

A Teaching Unit
For
Small Steps
Louis Sachar



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

A Teaching Unit for *Small Steps*

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Small Steps ~ Chapter Titles

Name: _____

Louis Sacher does not include chapter titles in his novel. After you read a chapter, create a title for it using the following chart.

Chapter	Title
1	
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Small Steps

Chapter 1 ~ Descriptions and Imagery

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Where does Armpit work? _____
2. What is Armpit's "real" name? _____
3. Who is Jack Dunlevy? _____
4. Who is Cherry Lane? _____
5. What were the five goals that Armpit set for himself? _____

Descriptions and Imagery

Imagery – language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind

The author weaves in a description of Armpit in this first chapter. What words and phrases are used to describe him? _____

Throughout this chapter, the author uses imagery to help the readers feel like they are there. Read the following passages and underline the imagery that the author uses.

- *...He was in the process of digging a trench along the side yard ...his shovel knifed through the dirt; he carefully kept the sod intact so it could be replaced later. His shovel was short and had a rectangular blade...*
- *...a scorpion had stung him on the arm, and the pain had traveled upward and settled in his armpit. It had felt like there was a hot needle twisting around inside him.*
- *The woman wore blue jeans and a loose-fitting white shirt. Her long silver hair was pulled back in a ponytail.*
- *A mosquito buzzed by his ear, and he swatted at it.*
- *Cherry Lane raised her arms in the air as she wiggled to the music.*

Authors often use other devices to help add to imagery. Find examples of the following devices in the above passages.

1. a simile: _____

2. onomatopoeia: _____

Small Steps

Chapter 2 ~ Getting to Know the Characters

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Who came to see Armpit while he was working at Cherry's house? _____
2. What does X-Ray notice about Armpit's shovel? _____

3. How much money has Armpit saved? _____
4. What does X-Ray promise to do with Armpit's money? _____
5. Who is Polly? _____
6. How old is Kaira? _____ What does she do for a living? _____
7. Who is Fred? _____
8. What does Armpit's "deal" have to do with Kaira? _____

9. How much money does X-Ray want Armpit to give him? _____

In the first two chapters, we are introduced to Armpit, X-Ray, and Kaira DeLeon. Let's take a closer look at them.

Directions: Complete the following charts to begin analyzing these characters.

Meet Armpit.

two facts that you have learned about him	
two descriptive words that seem right for Armpit	
one or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	

Meet X-Ray.

two facts that you have learned about him	
two descriptive words that seem right for X-Ray	
one or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	

Meet Kaira DeLeon.

two facts that you have learned about her	
two descriptive words that seem right for Kaira	
one or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	

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.

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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

Chapters 1- 3 ~ Discussion

Name: _____ Date: _____

“If you think life was unfair before you went to prison,” she told Armpit, “it’s going to be twice as bad when you go back. People are going to expect the worst from you, and will treat you that way.”

She said his life would be like walking upstream in a rushing river. The secret was to take small steps and just keep moving forward. If he tried to take too big a step, the current would knock him off his feet and carry him back downstream.

1. Explain the **simile** in this passage. What does the mayor mean when she says that Armpit’s life will be like “walking upstream in a rushing river”? Also, explain what she means by the *current knocking him off his feet and carrying him back downstream*. _____

Upon returning to Austin, he set five goals for himself. Five small steps. 1. Graduate from high school. 2. Get a job. 3. Save his money. 4. Avoid situations that might turn violent. And 5. Lose the name Armpit.

These are pretty sound, realistic goals. It is important to set goals for your life. See if you can set five realistic goals for your own future. Make a list below.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

Red Alert!
My head is filled with a s-s-siren sound!
Red alert!
All systems are shutting d-d-d-d-down!

Considering X-Ray’s scheme to make money, there may be some foreshadowing in these lyrics from Kiara DeLeon’s song. Define the term **foreshadow** and then make a prediction about what you think may happen with X-Ray’s plan to make money.

- 3. Foreshadowing means _____
- 4. My prediction: _____

But as much as Armpit helped her, she helped him even more. She gave his life meaning. For the first time in his life, there was someone who looked up to him, who cared about him. Together they were learning to take small steps.

5. This is the second time in the book that the title **Small Steps** is mentioned. Explain how both Armpit and Ginny are taking “small steps”. _____

Small Steps

Chapters 4 & 5 ~ Foreshadowing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Why does X-Ray call Armpit? _____
2. Who is Tatiana? _____
3. Which of the following words **best** describes Tatiana?
a. serious b. snobbish c. offbeat d. weird
5. What does Armpit think he hears in Kiara's song? _____
4. Who is Felix? _____

Predicting

Read the following passage:

"In Philadelphia, tickets went for seven hundred and fifty dollars," she said, trying to show that she knew a thing or two.

"Where'd you hear that?"

"I don't know," Kaira said, suddenly feeling defensive. "On the radio, I think."

He smirked at her. "I planted that story," he boasted. "You didn't even sell out in Philly." He pointed to his big, fat head and said, "El Genius at work."

What does this cause you to predict about the tickets that Armpit and X-Ray plan to buy and resell for a huge profit? _____

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is when the author gives the reader a hint of something that is going to happen before it actually happens. Foreshadowing is used to build suspense or create anxiety. It helps you to predict what may happen later in the novel.

*Armpit paid for the tickets. They were all in row M. He counted in his head. The thirteenth row. On the back of each ticket, printed in bold letters, were the words **This ticket may not be resold.***

What does the number thirteen usually symbolize? _____

Now, thinking about the tickets being on the thirteenth row and what Armpit sees on the back of the tickets, what does this possibly foreshadow?

Small Steps

Chapter 6 ~ A Closer Look

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Which stuffed animal does Ginny want Theodore to take with him to school? _____
2. What is wrong with the stuffed animal that Ginny wants Theodore to take to school?

In this chapter, Ginny introduces several of her stuffed animals to Theodore. Each stuffed animal has some sort of disability yet also some great strength.

Complete the following chart about the stuffed animals. Look back at chapter six to help you. Roscoe is the only stuffed toy for which a strength is not mentioned. Make up a strength for him, and fill in your creative answer on the chart.

Stuffed animal	Disability	Strength
Hooter		
Daisy		
Roscoe		
Coo		

Analyze Ginny

In the next chart, list Ginny's disability. Then, make a list of all of her strengths.

Ginny's disability	Ginny's strengths

Small Steps

Chapter 7 ~ Internal Conflict & Discussion

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Why does Armpit buy a newspaper? _____
2. A man offers _____ for two of the tickets.
3. With what does Armpit compare the root that he is removing from someone's yard?

4. What type of figurative language is used in this comparison? _____

An **internal conflict** takes place within a character's mind. It is a conflict that a character has within him/herself.

- **man vs. himself (character vs. him/herself)**

He wondered how he had ever let X-Ray talk him into this. Why didn't they sell the tickets to Felix when they had the chance? Now he was out another thirty dollars for the ad in the paper, and it would cost ten more to change it.

Summarize Armpit's internal conflict	At four o'clock in the morning, Armpit settles on a plan to take care of his internal conflict. What is this plan?	Prediction of how you think the conflict will be resolved

Discussion

He lifted it into the back of the pickup along with the top half of the bush. He was hot, tired, sore, and covered with dirt and sweat.

But he felt good. He had a feeling of satisfaction that he could never explain to X-Ray. It was good clean work. Scalping tickets felt dirty in comparison.

1. Explain why scalping tickets would "feel dirty" to Armpit when he actually is very dirty when doing his job as a landscaper. _____

2. How might this later lead to an internal conflict for Armpit? _____

Small Steps

Chapter 8 ~ Strong Verbs

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Ginny says that she only stutters when she _____.
2. What does H.E.B. stand for? _____
3. Why didn't X-Ray sell the tickets at the HEB the first time?

He noticed a woman watching him from the parking lot of the Stop & Shop. He wondered if she was suspicious because he was with a little white girl...

This passage hints at which of the following issues?

- a. revenge
- b. friendship
- c. racism
- d. acceptance

Strong verbs are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are said to be stronger than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like *fall* and another verb with a similar meaning like *plunge*. Now, compare these two sentences: 1) I watched the rock fall into the water. 2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn how the rock fell. The word *plunge* means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, with the word *plunge*, the reader gets all the meaning of the verb *fall*, plus the additional meaning that explains how the rock fell as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

In chapter eight, the author uses many different strong verbs. Circle each strong verb, and then complete the chart.

- A. Ginny cracked up.
- B. Armpit glared at X-Ray.
- C. ... he would just stand there, sweating and babbling nervously.
- D. "Too late!" X-Ray said as they bounced over a speed bump.
- E. X-Ray yelled an obscenity out his window, then lurched out of the parking lot into traffic.

Strong Verb(s) Used	Explain why these are effective verb choices.

Small Steps

Chapter 9 & 10 ~ Making Inferences & Drawing Conclusions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Who is Donnell? _____
2. Did Armpit accept the kids' offer of a ride? _____
3. Why is Cole shocked that Armpit is on his way to school? _____
4. To what town is Kaira going with her band now? _____
5. Why does she decide to ride on the band's bus rather than her own? _____

Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions

Whenever we read something, we are constantly making inferences and drawing conclusions. When you infer or conclude something, you figure it out. We do this based on what we already know from our prior knowledge or what we learn from the text.

Complete the following chart to record your inferences and conclusions in chapters nine and ten.

