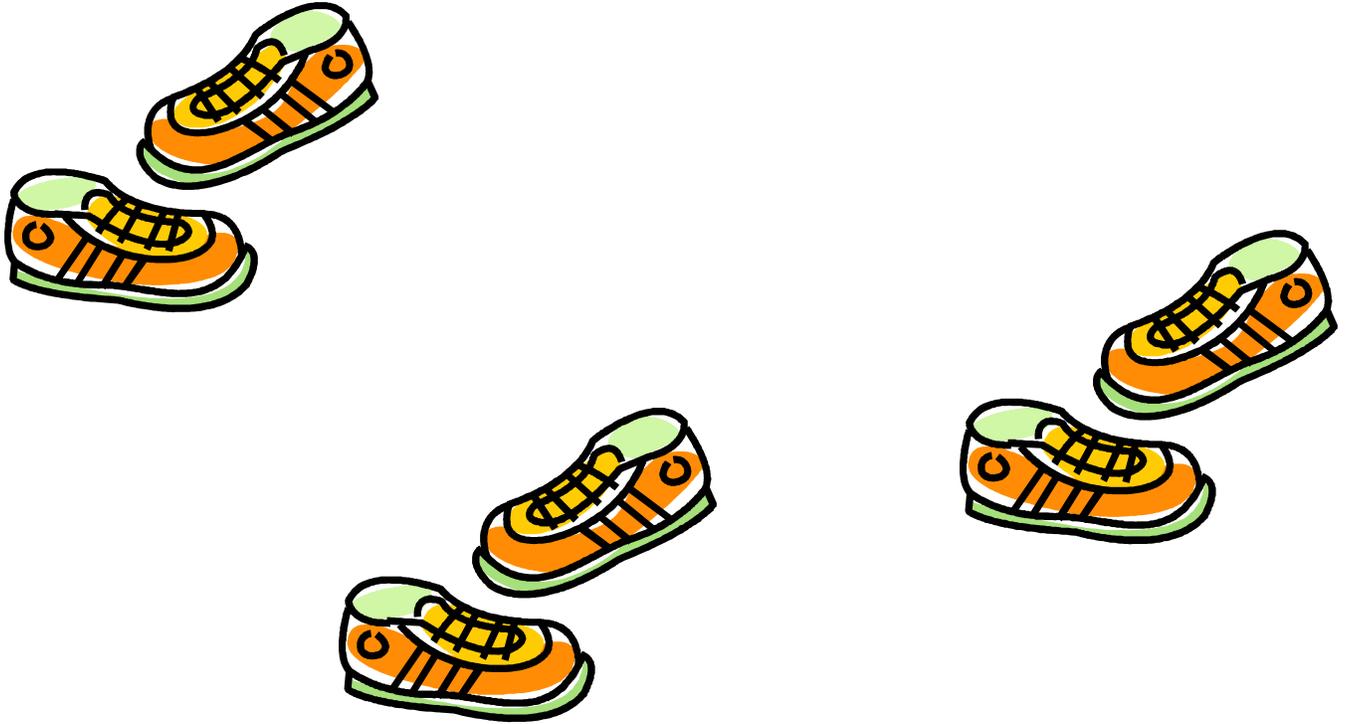


# Small Steps

## By Louis Sachar



A Teaching Unit  
Tammy Sutherland ♦ Shannon Temple  
S&T Publications, LLC

<http://www.sandtpublications.com>

Scroll down for free lesson plans for the novel ***Small Steps***! Here, you will find sample lesson plans and a portion of a test. You can also find the table of contents for our complete ***Small Steps***.

The entire unit is \$23. It includes lessons for each chapter, tests, projects, readers' theater, writing assignments and answer keys. We use these lessons and tests in our own classrooms and base them on language arts standards.

To buy the entire unit, go to the following link:

