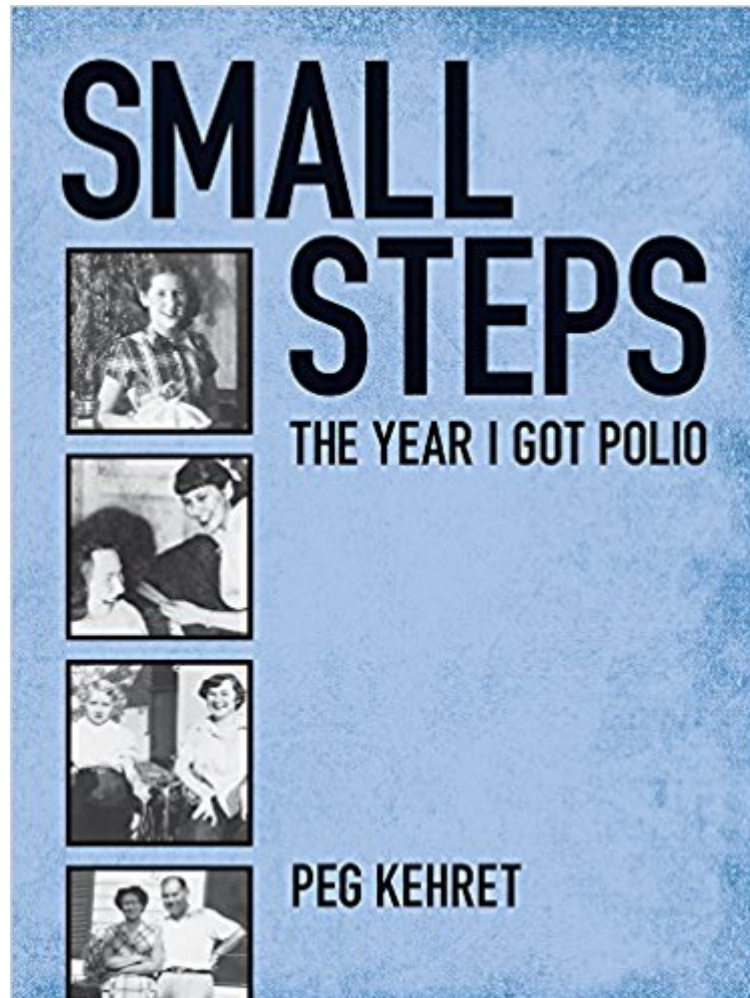




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# Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio



## Synopsis

In a riveting story of courage and hope, Peg Kehret writes about months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again.

## Book Information

Paperback: 179 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company (January 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807574589

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 206 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,279 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Special Needs](#) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8-Twelve-year-old Peg contracts polio in 1949, but she survives the initial paralysis and eventually learns to walk again. Her engaging account will fascinate readers as she relates the symptoms, treatments, and effects of the disease. Kehret also describes antiquated treatments such as the Iron Lung. Black-and-white photos add to the story's appeal. Audio version available from AudioGO. (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Gr. 3<sup>^</sup>-5. This heartfelt memoir takes readers back to 1949 when the author, at age 12, contracted polio. Using fictionalized dialogue, she describes her seven-month ordeal--her diagnosis and quarantine, her terrifying paralysis, her slow and difficult recuperation--and the people she encountered along the way. Kehret supplies a few words about the illness in a foreword, but because there is little sense of how medicine has evolved since her hospitalization, some children may find the vivid picture she paints scary indeed. Scary, too, is the epilogue, in which Kehret

admits to having post-polio syndrome. Curious children who love Kehret's middle-grade thrillers may pick this up, but since there's little about her life as a writer, it will most likely be children interested in medical issues who will follow through. Stephanie Zvirin --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Excellent book! My 9 year old daughter (starting 4th grade) was dubious about the book at first, but after the first page was in love. She now claims it is her favorite book. It was a very interesting and engaging read, recounting the feelings and experience of contracting and recovering from polio. I enjoyed the photographs that were added so that my daughter could visualize things that were otherwise foreign to her (ie: an iron lung). Excellently written, full of humanity, and entertaining as well.