Passage	Inference Question	<u>Your Inference/conclusion</u> (Answer question here)
<p>Chapter 9</p> <p><i>"That little white retard," said Cole. I seen you hangin' with her. Man, what's her problem?" He laughed.</i></p> <p><i>Cole wasn't expecting an answer, but Armpit copied Ginny's tactic and gave him one.</i></p> <p><i>"There was some bleeding inside her brain when she was born."</i></p> <p><i>"Oh," Cole said. "Too bad."</i></p>	<p>Why does Cole respond the way he does when he says "Oh, too bad."? Why doesn't he say anything else negative about Ginny?</p>	
<p>Chapter 9</p> <p><i>He greeted Tatiana with a "hey," then pulled a wad of money out of his pocket and started counting it...He was still not finished. "Twenty, forty, sixty..."</i></p> <p><i>Tatiana was no longer smiling. "I better go," she said handing Coo back to Armpit.</i></p>	<p>Why do you think Tatiana suddenly has to leave?</p>	
<p>Chapter 10</p> <p><i>"Aileen's my mom's friend," said Kaira. "They go shopping together."</i></p> <p><i>"She's your dad's friend too," Tim B said with a laugh.</i></p>	<p>What can you conclude about what the band members are saying about Kaira's mom's husband and Aileen?</p>	

Small Steps
Chapter 11 ~ Idioms

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Where are Armpit and X-Ray heading after school? _____
2. Why are they going there? _____
3. Who is Murdock? _____
4. What does the restaurant serve where X-Ray and Armpit are? _____.

An idiom is a phrase, saying, or expression that says one thing but means another.

Let's look back at an idiom in chapter nine. The idiom is underlined.

Six hundred and ninety dollars down the toilet. (Armpit feels like he has wasted his money – his money was not really flushed “down a toilet”.)

Now it is your turn to look at some of the idioms in chapter eleven.

Passage	Idiom	Meaning of Idiom
<i>At night the area would come alive with some of the best music in Austin...</i>		
<i>“Go punch E-4,” Murdock told him. “See if she don’t knock your socks off.”</i>		
<i>“I really do appreciate you boys coming all the way down here. When it’s your own business, you got to stay on top of it twenty-four hours a day. I do it all: cook, wash dishes, you name it.”</i>		
<i>“Can I get you something to eat?” Murdock asked. “On the house.”</i>		

Small Steps
Chapter 12 ~ Readers' Theater

Narrator 1: X-Ray sold four more tickets to a couple of high school students from Westlake, and just like that, Armpit had another two hundred and seventy dollars. He was up three hundred dollars, and there were still two tickets left, which would mean another hundred and thirty-five for him.

Narrator 2: The final two ruler-of-the-world campaign speeches were given Thursday morning. The second-to-last speech was given by Claire, Tatiana's friend, who brought Dumbo the Elephant.

Claire: ... so all the other elephants made fun of him, but then he got drunk and ended up in a tree, and these birds sang to him. And then his mouse friend said he could fly because of a magic feather...

Boy in the back: Yeah, I've seen the movie!

Tatiana: (whispers) I used to love that movie!

Narrator 1: Armpit wondered if Tatiana still planned to vote for Coo.

Narrator 2: The last speech, given by Robbie Kinkaid, was for an armadillo named Joe. Robbie obviously made up the speech as he went along, including the name of his armadillo.

Robbie: This is an armadillo, I think. You can vote for him if you want. His name is...Joe. Joe the Armadillo. He is brown, and has four legs, and this shell thingy...

Narrator 1: Then came the vote. Everyone had to write down his or her first and second choices. Joe the Armadillo won, and Dumbo was elected vice ruler of the world. If for any reason Joe was unable to fulfill his obligations, Dumbo would take over.

Narrator 2: Armpit tried not to let his disappointment show. After all, it was just a stupid assignment, and people just voted for the only ones they could remember.

Tatiana: (to Armpit... She places her arm on his shoulder as she talks.) I'm sorry Coo didn't win.

Armpit: No biggie.

Tatiana: You gave the best speech.

Armpit: It would have made Ginny happy.

Tatiana: She your sister?

Armpit: My neighbor.

Tatiana: That's right. She has leukemia?

Armpit: Cerebral palsy.

Narrator 1: Armpit wondered if Tatiana had forgotten her hand was there, but if she had, he wasn't about to remind her. Her fingernails were painted green. Her perfume smelled like cantaloupe.

Armpit: Say, listen. Do you like Kaira DeLeon?

Tatiana: (She squeezes his arm.) Red Alert! I love that song.

Armpit: You want to go to the concert on Saturday?

Tatiana: You mean with you?

Armpit: Yeah.

Tatiana: Yeah.

Armpit: Yeah?

Tatiana: (smiling) Yeah.

Narrator 2: By the time economics was over, Armpit had convinced himself that X-Ray had already sold the last two tickets and that he was going to have to buy two from a scalper for fifteen hundred dollars. He could hear X-Ray's voice in his head. "Seven hundred and fifty dollars – each."

Narrator 1: When the bell rang he bolted out of his seat and hurried to the office, where he asked the secretary if he could use the phone. She seemed sympathetic, but it was against school policy. Apparently not the principal, the superintendent, or even the president of the United States could change school policy.

Narrator 2: Where was Joe the Armadillo when you needed him? He left the office and spotted Matt Kapok, a skinny white guy from his economics class. Matt was probably the only student in his class who was taking summer school because he *wanted* to, not because he had to.

Armpit: (Shouting) Matt!

Narrator 1: Armpit charged toward Matt.

Armpit: You got fifty cents? I'm desperate, man!

Narrator 2: Matt backed up against a row of lockers as he took his wallet out of his back pocket.

Matt: Uh, sure. Here.

Narrator 1: He held out a dollar, but it dropped out of his hand before Armpit could take it. As Armpit bent down to pick it up, Matt sidestepped him and quickly disappeared around the corner.

Armpit: (Calling after him) I'll pay you back!

Narrator 2: Armpit didn't know if Matt had heard him or not. He went back to the office, where the secretary gave him four quarters for the dollar, then went to the pay phone and called X-Ray.

Armpit: You sell the two tickets?

X-Ray: (in a soothing voice) Not to worry, not to worry.

Armpit: Have you sold them?

X-Ray: Look, you got to –

Armpit: (interrupting and impatient) Yes or no?

X-Ray: Not yet, but –

Armpit (interrupting) Don't!

X-Ray: Wait a second. Who are you, and what have you done with Armpit?

Narrator 1: Armpit told him about Tatiana.

Armpit: She had her hand on my arm, and with her perfume and everything, I couldn't think straight.

X-Ray: Was she the one I saw you talkin' to that time? Strange hair, goofy smile?

Armpit: Yeah.

X-Ray: She's pretty cute.

Armpit: I'll pay you a hundred and thirty-five.

Narrator 2: This seemed like a bargain. He was relieved not to have to pay fifteen hundred.

X-Ray: Man, that girl's really gotten to you. Look, there are your tickets. You don't have to buy them twice. (laughs) That musta' been some perfume!

Small Steps

Test One ~ Chapters 1 – 12

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. After leaving Camp Green Lake, which of the following does Armpit do first?
 - a. He buys a house and moves into it with some friends.
 - b. He calls the mayor of Austin to ask for a job.
 - c. He moves into a halfway house.
 - d. He finds X-Ray.
2. Which other Camp Green Lake resident comes to invite Armpit to participate in a business adventure?
 - a. Stanley
 - b. Magnet
 - c. Zero
 - d. X-Ray

A bell on the door jangled as X-Ray pushed it open. Armpit followed him inside.

Only a couple of tables were occupied, but it wasn't noon yet. A roll of brown paper towels stood in the center of every table, along with various bottles of hot sauce.

3. What literary device is used in the passage?
 - a. flashback
 - b. imagery
 - c. figurative language
 - d. none of the above
4. What is Armpit's real name?
 - a. Adam
 - b. Barney
 - c. Stanley
 - d. Theodore
5. How did he get the nickname Armpit?
 - a. He refused to wear deodorant, and he had smelly armpits.
 - b. He used a lot of profanity, and his friends said he had a mouth like an armpit.
 - c. He was stung on the arm, and the pain of the sting caused him to complain about his armpit hurting.
 - d. His older brother use to pick him up under his armpits and toss him around.

"Listen to me, Armpit," said Felix. "I bring you a breakfast taco, the least you can do is talk to me. If you're studying econ, then you should know. There's no such thing as a free lunch."

6. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
 - a. idiom
 - b. metaphor
 - c. personification
 - d. simile
7. Which of the following was the cause of Armpit being sent to Camp Green Lake?
 - a. popcorn
 - b. a cicada
 - c. a huge hole
 - d. shoes
8. Which word best describes the relationship between Armpit and Ginny?
 - a. hostile
 - b. supportive
 - c. one-sided
 - d. distant

*Speech class always made him nervous even when there was no speech due. Coach Simmons sometimes called on students to speak **extemporaneously**. Armpit had a fear of standing in front of the room, not knowing what to say.....*

9. Based on the passage, the reader can infer that extemporaneously means _____.
- in a loud way
 - in a prepared way
 - in a slow way
 - in an unrehearsed way
10. What stuffed animal won the ruler of the world contest?
- Coo
 - Joe the Armadillo
 - Milford the Monkey
 - Wilbur the Pig

"Maybe," Felix agreed. "Maybe you can. I'm not saying you can't. But you never know. A bird in the hand. Ninety dollars, Armpit, for just a morning's work. Hard to beat that."

11. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
- idiom
 - metaphor
 - personification
 - simile

Cerebral palsy can't be cured, but treatment will often improve a child's capabilities. Many children go on to enjoy near-normal adult lives if their disabilities are properly managed. In general, the earlier treatment begins the better chance children have of overcoming developmental disabilities or learning new ways to accomplish the tasks that challenge them. Treatment may include physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, drugs to control seizures, relax muscle spasms, and alleviate pain; surgery to correct anatomical abnormalities or release tight muscles; braces and other orthotic devices; wheelchairs and rolling walkers; and communication aids such as computers with attached voice synthesizers.

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12. The author's purpose in writing this passage is to _____.
- persuade the reader to watch carefully for signs of cerebral palsy
 - entertain the reader with a story of a child with a disability
 - describe a doctor's visit of a child with cerebral palsy
 - inform the reader of treatments of cerebral palsy
13. What is the tone of the passage?
- sarcastic
 - factual
 - pessimistic
 - gloomy
14. In which of the following sources would this passage be located?
- atlas
 - almanac
 - thesaurus
 - encyclopedia
15. What is the central idea of this passage?
- Cerebral Palsy has no cure, but treatments can improve the lives of those with this disability.
 - Some children with cerebral palsy must use walkers or wheel chairs.
 - Cerebral palsy treatments may include physical and occupational therapy as well as speech therapy.
 - Cerebral palsy has no cure.