<http://www.sandtpublications.com/catalog/item/4311713/8769610.htm>

Thanks!  
S&T Publications

## ***Small Steps ~ Table of Contents***

Chapter Titles	4
Chapter One – Descriptions and Imagery	6
Chapter Two – Getting to Know the Characters	7
<b>Chapter Three – Discussion &amp; Non-Fiction Analysis</b>	<b>9</b>
Chapters One-Three – Discussion	10
Chapters Four & Five – Foreshadowing	11
Chapter Six – A Closer Look	12
Chapter Seven – Internal Conflict & Discussion	13
Chapter Eight – Strong Verbs	14
Chapters Nine & Ten – Making Inferences & Drawing Conclusions	15
Chapter Eleven – Idioms	16
Chapter Twelve – Readers’ Theater	17
Test One – Chapters One – Twelve	20
Chapter Thirteen – Point of View	22
Chapter Fourteen – Readers’ Theater	23
Chapter Fifteen – Foreshadowing	26
Chapter Sixteen – Inside/Out Profile	27
<b>Chapter Seventeen – Allusion</b>	<b>28</b>
Chapter Eighteen – Discussion	29
Chapter Nineteen – Figurative Language	30
Chapter Twenty – Character Description	31
Chapter Twenty-one – Acronyms	32
Chapter Twenty-two & Twenty-three – Tone	33
Chapter Twenty-four – Song Lyrics	34
<b>Test Two – Chapters Thirteen – Twenty-four</b>	<b>35</b>
Chapter Twenty-five – The Plot Thickens	37
Chapter Twenty-six – Prediction	38
Chapter Twenty-six – Discussion	39
Chapter Twenty-seven – Discussion	40
Chapter Twenty-eight – Conflict	41
Chapter Twenty-nine – Setting	42
<b>Chapter Thirty – Foreshadowing</b>	<b>43</b>
Chapter Thirty -one – Writing Assignment	44
Chapter Thirty-two – Writing	45
Chapter Thirty-three – Imagery	46
Chapter Thirty-four – Writing a News Report	47
Chapter Thirty-five – Situational Irony	48
Plot Is Like a Roller Coaster Ride	49
Plot Analysis	50
Theme	51
Final Test	52
Answer Keys	56

The highlighted chapters are yours free. Scroll down to print these free lessons!

## Small Steps

### Chapter 3 ~ Discussion & Non-Fiction Analysis

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Comprehension

1. Is Armpit an only child? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is Ginny McDonald? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ginny was born with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Discussion

***...A few neighborhood kids called her spaz, and retard, but most treated her with respect because she was a friend of Armpit's and because she was willing to answer their questions.***

What does the passage in the box reveal to us as the reader?

**About Armpit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**About Ginny:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Fiction Analysis** – Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The term cerebral palsy refers to any one of several neurological disorders that appear in infancy or early childhood. It permanently affects body movement and muscle coordination but does not worsen over time. Even though cerebral palsy affects muscle movement, it isn't caused by problems in the muscles or nerves. It is caused by abnormalities in parts of the brain that control muscle movements. The majority of children with cerebral palsy are born with it, although it may not be detected until months or years later. The early signs of cerebral palsy usually appear before a child reaches three years of age. The most common signs of cerebral palsy are a lack of muscle coordination when performing voluntary movements; stiff or tight muscles and exaggerated reflexes; walking with one foot or leg dragging; walking on the toes; a crouched gait; and muscle tone that is either too stiff or too floppy. A small number of children have cerebral palsy as the result of brain damage in the first few months or years of life, brain infections such as bacterial meningitis or viral encephalitis, or head injury from a motor vehicle accident, a fall, or child abuse.

#### ***National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke***

1. The author's purpose in writing this passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. persuade the reader to watch carefully for signs of cerebral palsy
  - b. entertain the reader with a tale of cerebral palsy
  - c. describe the lifestyle of a child with cerebral palsy
  - d. inform the reader of what cerebral palsy is
2. What is the tone of the passage?
  - a. sarcastic
  - b. factual
  - c. pessimistic
  - d. satiric
3. In which of the following sources would this passage be located?
  - a. atlas
  - b. almanac
  - c. thesaurus
  - d. encyclopedia
4. What is the central idea of this passage?
  - a. Cerebral Palsy causes a lack of muscle coordination.
  - b. Some children have cerebral palsy as a result of early brain injury.
  - c. Cerebral palsy, which appears in one's early life, is a neurological disorder that affects muscle control and movement.
  - d. Cerebral palsy does not worsen over time.

## **Small Steps**

### **Chapter 17 ~ Allusion**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Comprehension**

1. After the concert, what does Kaira invite Ginny and Armpit to eat with her? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What happens to Cotton? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. What is the hint that Ginny gives Kaira about Armpit's nickname? \_\_\_\_\_
- 
4. Through Kaira's interactions with Armpit and Ginny in this chapter, we learn that Kaira can be \_\_\_\_\_ and often feels \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. playful, lonely                      b. selfish, angry                      c. sad, clever                      d. timid, suspicious

**Allusion** - a literary device that provides a brief reference to a person, event, place, or phrase. The writer assumes the reader will recognize the reference. Allusions in writing help the reader to visualize what's happening by providing a mental picture. They are commonly made to the Bible, nursery rhymes, myths, famous fictional or historical characters or events, and Shakespeare. They can be used in both prose and poetry.

Here are some examples:

**A. *The insurance adjuster was as reliable as George Washington.***

The allusion in sentence A is to George Washington. The reader is expected to recognize the reference to George Washington and his honesty.

**B. *She was a Scrooge and never spent money on gifts for her friends or family.***

This allusion is to Scrooge, a character in *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. He was a stingy man who did not like to spend any money.