I read this to my 10 year old son because I wanted him to understand the importance of those irritating shots at the doctor. He LOVED it. Every day he asked me to read more to him. It is not every book that gets him that excited, and since this does not contain dragons or robots, I didn't expect such enthusiasm. He was extremely concerned early on that she would die of polio, and I had to give him the spoiler that it's an autobiography, therefore we know she lives - after all, she wrote the book. He was very relieved, and wanted to see pictures to prove it. That was his level of involvement with this book. Ultimately, this book is very accessible for people of any age, but especially kids. The language is simple but paints clear pictures of how Peg felt. She writes about the sadness of losing a favorite stuffed animal and the incredible joy of being able to drink a chocolate milkshake after being refused it for days. These simple things make it easy to relate to Peg and the other kids she writes about, even if we can't relate to her experience with polio. As a parent, I appreciate all the information included about the history of polio. I appreciate the lessons Peg learned and shares with us, including never giving up, the importance of family, and how small kindnesses can make a big difference. There are beautiful life lessons subtly woven into this book that can provide great topics of conversation. I recommend this book for any kid or family.

As a teacher, I always look for books that do a couple things: 1 - expose my students to unique and interesting experiences 2 - create an opportunity for students to learn new vocabulary 3 - make my student clamor for more Small Steps satisfies all three requirements! It opens up an opportunity for these kids, who have never experienced the fear of contracting polio, to see what it was like to be suddenly stricken with polio, and also what it was like to recover from it. It also has very robust

vocabulary, and plenty of similes, metaphors, and era-appropriate references that make us stop and talk about it. "Who was the Lone Ranger anyway?" "What in the world is an Iron Lung?" Finally, Small Steps has completely captivated my students. They cheered when Peg was able to move her arms; they giggled when Peg developed a crush on her doctor; they laughed when Peg tried the Hula; they told their family members, "you have to read this book!"

My granddaughter in fourth grade asked me to get her a copy for home because her class was reading it. She wanted to read ahead. This was her request. As a retired educator and a proud Nana, I jumped at the request and ordered it. She thanked me and told me they finished the book approximately two weeks ago. Her teacher asked her to donate it to her classroom set for future uses. She readily agreed. Of course she waited to tell me afterwards, but that's ok because it was for a worthy cause and the price was quite alright with me. I'm glad I had the book because I couldn't locate it anywhere near me. Thanks so much!

I remember reading this in my 3rd grade class and now I'm 22 and wanted to buy it to read to my kids. It's written from the perspective of a 12 year old and it's a story about her own personal battle with polio. It includes some history about the disease. It's a chapter book but pretty short. I finished it in a day. It came in very good condition. No bends or tears.

This is a wonderful book written about the author's real life experience when she contracted polio. It is one of the Oregon Battle of the Book selections for 2017 and is written in a style appealing to elementary students and well as adults. The story is about Peg's determination and recovery. She writes from the heart and you can feel her emotions all the way through the book. This has been one of the favorites this year for both the children and the adults participating in O.B.O.B. This would be a great selection for classroom readings as well.

Good first hand account of a young girl who contracted polio, and how it was treated. I selected it for my class as she was the same age and also from Minnesota. Interesting read of the struggles and history.

In the book Peg Kehret writes about when she got polio. Polio is a disease where you can get really sick and paralyzed. Peg Kehret did an amazing job with Small Steps. I liked her book because it inspired me to write more. It also made me a little scared like when she fell randomly. It was a good

book. I hope that her book will inspire other people to write more. I hope more people will read her book to see how good she is at writing. I hope one day I can meet Peg Kehret. Because I read this book I found out my grandma had polio and was in an iron lung.

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