Small Steps

Chapter 13 ~ Point of View

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What grade does Armpit make on his *Ruler of the World* speech? _____
2. What is Ginny's reaction to Armpit inviting a girl to the concert?

3. Who convinces Tatiana that going to the concert with Armpit is not a good idea?

4. What causes Ginny to become so upset? _____
5. What is Tatiana's excuse for not going to the concert with Armpit?

6. Who does Armpit ask to go to the dance with him after Tatiana tells him she can't go?

Point of View

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the **first person point of view** is used. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the **third person point of view** is being used. If the narrator focuses on only one character, the **limited third person point of view** is used. If the narrator allows the reader to know thoughts and feelings of one character, then another's, then another's, the **third person omniscient point of view** is used.

Answer only one easy question to decide if this story is told in the first person point of view. If the answer is yes, it is first person!

- Is one of the characters telling this story? _____

Small Steps is told from a third-person omniscient point of view because the narrator is able to move back and forth between what's going on with Kaira in her life and what is going on with Armpit, X-Ray and Ginny. In this chapter, the narrator even shows us a scene in Claire's bedroom where Tatiana, Claire, and Roxanne are discussing Armpit asking Tatiana to go to the concert.

However, within specific chapters, the omniscient narrator gives us a limited point of view. For example, the conflict revolved around Armpit and X-Ray follows Armpit's point of view. When X-Ray is off selling tickets, we are not aware of what has happened until he tells Armpit. Thus, this would be called the third person omniscient limited point of view.

Let's Review - Define the following.

1st person point of view: _____

3rd person limited: _____

3rd person limited omniscient: _____

The overall point of view of the novel is _____.

Small Steps

Chapter 14 ~ Readers' Theater

Ginny's mother: Just don't come home with your nose pierced.

Narrator 1: Ginny promised she wouldn't. Armpit's parents seemed more worried about Ginny's safety than her own mother, but Armpit had a lot to do with that since his natural response was to argue with anything they said.

Armpit's mother: Now, you keep a sharp eye on Ginny at all times.

Armpit: She can take care of herself.

Armpit's mother: There are a lot of crazy people at a rock concert.

Armpit: Just because people have tattoos or pierced tongues doesn't mean they're crazy!

Armpit's father: If you're not going to be responsible...

Armpit: Ginny's mother trusts me. Why can't my own parents?

Armpit's father: Because we know you.

Narrator 2: Armpit didn't know why he argued with them like that. He was just as concerned as they were, if not more so. He knew a rock concert could be a wild scene and had every intention of protecting Ginny and holding her hand until they were safely in their seats.

Narrator 1: He called X-Ray to make sure he hadn't already sold the tickets.

X-Ray: I got a guy on the line right now! He said he'd pay a hundred and fifty a ticket. I told you the price would go up. Didn't I tell you?

Armpit: You can't sell them. I'm taking Ginny.

X-Ray: Ginny? Are you outta your gourd? Have you completely lost your mind?

Armpit: Look, she had a really bad day. Just bring the tickets over here. I want to get an early start so we can beat the crowds.

X-Ray: We're talking three hundred dollars!

Armpit: I promised Ginny.

Narrator 2: X-Ray said he'd be over in twenty minutes, but he did not sound happy about it.

Narrator 1: Armpit sighed as he set the phone back in its cradle. Maybe he was crazy. He didn't even know if Ginny would be able to handle the loud music and the crowds. The phone rang a moment later. It was X-Ray again.

X-Ray: I told the guy they were no longer for sale, and he offered two hundred a ticket.

Armpit: No.

X-Ray: Four hundred dollars!

Armpit: No.

Narrator 2: It was almost seven o'clock. X-Ray still hadn't showed. Armpit and Ginny waited on the front porch, along with Ginny's mother.

Ginny's mother: You listen to Theodore and do everything he tells you.

Ginny: I will.

Narrator 1: He would be driving Ginny's mother's car. She insisted on it, which was fine with him, because if he took the X-Mobile they'd have to first take X-Ray home and they were running out of time. Besides, Ginny's mother's Camry was undoubtedly more reliable, and safer, than X-Ray's machine.

Armpit's mother: Still not here?

Narrator 2: Armpit shook his head no.

Ginny's mother: You must be very proud of Theodore.

Armpit's mother: (caught off guard) Uh, well, yes, of course I am.

Armpit: (softly to himself) If he sold those tickets, I'm going to kill him.

Narrator 1: One second later, the X-Mobile pulled around the corner. X-Ray parked in front and slid out the passenger side as Armpit and Ginny headed down to meet him.

Armpit: What took you so long?

X-Ray: (ignoring Armpit's question) Hey, Ginny, are you ready to rock'n'roll?

Ginny: Yes.

Narrator 2: X-Ray laughed, then handed Armpit the envelope containing the two remaining tickets.

X-Ray: Just remember. Be flexible.

Armpit: All right.

X-Ray: You hear what I'm saying? Flexible.

Armpit: Yeah, I hear you.

Narrator 1: Armpit didn't have time for any of X-Ray's nonsense. He and Ginny got into her mother's car; then he carefully backed it out of the driveway while everyone waved good-bye. He saw X-Ray say something to Ginny's mother, who laughed.

Narrator 2: They turned the corner. The clock on the dashboard read 7:06. The concert wasn't until eight. He winked at Ginny. She shut and opened both eyes.

Armpit: (singing) I'm gonna take you for a ride! And we're gonna have some fun! I'm gonna take you for a ride!

Ginny: (singing) And we're gonna have some fun!

Armpit: I'm gonna take you someplace you've never been before...

Ginny and Armpit: And you'll never be the same again.

Predict

Good readers constantly make predictions as they read. What do you think X-Ray meant when he told Armpit to “be flexible”?

Small Steps

Chapter 15 ~ Foreshadowing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Why does the security guard come to Armpit's seat at the concert?

2. What happens to Ginny while Armpit is handcuffed and on the floor? _____
3. What do the security guards think is wrong with her? _____
4. Who comes to help Armpit in this situation? _____
5. As a result of this unfortunate situation, what does Kaira offer Armpit and Ginny?

Foreshadowing is when the author gives the reader a hint of something that is going to happen before it actually happens. Foreshadowing is used to build suspense or create anxiety. Effective foreshadowing is sometimes not noticed until after an event has occurred. Sometimes, you can look back and say, "Ah! That was foreshadowing!"

In chapter fifteen, Armpit is accused of having counterfeit tickets. Louis Sachar provided us with foreshadowing for this event. Go back and look in chapter fourteen to find it. Complete the following chart once you have found the clues. Look for things that X-Ray said, or didn't say, to hint that something may happen in regards to the concert.

Passage	Page #

Discussion

List two or three of the officer's actions toward Armpit.

What do you think of the way the officers treated Armpit?

What is your opinion of the way the Mayor stepped in to help Armpit? What does this say about her?

"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?"

What do these statements reveal about the kind of person that Jerome is?

Small Steps

Chapter 16 ~ Inside/Out Profile

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Where are Ginny and Armpit seated for the concert? _____

2. What two things does David give Armpit and Ginny? _____

3. What song does Kaira and her band come out to play last? _____

Inside/Out Profile

Let's take a closer look at Kaira after this chapter. On the following chart, make a list of adjectives that describe how Kaira seems to others. Think about her actions in this chapter. Write words that suggest her inner emotions, thoughts, and values. This way we can examine her from the inside out.

Kaira's Outside	Kaira on the inside (her inner emotions, thoughts, and/or values)	Passage to prove her inner emotions, thoughts, and/or values
Famous, popular, talented		
Seventeen year old African-American girl		

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
Chapter 18 ~ Discussion

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What time did Ginny and Armpit return from the concert?

2. Who comes to visit Armpit the morning after the concert? _____

3. Why is Armpit going to the Four Seasons Sunday morning?

Discussion

1. In your own words, summarize the conflict between X-Ray and Armpit.

2. What was X-Ray's motive for creating counterfeit tickets?

3. What were the consequences of X-Ray's actions with the tickets?

4. Who do you think was right - X-Ray or Armpit? Explain.

5. What would you have done if you were in X-Ray's position?

6. Do you think X-Ray will do something like this again? Explain your answer.

Small Steps
Chapter 19 ~ Figurative Language

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What important information did Armpit forget when he arrived at the Four Seasons?

2. Why does Kaira call Armpit “Knuckles” as she gets off of the elevator? _____

3. What deal does Armpit make with Kaira? _____

*He told her about the advice the counselor at the halfway house had given to him. The important thing was to take small steps and just keep on moving forward. **“Life is like crossing a river. If you try to take too big a step, the current will knock you off your feet and carry you away.”***

“That’s kind of poetic,” said Kaira.

What type of figurative language is used in the bolded part of this passage?

- a. idiom
- b. personification
- c. metaphor
- d. simile

In your own words, write what you think Armpit means by this illustration of life.

Write your own figurative language explaining what life is like. First, compare life to something, and then write two or three lines explaining what you mean.

Example: Life is like a roller coaster. It has its ups and downs, twists and turns. It’s sometimes scary, but also fun, and before you know it, it’s over.

Life is like

Small Steps
Chapter 20 ~ Character Description

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What is Armpit's internal conflict in this chapter? _____

2. Who shows up at Armpit's house? _____

Armpit gives the detective a pretty creative description of "Habib" in this chapter. Piece all of the parts of the description together on the following lines. Then, create a Wanted Poster for this imaginary character.