Read the following passage:

***"Don't tell me you've never heard of Janis Joplin?"***

***He hadn't, but he didn't dare admit it now. "Maybe I have," he said***

Who or what is the allusion to in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

The allusion is made to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the Bible
- b. a famous author
- c. a famous singer
- d. a myth

***She turned back to Armpit. "Have you heard of the Beatles?"***

***"Shut up," he said.***

What is the allusion to in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

The allusion is made to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a famous play
- b. a well known species of bugs
- c. a famous singing group
- d. a political party

Even though you may have never heard of these two allusions, you can infer who they are. A lot of times when reading, you may come across an allusion that you don't know of, but you can always do some research to find out! Be on the lookout for more allusions throughout the novel.

## Small Steps

### Test 2 ~ Chapters 13-24

This is only a portion of the test.

1. The use of the third person omniscient point of view allows the reader to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. know the thoughts and feelings of more than one character
  - b. follow only one character throughout the book
  - c. understand the theme in a personal way
  - d. predict what will ultimately happen in the end of the novel
2. Which of the following supports that the book is told from the third person omniscient point of view?
  - a. The use of suspense is used in each chapter.
  - b. The reader is allowed to read about a conversation between Tatiana and two of her friends.
  - c. The use of flashback is used with all of the characters.
  - d. The reader is allowed to know only Armpit's inner feelings of guilt and worry.
3. How do we know that this novel is not told from the first person point of view?
  - a. The pronoun / is used.
  - b. Armpit is telling the story.
  - c. None of the characters are telling the story.
  - d. The novel is set in present day times.
4. Which of the following is a direct effect of Tatiana telling Armpit that she could not go to the concert with him?
  - a. Ginny has a seizure.
  - b. Armpit borrows Ginny's mother's car.
  - c. Armpit asks Ginny to go to the concert with him.
  - d. Ginny teases Armpit about Tatiana not going.

*Inside, they had to maneuver their way through throngs of people all moving in different directions.*

5. Using context clues, what does the word maneuver mean?
  - a. fight
  - b. move
  - c. compromise
  - d. run
6. What conflict did Armpit run into at the concert?
  - a. He spilled popcorn on a person seated next to him and got into a fight.
  - b. He was accused of having counterfeit tickets.
  - c. Ginny had a seizure before they could get to their seats.
  - d. Ginny was afraid to go inside because the concert was too loud.

*"Funniest thing I ever saw!" laughed Jerome Paisley as he returned to the backstage area. "This little bit of a girl, wriggling around on the floor, drooling all over herself. She looked like a goldfish that fell out of its bowl. You know how they flop around until they die?"*

7. This passage makes Jerome seem \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. cruel and insensitive
  - b. anxious to start the concert
  - c. generous and kind
  - d. in charge and confident

## Small Steps

### Chapter 30 ~ Foreshadowing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Comprehension

1. Why doesn't Armpit buy the wool jacket that Kaira picks out in the gift shop? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What two things does Jerome Paisley take from Armpit's hotel?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Armpit buy for Ginny? \_\_\_\_\_

**Foreshadowing** – a hint or clue of what is to come later

Authors use foreshadowing to create suspense. In this chapter the foreshadowing is obvious as Jerome is in Armpit's hotel room.

#### You be the detective!

It is obvious that Jerome has a plan. Use the passages taken from this chapter and predict why you think Jerome completes each action.

<b>Clue/Jerome's action</b>	<b>Why do you predict he is doing this?</b>
<i>He picked up the hairbrush and removed a couple of strands of hair that were stuck to the bristles. He placed them in a plain white envelope.</i>	
<i>A used Band-Aid, crusted with blood, lay on the floor next to the wastebasket. He picked it up, smiled at his fat face in the mirror, then placed the Band-Aid in the envelope as well.</i>	
<i>She also had given him two keys to Kaira's. He now placed one of them between the cushions on the couch.</i>	
<i>Before leaving, he took the knife from the fruit and cheese plate.</i>	

**If you like these free samples for *Small Steps*,  
download your complete novel guide today!**

<http://www.sandtpublications.com/catalog/item/4311713/8769610.htm>

**Visit our website for **free** lesson plans for all of the following novels!**

- *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate KiCamillo
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Double Dutch* by Sharon Draper
- *The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaassen
- *Flush* by Carl Hiaassen
- *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos
- *Love, Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Man Who Loved Clowns* by June Rae Wood
- *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan
- *Small Steps* by Louis Sachar
- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen

**Don't leave our site just yet!**

[Browse our FREE activities!](#)

Click on this link: <http://www.sandtpublications.citymax.com/free.html>

[www.sandtpublications.com](http://www.sandtpublications.com)