Description of Habib: _____

WANTED

Small Steps
Chapter 21 ~ Acronyms

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. How long has it been since Armpit has seen Kaira? _____
2. What name does Detective Newberg ask Armpit about? _____

An **acronym** is a word whose letters are the first letters of other words. People often create a short word that means the same thing as a much longer phrase (set of words), to make it faster and shorter to say than the long phrase. Examples of acronyms are:

- **Laser** - Light **A**mplification through **S**timulated **E**lectron **R**adiation
- **Scuba** - **S**elf-**C**ontained **U**nderwater **B**reathing **A**pparatus
- **Radar** - **R**adio **D**etecting **A**nd **R**anging

Sometimes, people like to create acronyms to help them remember things. X-Ray gives Armpit a well-known acronym in this chapter with the word “kiss”.

Keep

It

Simple

Stupid

Create your own acronym. Think about a word that could pertain to X-Ray or Armpit’s situation.

Example:

Word: Busted

How this pertains to X-Ray & Armpit: They are about to be **busted** for counterfeit tickets.

Better

Understand

Sometimes

Truth

Ends

Deception

My word _____

How this word pertains to X-Ray’s and/or Armpit’s situation _____

Write your acronym below.

Small Steps
Chapters 22 & 23 ~ Tone

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

- 1. Where was Kaira when she mailed the letter to Armpit? _____
- 2. Where does Armpit go before work? _____
- 3. What is X-Ray's real name? _____
- 4. Rather than saying yes in response to the detective, X-Ray says _____.

Tone is the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details.

Which of the following best describes the tone of Kaira's letter to Armpit?

- a. sympathetic
- b. revealing
- c. anxious
- d. encouraging

Write a letter to Kaira from Armpit in response to her letter. Make sure the tone in your letter matches the tone used in Kaira's letter.

Dear Kaira,

**Sincerely,
Theodore**

Small Steps
Chapter 24 ~ Song Lyrics

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Why does Kaira call Armpit? _____

2. How does Armpit know she really does not want him to burn the letter?

3. Kaira uses an adjective to describe Armpit which shocks him. What is this adjective? _____

4. Where will Armpit spend the weekend? _____

Kaira recited the words. “These shoes, these jewels, this dress. A perfect picture of success. You would never guess...” She paused and said the next two words slowly and clearly. “I’m but a damsel in distress. Save me. I’m but a damsel in distress.”

What is a damsel? _____

What does distress mean? _____

How do these song lyrics relate to Kaira’s real life?

Write your own lyrics for a song about one of the characters in the novel. First, create a refrain – the repeated part. Next, write the words to the rest of the song. Make sure your refrain is repeated.

The character my song will be about _____

My refrain

Song title _____

Now, on a separate sheet of paper, write your song.

Test Two ~ Chapters 13 – 24

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

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

- Using context clues, what does the word *maneuver* mean?
 - fight
 - move
 - compromise
 - run
- What conflict did Armpit run into at the concert?
 - He spilled popcorn on a person seated next to him and got into a fight.
 - He was accused of having counterfeit tickets.
 - Ginny had a seizure before they could get to their seats.
 - 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?"

- This passage makes Jerome seem _____.
 - cruel and insensitive
 - anxious to start the concert
 - generous and kind
 - in charge and confident

8. When Kaira hears about Ginny, she allows Armpit and Ginny to _____.
- receive her autograph
 - come backstage with her
 - sit on the very front row
 - sing a duet on stage
9. What hint does Ginny give Kaira about Armpit's nickname?
- She tells her that it starts with the letter a.
 - She tells her that it has something to do with his arm.
 - She tells her that it is a part of his body.
 - She tells her that it is something that can stink.

And then suddenly, right in front of me is a big sign: All Your Copying Needs. I'm telling you, it was like a sign from God! I mean, how many times have I been to the H-E-B without noticing there was a Copy King right there? Did you know it was there?

"God musta put it there just for you," said Armpit.

10. What is the tone of the bolded comment made to X-Ray by Armpit?
- intelligent
 - suspicious
 - concerned
 - sarcastic

He followed her through the sliding glass doors out to the patio. A well-manicured lawn gently sloped away from the patio and down to a walkway.

11. A well-manicured lawn is one that _____.
- is very green
 - is well taken care of and looks nice
 - is covered in fingernail polish
 - has lots of flowers
12. Who is Billy boy?
- a serial killer who has been stalking Kaira
 - Kaira's number one fan
 - Kaira's uncle
 - someone who has threatened Kaira
13. Which of the following is NOT in Armpit's description of Habib?
- He has an Iranian accent.
 - He is tall and thin.
 - He has a mustache.
 - His was in his twenties.

"You're lucky she was there," Armpit pointed out.

"Oh, yeah? How's that?"

"If the mayor wasn't there, I woulda been sent to jail, Ginny woulda been taken to a hospital and had her stomach pumped, and you'd be dead."

14. What is the organizational pattern of this passage?
- concept/definition
 - cause-and-effect
 - comparison/contrast
 - chronological order
15. Which of the following best describes the letter that Kaira writes to Armpit?
- It is long and amusing.
 - It is sincere and revealing.
 - It is humorous.
 - It is spiteful.

Small Steps

Chapter 25 ~ The Plot Thickens

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What fear does Armpit reveal to Ginny? _____
2. What will Armpit miss if he goes to San Francisco? _____
3. What does Aileen really think about Jerome? _____

4. Who is Densie Linaria? _____
5. What truth about El Genius does Kaira hide? _____

The plot thickens!

Explain in your own words the deception that is present between Jerome and Kaira, Jerome and Kaira's mother, and Aileen and Jerome.

Deception between...	What is the deception?	Who is being deceived?
Jerome and Kaira		
Jerome and Kaira's mother		
Aileen and Jerome		
Aileen and Kaira		

Context clues

Often times, readers must use **context clues** to determine the meaning of an unknown word. Readers use words or phrases surrounding an unfamiliar word to gain understanding of the word. These words or phrases are referred to as **context clues**. If you become more aware of the words around the difficult words you encounter in your reading, you will save yourself many trips to the dictionary and be able to make logical guesses about the meanings of many words.

Use context clues to determine the meaning of the bolded word in each passage. In each passage, underline the word(s) that help you determine the meaning of the word.

*She sounded incredibly **efficient**. She rattled off several departure and arrival times as he struggled to keep up.*

- a. productive b. wasteful c. angry d. slow

*Aileen sat at an antique desk looking over the hills of Santa Barbara and out to the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, what the hotel offered in charm and **serenity**, it lacked in modern technology, such as in-room Internet connections.*

- a. size b. peacefulness c. humor d. money

Small Steps
Chapter 26 ~ Prediction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What job does Armpit have to complete for his company? _____
2. How does a mountain laurel bush help him complete his job? _____

3. Who comes to the home where Armpit is working? _____
4. What does Felix tell Armpit he must do? _____
5. Who offers X-Ray a job? _____

Jerome massaged the back of her neck as he spoke. "Fred ran a background check. The kid's got a criminal record. Assault and battery!"

Aileen turned around to look at him.

"Am I a genius or am I a genius?"

She rose from her chair, then stood on tiptoe to kiss him. "You're a genius," she whispered.

"See, genius isn't all about intelligence," he explained. "There are a lot of smart people in the world. Smarter than me. It's about recognizing your opportunities. It's about letting your opportunities come to you. Sometimes all you have to do is open the door and opportunity walks right in. It takes a genius to know when to open the door."

..."Now's the time. Now's the time," he said, talking more to himself than to Aileen. "She'll be eighteen in two months. Now's the time to act. Opportunity is knocking. I've got no choice. Now's the time to open the door."

Based on these two passages, make a conclusion about what Jerome is up to, and predict what you think will happen.

Small Steps
Chapter 26 ~ Discussion

Name: _____ Date: _____

Discussion

What is the definition of blackmail?

How is Felix blackmailing Armpit?

What would you do if you were in Armpit's situation?

What would the consequences be if Armpit sells Kaira's letter?

What could be the consequences if Armpit doesn't sell Kaira's letter?

Small Steps
Chapter 27 ~ Discussion

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this chapter, the author illustrates Armpit's situation with a metaphor. He compares Armpit to a donkey who is between two hay stacks. Since it has no reason to choose one over the other, the donkey just stays in the middle until it dies of hunger.

Explain how Armpit is like this donkey. What are his "haystacks"?

Does this metaphor illustrate an internal or external conflict? _____

In the boxes below, draw a picture of the metaphor (the donkey and the haystacks). Then, draw a picture of Armpit and the things that he has to decide.

--	--

Besides a donkey between two haystacks, what else could illustrate this point as a metaphor? Create your own metaphor about indecision.

Small Steps
Chapter 28 ~ Conflict

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. True or False – Armpit goes to his economics class and takes his final exam. _____
2. Who does Armpit fight with in this chapter? _____
3. In what kind of car does Armpit ride to the airport? _____

Conflict

Define the following types of conflict.

internal conflict: _____

external conflict: _____

He realized he couldn't do everything. He couldn't please everybody.

List all of the people that you can think of that Armpit has been trying to please.

List all of the things that Armpit has going on right now in his life.

Does this passage represent an internal or external conflict?

When Armpit gets into a physical fight with Felix, is this an internal or external conflict?

Reread the song lyrics at the end of this chapter. Explain in your own words how these lyrics relate to Armpit at this point in the book.

Small Steps

Chapter 29 ~ Setting

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What is Armpit's hotel like? _____
2. What does Jerome Paisley show Armpit in his room? _____
3. How does Armpit greet Kaira when he gets out of the elevator and sees her for the first time?

Setting – the time and place of a story

Study the following chart to understand what setting might include.

Place	Time	Environment
The physical location The country, state, or city Mountains? Lake? Forest? Beach? Under a bridge?	Calendar and clock times Day, month, year Season Future Past Present	Details in the surroundings What else is going on around the characters? This includes the weather, air, is it crowded or isolated, etc.

Read back over the beginning of chapter twenty-nine looking for the details that the author uses to describe the setting. Use the chart above to help you know what to look for.

When he arrives at the airport...

Place	Time	Environment

His hotel...

Place	Time	Environment

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.

Clue/Jerome's action	Why do you predict he is doing this?
<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>	

Small Steps
Chapter 31 ~ Writing Assignment

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

- 1. What did the man who approached Kaira’s table want? _____
- 2. What makes Kaira so mad at Armpit? _____
- 3. What did Kaira do to Armpit before leaving the coffee shop? _____

When Armpit tries to explain his predicament to Kaira, everything comes out wrong, and he ends up with coffee all over him. Sometimes, it is easier to express our feelings in writing. Write a letter to Kaira from Armpit explaining the situation. Also, do you think that Armpit is wrong for anything? Scalping tickets? Making comments about her not understanding money? If so, include an apology in your letter.

Dear Kaira,

Love,
Theodore

Small Steps
Chapter 32 ~ Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

True or False?

1. Armpit takes a cab back to the hotel. _____
2. Armpit finds Kaira and apologizes to her. _____
3. Fred is looking for Armpit and Kaira. _____

He had tried to take too big a step, and the current had knocked him off his feet and was washing him away. All his efforts, at school and at work, were for nothing. X-Ray would most likely go to jail, and he probably would too.

Writing Opportunity

Write a five paragraph narrative about the following prompt.

We have all faced times in our lives when we have tried to take “too big a step”. Think about a hard time in your life - a time you made a wrong choice or when life was really hard. Write a story telling what happened and what you learned from the experience.

Use the space below to brainstorm. You may want to create a graphic organizer before writing your narrative on notebook paper.

Small Steps

Chapter 33 ~ Imagery

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. Where was Kaira when Jerome entered her hotel suite? _____
2. What does Jerome do to Kaira? _____
3. Who was the first person to come into the hotel room after Jerome? _____
4. What does Kaira do to cause Armpit to ask "You all right?" and then walk on into the room to check? _____

Imagery to create suspense

In this chapter, Jerome sneaks into Kaira's hotel room to carry out his evil plan. In order to create suspense, Louis Sachar uses excellent imagery so that we can see, hear, and even feel what is going on in the room.

Go back and reread the beginning of this chapter when Jerome enters Kaira's room. Complete the following chart to record the imagery. Stop at the part where Jerome's bat was knocking against the wall. One has been completed for you.

Sense of touch	Sense of hearing	Jerome's inner feelings
<i>His hands were sweating inside the latex gloves.</i>		

Action verbs create imagery!

When Jerome starts to hit Kaira with the bat, the author uses different action verbs to allow the reader to see what is happening.

*The bat **caromed** off her shoulder, then **slammed** against her throat.*

The strong verbs *caromed* and *slammed* show just how hard Jerome hit Kaira. The action would not be as easy to picture if the author had just written *the bat **hit** her shoulder and then **hit** her throat.*

Find three more sentences in which strong verbs are used to create imagery.

Sentence	Strong Verb	Page #

Small Steps

Chapter 34 ~ Writing a News Report

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What did Armpit do to Kaira's letter? _____
2. What did a man mistakenly announce at the Kaira Deleon concert? _____
3. The newspapers all refer to Armpit as a(n) _____.
4. True or false? Detective Newberg realizes who Armpit is. _____

Writing Opportunity

News Report

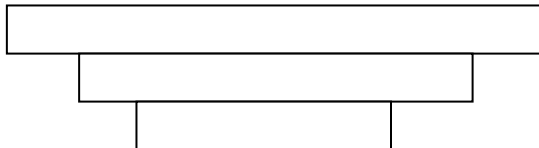
...But then again, it wasn't every mother's son whose picture was on the front page of nearly every newspaper in the country, usually with the word "hero" somewhere in the headline.

Most of the articles had their facts wrong.

Write a news report about what happened to Kaira. Make sure your headline includes the word "hero". However, unlike the articles mentioned in the book, make sure your news report has the facts right.

Read the following information on writing a news report before you start.

- A news report is based on facts. Do not include your opinions.
- The first paragraph contains the most important information: **Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?**
- It is arranged in an "inverted pyramid" style:



This means that facts are arranged from most important to least important. It allows you to see a lot of information quickly in the first couple of paragraphs. The least important facts are near the end.

Answer these questions in the lead of your news report:

1. **Who is it about?**
2. **What happened?**
3. **When did it happen?**
4. **Where did it happen?**
5. **Why did it happen?**
6. **How did it happen?**

Small Steps
Chapter 35 ~ Situational Irony

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension

1. What grade did Armpit earn in economics? _____
2. What happened to Aileen? _____
3. What did Kaira lose besides her money? _____

Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Or, sometimes situational irony comes from the oddness or unfairness of a situation.

Example: A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.

Example: The man who is the “voice” for Bugs Bunny is allergic to carrots.

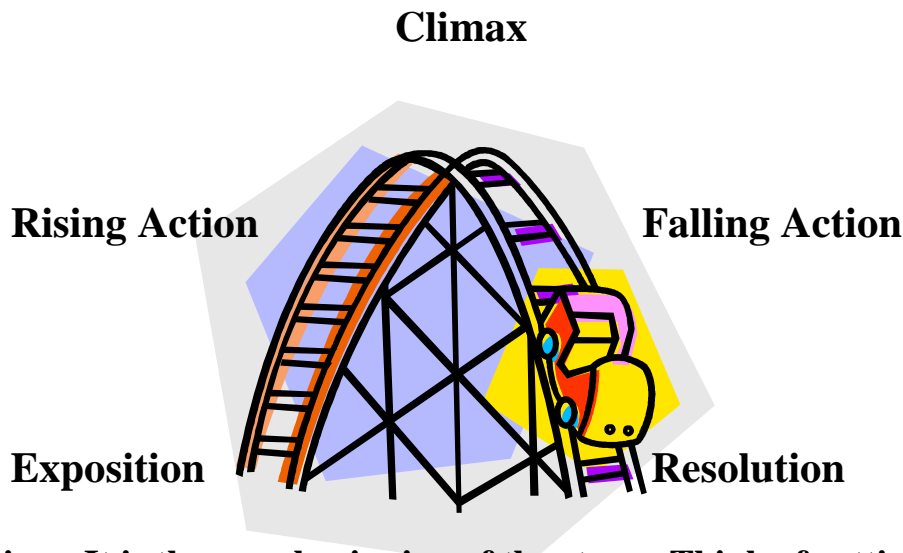
As it turned out, the evidence that would have been used to convict Theodore Johnson would now be used against Jerome Paisley to prove premeditation – to show he had planned to murder her. However, El Genius had pretty much confessed to everything, so it didn't look like there would even be a trial.

What can be considered situational irony in this passage? Explain your answer.

Armpit looked around at Ginny's stuffed animals. Like Hooter, the owl who couldn't see, or Daisy, the dog who couldn't hear, Kaira might be a singer who couldn't sing.

What can be considered situational irony in this passage? Explain your answer.

PLOT IS LIKE A ROLLER COASTER RIDE!



Exposition: It is the very beginning of the story. Think of getting on the ride. You are able to see what the ride is made of, you can see some of the other passengers, and you are ready for the ride ahead of you. The exposition in a story is the same. You are introduced to the setting and some of the characters, and you are being prepared for the action ahead of you.

Rising Action: These are the key events that lead up to the climax. Think of the roller coaster ride again. The ride begins. You are heading up the track. Up, up, up, higher, higher, higher. You can see the sky; your heart begins to beat; you know something exciting is about to happen. The rising action in a story is the same. You begin to read about some interesting things, and you start to make predictions about what exciting events lie ahead of you.

Climax: This is the turning point of the story. Once again, think of the ride. You finally slowly reach the top of the hill. You pause for a second, and then, whoosh! Down you go, and the whole experience changes. The climax is the same in a story. You reach a point where things change. The story takes an exciting turn, and you can finally see the end in sight.

Falling Action: This is what happens after the climax and before the resolution. After the big hill on a roller coaster ride, there may still be a little hill or a bump or two before it all ends. In a story, there may be one or two other events following the climax.

Resolution: This is the ending of the story. When a roller coaster ride reaches the loading dock, the ride has ended, and you are left with the thrill. It is the same with the resolution in a story. It is how it all ends. And you know what? Maybe you even want to reread it!

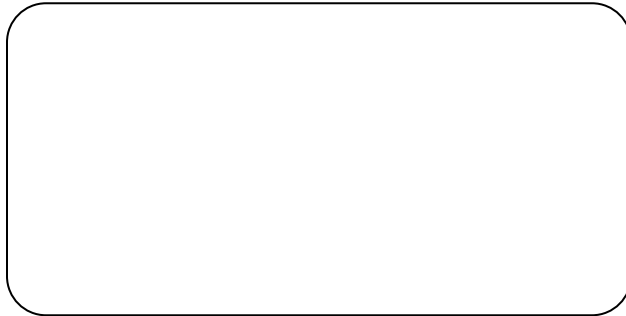
Small Steps Plot Analysis

Name: _____

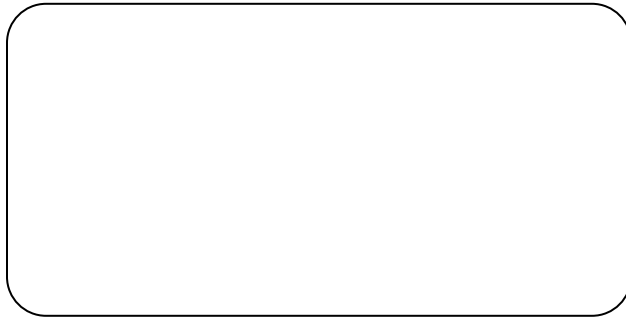
Date: _____

Complete the following by filling in parts of the plot.

Exposition




Rising
Action



Climax



Falling
Action



Resolution



Theme

Name: _____ Date: _____

A theme is a story's central message; it is a lesson that you learn about life.

Some things to remember about theme are:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

In this novel, one of the themes is stated. One of the characters speaks it. Find this theme, and then explain how this theme is true for the characters in this novel and how it is true in life in general.

Stated Theme (chapter nineteen)

How this theme is true for the main characters in this novel

How this theme is true for life in general

Small Steps - Final Test

Name: _____

A. Multiple Choice

- The title of this book can be related to which of the following literary elements?
 - flashback
 - onomatopoeia
 - theme
 - personification
- Which of the following is part of the exposition of the novel?
 - X-Ray buys an ad in the local newspaper to help sell the tickets.
 - Armpit takes Ginny to the concert.
 - X-Ray asks Armpit to help him sell concert tickets for a profit.
 - Armpit visits Kaira in San Francisco and ends up saving her life.
- What is the genre of this novel?
 - historical fiction
 - realistic fiction
 - science fiction
 - nonfiction
- Which of the following is most likely the climax of *Small Steps*?
 - Felix beats up X-Ray and smashes his glasses.
 - Ginny has a seizure at the concert.
 - Armpit saves Kaira when Jerome tries to kill her.
 - Kaira writes a song that Armpit is pretty sure he inspired.
- Which of the following best describes Kaira's attitude toward her stepfather, Jerome?
 - obedient yet disgusted
 - admiring yet doubtful
 - jealous
 - sympathetic
- This novel deals with all of the following issues except _____.
 - race
 - friendship
 - religion
 - acceptance
- All of the following describe Ginny except _____.
 - selfish
 - supportive
 - friendly
 - sensitive
- Who is Jack Dunlevy?
 - Kaira's bodyguard
 - Armpit's boss
 - X-Ray's father
 - Kaira's stepfather

9. What two classes is Armpit taking in summer school?
- economics and speech
 - Spanish and history
 - math and mechanics
 - government and accounting
10. Which phrase best describes how Armpit's parents treat him?
- They involve him in their work.
 - They require him to help them all of the time.
 - They do not trust him.
 - They are extremely proud of him.
11. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
- eloquent and encouraging
 - profound and serious
 - humorous and amusing
 - sarcastic and stern
12. How would Armpit most likely behave if someone were to ask him again to make money by doing something like scalping tickets?
- He would hire someone to stand in line for him instead of wasting his own time.
 - He would consult his economics book first.
 - He would say no because he realizes that it can cause harm.
 - He would gladly do it again and try to make more money.
13. At the end of the novel, the reader can conclude that _____.
- Kaira and Armpit are in a serious relationship
 - Armpit begins his own singing career and begins to travel all over the country performing at concerts
 - Armpit graduates from high school and goes on to college
 - Armpit and X-Ray start a ticket scalping business together
14. Which of the following passages contains the best example of imagery?
- A used Band-Aid, crusted with blood, lay on the floor next to the wastebasket.*
 - She was talking to him, but he got the feeling that everything she said was for Fred's benefit.*
 - As the guard was looking them over, two uniformed police officers hurried quickly down the hall.*
 - She checked her small notebook, then knocked on Armpit's door.*
15. True or false? By the end of the novel, Armpit and Kaira are in a serious relationship.
- true
 - false
16. Which of the following events caused Kaira to become extremely mad at Armpit?
- He spilled coffee on the new sweatshirt she bought him.
 - He asked her to write another letter to him so he could sell it to Felix.
 - He was part of the reason that her drummer lost his job.
 - He refused to take Kaira home to meet his parents.

17. The protagonist is the main character of a story. Who is the protagonist in this novel?
- a. Armpit
 - b. X-Ray
 - c. Ginny
 - d. Kaira
18. Which of the following is the best theme for this novel?
- a. Mothers really do know best.
 - b. What goes around comes around.
 - c. Take life one step at a time and you will succeed.
 - d. Beauty is only skin deep.

And so he remained, paralyzed by indecision, a donkey between two haystacks.

19. What type of conflict is the donkey facing in this passage?
- a. internal
 - b. external
 - c. cognitive
 - d. none of the above
20. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
- a. an idiom
 - b. personification
 - c. a metaphor
 - d. a simile

*...But there ain't no net beneath the high wire.
Nearing the top, he starts to perspire.
He's climbing out of the frying pan...
And into the fire!*

21. Armpit was listening to this song while he was in the limousine on the way to the airport. Knowing what you know at the end of the book, these lyrics serve as _____.
- a. foreshadowing
 - b. a flashback
 - c. an allusion
 - d. symbolism
22. What type of figurative language is used in these lyrics?
- a. idiom
 - b. personification
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile

B. Matching – match each character with the correct description.

23. _____ Theodore Thomas "Armpit" Johnson

24. _____ Rex Alvin "X-Ray" Washburn

25. _____ Kathy "Kaira DeLeon" Spears

26. _____ Ginny McDonald

27. _____ Billy Boy

28. _____ Cherry Lane

29. _____ Felix

30. _____ Moses

31. _____ Cotton

A. Kaira's drum player

B. Armpit's disabled friend

C. A person created by "El Genius," who writes threatening letters to Kaira saying how much he loves her and how bad he wants to murder her.

D. a teenage boy who has recently returned from Camp Green Lake

E. Felix's ticket selling partner

F. the mayor of Austin

G. a friend/business partner of Armpit's who convinces him to sell tickets

H. a dirty ticket scalper who does it for a living

I. a teenage pop idol

Small Steps

Answer Key

Chapter 1

Comprehension

1. Raincreek Irrigation and Landscaping
2. Theodore Johnson
3. Armpit's boss
4. the mayor of Austin; the lady who owns the yard in which Armpit is working
5. graduate from high school; get a job; save his money; avoid situations that might turn violent; lose the name Armpit

Descriptions and Imagery

Imagery – language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind

The author weaves in a description of Armpit in this first chapter. What words and phrases are used to describe him? Stood a head taller than the mayor; broad shoulders; thick muscular arms; afraid of his own strength; most African-Americans, including Armpit's family

Throughout this chapter, the author uses imagery to help the readers feel like they are there. Read the following passages and underline the imagery that the author uses.

- *...He was in the process of digging a trench along the side yard ...his shovel knifed through the dirt; he carefully kept the sod intact so it could be replaced later. His shovel was short and had a rectangular blade...*
- *...a scorpion had stung him on the arm, and the pain had traveled upward and settled in his armpit. It had felt like there was a hot needle twisting around inside him.*
- *The woman wore blue jeans and a loose-fitting white shirt. Her long silver hair was pulled back in a ponytail.*
- *A mosquito buzzed by his ear, and he swatted at it.*
- *Cherry Lane raised her arms in the air as she wiggled to the music.*

Authors often use other devices to help add to imagery. Find examples of the following devices in the passages.

1. a simile: felt like there was a hot needle twisting around inside him
2. onomatopoeia: buzzed

Chapter 2 ~ Getting to Know the Characters

Comprehension

1. X-Ray
2. that it is a different shape

3. \$ 857.00
4. He tells him that he can double his money for him in less than two weeks
5. She is Kaira's psychiatrist.
6. 17; She is a singer.
7. Fred is Kaira's bodyguard.
8. He plans to buy ticket's for Kaira's concert in Philadelphia and then resell them at a much higher rate.
9. \$600.00

Meet Armpit.

Two facts that you have learned about him	ARA Possible answers – works for a landscaping company; likes to save his money; His real name is Theodore; He was stung by a scorpion at Camp Green Lake.
Two descriptive words that seem right for Armpit	ARA Possible answers – hard-working; cautious; naïve; loyal; polite
One or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	ARA Possible answer – <i>Afraid of his own strength, Armpit tried not to grip the elderly woman's hand too hard...</i> (polite)

Meet X-Ray.

Two facts that you have learned about him	ARA Possible answers – He wears glasses; He drives a Honda.
Two descriptive words that seem right for Armpit	ARA Possible answers – cunning; observant; manipulative
One or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	ARA Possible answers – <i>"I just don't get it. I offer my best friend an opportunity to double his money, and he won't even listen to my idea."</i> (manipulative)

Meet Kaira DeLeon.

Two facts that you have learned about her	ARA Possible answers – seventeen years old; African-American, popular singer; father died in Iraq
Two descriptive words that seem right for	ARA Possible answers – lonely, smart; talented

Kaira	
One or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	ARA Possible answers – ... <i>except for Polly, there wasn't anybody on the tour she could talk to.</i> (lonely)

Chapter 3

Comprehension

1. Is Armpit an only child? No, he has a brother and a sister.
2. Who is Ginny McDonald? the ten-year-old girl that lives in the same duplex as Armpit
3. Ginny was born with cerebral palsy.

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: sample response: Armpit is respected and somewhat feared by people in his neighborhood

About Ginny: sample response: Ginny is honest and straightforward.

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

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.

Chapters 4 & 5

Comprehension

1. Why does X-Ray call Armpit? He tells Armpit that he needs more money from him because of a service charge on the tickets.
2. Who is Tatiana? a girl in Armpit's class that he seems to like
3. Which of the following words **best** describes Tatiana?
 - a. serious
 - b. snobbish
 - c. offbeat**
 - d. weird
5. What does Armpit think he hears in Kiara's song? His name - Armpit
4. Who is Felix? He is someone they meet in-line – he is a ticket scalper. He wants to buy X-Ray and Armpit's tickets.

Predicting

What does this cause you to predict about the tickets that Armpit and X-Ray plan to buy and resell for a huge profit? **Accept reasonable predictions – sample: They will not be able to make money off of reselling the tickets.**

Foreshadowing

What does the number thirteen usually symbolize? **bad luck**

Now, thinking about the tickets being on the thirteenth row and what Armpit sees on the back of the tickets, what does this possibly foreshadow?

Accept reasonable responses – sample: They will have bad luck and get into trouble.

Chapter 7

Comprehension

1. Why does Armpit buy a newspaper? He wants to look at the ad for their tickets.
2. A man offers \$135.00 for two of the tickets.
3. With what does Armpit compare the root that he is removing from someone's yard?
an octopus
4. What type of figurative language is used in this comparison? A simile

An internal conflict takes place within a character's mind. It is a conflict that a character has within him/herself.

- man vs. himself (character vs. him/herself)

He wondered how he had ever let X-Ray talk him into this. Why didn't they sell the tickets to Felix when they had the chance? Now he was out another thirty dollars for the ad in the paper, and it would cost ten more to change it.

Summarize Armpit's internal conflict	At four o'clock in the morning, Armpit settles on a plan to take care of his internal conflict. What is this plan?	Prediction of how you think the conflict will be resolved
Armpit feels like he has gotten himself into a bad situation. He doesn't want to lose all of his money, so he is trying to figure out how to make things right.	Armpit decides to change the ad and sell the tickets at seventy dollars a ticket. That way, they would still make a small profit.	Accept reasonable predictions

Discussion

Sample answer: In this sense, "dirty" means that it feels wrong. He is earning his money by working as a landscaper, but scalping tickets is a "get rich quick" method to receive money, and it is not "earned". In addition, it is not right.

Sample answer: We often feel guilty about things that we do that seem wrong. Later, Armpit may regret scalping tickets and may feel guilty for getting involved in something that is not right.

Chapter 8

Comprehension

1. Ginny says that she only stutters when she talks _____.
2. What does H.E.B. stand for? Howard E. Butt
3. Why didn't X-Ray sell the tickets at the HEB the first time? He didn't want to take a check. He noticed a woman watching him from the parking lot of the Stop & Shop. He wondered if she was suspicious because he was with a little white girl...

This passage hints at which of the following issues?

- a. revenge
- b. friendship
- c. racism**
- d. acceptance

Strong verbs

In chapter eight, the author uses many different strong verbs. Circle each strong verb, and then complete the chart.

- A. Ginny **cracked up**.
- B. Armpit **glared** at X-Ray
- C. ... he would just stand there, sweating and **babbling** nervously.
- D. "Too late!" X-Ray said as they **bounced** over a speed bump.
- E. X-Ray yelled an obscenity out his window, then **lurched** out of the parking lot into traffic.

Strong Verb(s) Used	Explain why these are effective verb choices.
A. Cracked up	Cracked up shows that she unexpectedly laughed and it was a big laugh.
B. Glared	This verb lets us know that Armpit is angry with X-Ray.
C. Babbling	This word shows that he is so nervous that he doesn't really know what he's talking about.
D. Bounced	This verb shows just how fast the car was going. It mimics X-Ray's reckless behavior.
E. Lurched	This verb shows just how reckless X-Ray is driving.

Test one ~ Chapters 1 – 12

1. After leaving Camp Green Lake, which of the following does Armpit do first?
 - a. He buys a house and moves into it with some friends.
 - b. He calls the mayor of Austin to ask for a job.
 - c. He moves into a halfway house.**
 - d. He finds X-Ray.
2. Which other Camp Green Lake resident comes to invite Armpit to participate in a business adventure?
 - a. Stanley
 - b. Magnet
 - c. Zero
 - d. X-Ray**
3. What literary device is used in the passage?
 - a. flashback
 - b. imagery**
 - c. figurative language
 - d. none of the above
4. What is Armpit's real name?
 - a. Adam
 - b. Barney
 - c. Stanley
 - d. Theodore**

5. How did he get the nickname Armpit?
 - a. He refused to wear deodorant and he had smelly armpits.
 - b. He used a lot of profanity, and his friends said he had a mouth like an armpit.
 - c. He was stung on the arm, and the pain of the sting caused him to complain about his armpit hurting.**
 - d. His older brother use to pick him up under his armpits and toss him around.

“Listen to me, Armpit,” said Felix. “I bring you a breakfast taco, the least you can do is talk to me. If you’re studying econ, then you should know. There’s no such thing as a free lunch.”

6. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
 - a. idiom**
 - b. metaphor
 - c. personification
 - d. simile
7. Which of the following was the cause of Armpit being sent to Camp Green Lake?
 - a. popcorn**
 - b. a scorpion
 - c. a huge hole
 - d. shoes
8. Which word best describes the relationship between Armpit and Ginny?
 - a. hostile
 - b. supportive**
 - c. one-sided
 - d. distant

*Speech class always made him nervous even when there was no speech due. Coach Simmons sometimes called on students to speak **extemporaneously**. Armpit had a fear of standing in front of the room, not knowing what to say.....*

9. Based on the passage, the reader can infer that extemporaneously means _____.
 - a. in a loud way
 - b. in a prepared way
 - c. in a slow way
 - d. in an unrehearsed way**
10. What stuffed animal won the ruler of the world contest?
 - a. Coo
 - b. Joe the Armadillo**
 - c. Milford the Monkey
 - d. Wilbur the Pig

“Maybe,” Felix agreed. “Maybe you can. I’m not saying you can’t. But you never know. A bird in the hand. Ninety dollars, Armpit, for just a morning’s work. Hard to beat that.”

11. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
 - a. idiom**
 - b. metaphor
 - c. personification
 - d. simile

Cerebral palsy can’t be cured, but treatment will often improve a child’s capabilities. Many children go on to enjoy near-normal adult lives if their disabilities are properly managed. In general, the earlier treatment begins the better chance children have of overcoming developmental disabilities or learning new ways to accomplish the tasks that challenge them. Treatment may include physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, drugs to control seizures, relax muscle spasms, and alleviate pain; surgery to correct anatomical abnormalities or release tight muscles; braces and other orthotic devices; wheelchairs and rolling walkers; and communication aids such as computers with attached voice synthesizers.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

12. 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 story of a child with a disability
 - c. describe a doctor’s visit of a child with cerebral palsy
 - d. inform the reader of treatments of cerebral palsy**

13. What is the tone of the passage?
 a. sarcastic **b. factual** c. pessimistic d. gloomy
14. Which of the following sources would this passage be located?
 a. atlas b. almanac c. thesaurus **d. encyclopedia**
15. What is the central idea of this passage?
 a. **Cerebral Palsy has no cure, but treatments can improve the lives of those with this disability.**
 b. Some children with cerebral palsy must use walkers or wheel chairs.
 c. Cerebral palsy treatments may include physical and occupational therapy as well as speech therapy.
 d. Cerebral palsy has no cure.

Chapter 13

Comprehension

1. What grade does Armpit make on his *Ruler of the World* speech? **An A**
 2. What is Ginny's reaction to Armpit inviting a girl to the concert? **She is surprised and happy.**
 3. Who convinces Tatiana that going to the concert with Armpit is not a good idea? **Claire and Roxanne**
 4. What causes Ginny to become so upset? **Thinking of her father and him leaving**
 5. What is Tatiana's excuse for not going to the concert with Armpit? **She says she has a family thing to go to.**
 6. Who does Armpit ask to go to the dance with him after Tatiana tells him she can't go? **Ginny**
- Is one of the characters telling this story? **No**

Let's Review

Define the following.

1st person point of view: A character in the story narrates the story.

3rd person limited: An outside narrator tells the story – the focus is on one character.

3rd person limited omniscient: An outside narrator tells the story – the perspective is not just on one character, but the narrator allows us to follow several characters.

The overall point of view of the novel is third person limited omniscient.

Chapter 15

Comprehension

1. Why does the security guard come to Armpit's seat at the concert? **He thinks he has counterfeit tickets.**
2. What happens to Ginny while Armpit is handcuffed and on the floor? **She has a seizure.**
3. What do the security guards think is wrong with her? **They think she is on drugs.**
4. Who comes to help Armpit in this situation? **The mayor – Cherry Lane**
5. As a result of this unfortunate situation, what does Kaira offer Armpit and Ginny? **the chance to go back stage**

Passage	Page #
<p><i>“What took you so long?” Armpit demanded.</i> X-Ray ignored the question. <i>“Hey, Ginny, are you ready to rock ‘n roll?”</i></p>	96 (note – page number may vary based on publication)
<p>...”Just remember, “he said. “Be flexible.” “All right,” said Armpit. “You hear what I’m saying? Flexible.”</p>	97 (note – page number may vary based on publication)

Discussion

List two or three of the officer’s actions toward Armpit.

He calls for help while talking to Armpit.

He grabbed Armpit’s arm and twisted it behind him.

He dug his knee into Armpit’s back after he had Armpit on the ground.

What do you think of the way that the officers treated Armpit?

Accept reasonable opinions

What is your opinion of the way that the Mayor stepped in to help Armpit? What does this say about her?

Accept reasonable responses – sample: It lets the reader know that she believes in doing the right thing and takes up for those who need help.

“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?”

What do these statements reveal about the kind of person that Jerome is?

Accept reasonable responses – sample: Jerome is a jerk. He is unable to show sympathy for others.

Chapter 16

Comprehension

1. Where are Ginny and Armpit seated for the concert? **On the stage – behind the soundboard**

2. What two things does David give Armoit and Ginny? **t-shirts and souvenir cups**

3. What song does Kaira and her band come out to play last? **Janis Joplin’s song “Piece of My Heart”**

Inside/Out Profile

Kaira’s Outside	Kaira on the inside (her inner emotions, thoughts, and/or values)	Passage to prove her inner emotions, thoughts, and/or values
famous, popular, talented	<u>thoughtful</u> <u>lonley</u>	<u>“Are you feeling better?”</u> <u>Kaira asked.</u> <u>“We need to set them up somewhere they can see the show.”</u>
seventeen year old African-American girl	<u>sympathetic</u>	<u>“Is she going to be okay?”</u> <u>Kaira asked Armpit.</u>

Chapter 17

Comprehension

1. What does Kaira invite Ginny and Armpit to eat with her after the concert? **Ice cream**
2. What happens to Cotton? **El Genius fires him.**
3. What is the hint that Ginny gives Kaira about Armpit's nickname? **She says it is the name of a part of the body.**
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 look out for more allusions throughout the novel.

Chapter 18

Comprehension

1. What time is it when Ginny and Armpit returned from the concert? **After midnight**
2. Who comes to visit Armpit the morning after the concert? **X-Ray**
3. Why is Armpit going to the Four Seasons Sunday morning? **to meet Kaira for breakfast**

Discussion

1. In your own words, summarize the conflict between X-Ray and Armpit.

Armpit is angry that X-Ray gave him counterfeit tickets rather than the actual tickets they bought for the concert.

2. What was X-Ray's motive for creating counterfeit tickets?

He wanted to be able to sell the tickets and make sure Ginny and Armpit were able to go to the concert as well.

3. What were the consequences of X-Ray's actions with the tickets?

Armpit had an altercation with the security guards. Ginny became upset and had a seizure. Kaira heard about their situation and proceeded to find them and invited them backstage with her.

4. Who do you think was right - X-Ray or Armpit? Explain.

Accept reasonable responses.

5. What would you have done if you were in X-Ray's position?

Accept reasonable responses.

6. Do you think X-Ray will do something like this again? Explain your answer.

Accept reasonable responses.

Chapter 19

Comprehension

1. What important information did Armpit forget when he arrived at the Four Seasons?
He forgot the name Kaira gave him so he could ask for her room.
2. Why does Kaira call Armpit Knuckles as she gets off of the elevator? **She is trying to figure out what body part is his nickname.**
3. What deal does Armpit make with Kaira?
He tells her that he will tell her his name as long as she promises to touch him there.

He told her about the advice the counselor at the halfway house had given to him. The important thing was to take small steps and just keep on moving forward. "Life is like crossing a river. If you try to take too big a step, the current will knock you off your feet and carry you away."

"That's kind of poetic," said Kaira.

What type of figurative language is used in the bolded part of this passage?

- a. idiom
- b. personification
- c. metaphor
- d. simile**

Chapter 20

Comprehension

1. What is Armpit's internal conflict in this chapter? **He feels bad about lying to the detective.**
2. Who shows up at Armpit's house? **a police detective**

Armpit gives the detective a pretty creative description of "Habib" in this chapter. Piece all of the parts of the description together on the following lines. Then, create a Wanted Poster for this imaginary character.

Description of Habib: **"kind of black" – maybe Iranian; has an accent; kind of big; twenty-three; mustache**

Chapter 21

Comprehension

1. How long has it been since Armpit has seen Kaira? **eleven days**
2. What name does Detective Newberg ask Armpit about? **Armpit**

Accept reasonable responses.

Chapters 22 & 23

Comprehension

1. Where was Kaira when she mailed the letter to Armpit? **the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego**
2. Where does Armpit go before work? **the police station**
3. What is X-Ray's real name? **Rex Alvin Washburn**
4. Rather than saying yes in response to the detective, X-Ray says **affermative.**

Which of the following best describes the tone of Kaira's letter to Armpit?

- a. sympathetic
- b. revealing**
- c. anxious
- d. encouraging

Write a letter to Kaira from Armpit in response to her letter. Make sure the tone in your letter matches the tone used in Kaira's letter. **Accept reasonable responses.**

Chapter 24

Comprehension

1. Why does Kaira call Armpit? **She tells him not to open the envelope. She wants him to burn it.**
2. How does Armpit know she really does not want him to burn the letter? **She waits a few days to call him.**
3. What adjective does Kaira use to describe Armpit that shocks him? **smart**
4. Where will Armpit spend the weekend? **in San Francisco with Kaira**

Kaira recited the words. “These shoes, these jewels, this dress. A perfect picture of success. You would never guess...” She paused and said the next two words slowly and clearly. “I’m but a damsel in distress. Save me. I’m but a damsel in distress.”

What is a damsel? **A damsel is an obsolete or literary word for a young girl or woman, unmarried, usually in the juvenile or teenaged bracket.**

What does distress mean? **It is a hard or painful trouble or struggle.**

How do these song lyrics relate to Kaira’s real life?

Accept reasonable responses. Sample response: She is sad and lonely – she feels alone, and she is worried about her mother.

Write your own lyrics for a song about one of the characters in the novel. First, create a refrain – the repeated part. Next, write the words to the rest of the song. Make sure your refrain is repeated.

accept reasonable responses

Test Two ~ Chapters 13 – 24

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 had 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 *I* 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
8. When Kaira hears about Ginny, she allows Armpit and Ginny to _____.
 - a. receive her autograph
 - b. come backstage with her**
 - c. sit on the very front row
 - d. sing a duet on stage
9. What hint does Ginny give Kaira about Armpit’s nickname?
 - a. She tells her that it starts with the letter a.
 - b. She tells her that it has something to do with his arm.
 - c. She tells her that it is a part of his body.**
 - d. She tells her that it is something that can stink.

And then suddenly, right in front of me is a big sign: All Your Copying Needs. I’m telling you, it was like a sign from God! I mean, how many times have I been to the H-E-B without noticing there was a Copy King right there? Did you know it was there?

“God musta put it there just for you,” said Armpit.

10. What is the tone of the bolded comment made to X-Ray by Armpit?
 - a. intelligent
 - b. suspicious
 - c. concerned
 - d. sarcastic**

He followed her through the sliding glass doors out to the patio. A well-manicured lawn gently sloped away from the patio and down to a walkway.

11. A well-manicured lawn is one that _____.
 - a. is very green
 - b. is well taken care of and looks nice**
 - c. is covered in fingernail polish
 - d. has lots of flowers
12. Who is Billy boy?
 - a. a serial killer who has been stalking Kaira
 - b. Kaira’s number one fan
 - c. Kaira’s uncle
 - d. someone who has threatened Kaira**
13. Which of the following is NOT in Armpit’s description of Habib?
 - a. He has an Iranian accent.
 - b. He is tall and thin.**
 - c. He has a mustache.
 - d. His was in his twenties.
 - e.

"You're lucky she was there," Armpit pointed out.

"Oh, yeah? How's that?"

"If the mayor wasn't there, I woulda been sent to jail, Ginny woulda been taken to a hospital and had her stomach pumped, and you'd be dead."

14. What is the organizational pattern of this passage?
- a. concept/definition
 - b. cause-and-effect**
 - c. comparison/contrast
 - d. chronological order
15. Which of the following best describes the letter that Kaira writes to Armpit?
- a. It is long and amusing.
 - b. It is sincere and revealing.**
 - c. It is humorous.
 - d. It is spiteful.

Chapter 25

Comprehension

1. What fear does Armpit reveal to Ginny? **He tells her he is afraid of earthquakes.**
2. What will Armpit miss if he goes to San Francisco? **He will miss his economics final exam.**
3. What does Aileen really think about Jerome? **She thinks he is weak and insecure and is constantly trying to impress people.**
4. Who is Densie Linaria? **This is the fake name that Aileen will use when she leaves the country with Kaira's money.**
5. What truth about El Genius does Kaira hide? **that she really needs him**

Deception between...	What is the deception?	Who is the one being deceived)?
Jerome and Kaira	Jerome is taking Kaira's money and may plan to kill her.	Kaira
Jerome and Kaira's mother	Jerome is having an affair with Aileen.	Kaira's mother
Aileen and Jerome	Aileen does not care for Jerome and plans to leave him after she gets his money.	Jerome
Aileen and Kaira	Aileen is working with Jerome to embezzle Kaira's money.	Kaira

Context clues

She sounded incredibly efficient. She rattled off several departure and arrival times as he struggled to keep up.

- a. productive** b. wasteful c. angry d. slow

Aileen sat at an antique desk looking over the hills of Santa Barbara and out to the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, what the hotel offered in charm and serenity, it lacked in modern technology, such as in-room Internet connections.

- a. size **b. peacefulness** c. humor d. money

Chapter 26

Comprehension

1. What job does Armpit have to complete for his company? **He has to find a leak in a sprinkler system that they installed earlier.**
2. How does a mountain laurel bush help him complete his job? **He does not remember the bush being there the last time. He begins digging at the bush and quickly realizes that whoever planted the laurel had cut a gash in the sprinkler line.**
3. Who comes to the home where Armpit is working? **X-Ray, Felix, and Moses**
4. What does Felix tell Armpit he must do? **give him Kaira's letter**
5. Who offers X-Ray a job? **Jack Dunlevy**

Based on these two passages, make a conclusion about what Jerome is up to, and predict what you think will happen.

Accept reasonable responses.

Chapter 26

What is the definition of blackmail?

Blackmail is the extortion of money or something else of value from a person by the threat of exposing a criminal act or other information that will cause harm to a person's character.

How is Felix blackmailing Armpit? **He tells him that he will tell the police who he is unless he gives them Kaira's letter.**

What would you do if you were in Armpit's situation? **Accept reasonable answers.**

What would the consequences be if Armpit sells Kaira's letter?

Kaira will most likely find out and she would be unhappy – even angry with him. X-Ray and Armpit will stay out of legal trouble however.

What could be the consequences if Armpit doesn't sell Kaira's letter? **X-Ray will go to jail, and Armpit will be found to have been a part of the ticket scalping.**

Chapter 27

Does this metaphor illustrate an internal or external conflict? internal

In the boxes below, draw a picture of the metaphor (the donkey and the haystacks). Then, draw a picture of Armpit and the things that he has to decide.

Accept reasonable drawings.

Accept reasonable drawings.

Besides a donkey between two haystacks, what else could illustrate this point as a metaphor? Create your own metaphor about indecision. Accept reasonable responses.

Sample response: a rabbit between two holes; a bird between two worms

Chapter 28

Comprehension

1. True or False – Armpit goes to his economics class and takes his final exam. **false**
2. Who does Armpit fight with in this chapter? **Moses**
3. In What kind of car does Armpit ride to the airport? **a limousine**

Conflict

Define the following types of conflict.

Internal conflict: a conflict that a person has inside himself or herself – this is a struggle emotionally or with a personal decision

External conflict: a conflict that a person has with another person, society, the government, or nature

He realized he couldn't do everything. He couldn't please everybody.

List all of the people that you can think of that Armpit has been trying to please.

Ginny, X-Ray, Jack Dunlevy, his teachers, Kaira

List all of the things that Armpit has going on right now in his life.

having to prove himself to his parents, looking out for Ginny, avoiding being discovered as knowing about X-Ray's activity with the tickets, school, keeping Felix from turning him into the police

Does this passage represent an internal or external conflict? **internal**

When Armpit gets into a physical fight with Felix, is this an internal or external conflict? **external**

Reread the song lyrics at the end of this chapter. Explain in your own words how these lyrics relate to Armpit at this point in the book.

Accept reasonable responses. Possible response: Armpit is trying to make everyone else around him happy and this often comes at his own expense. The more he tries, the harder things become for him.

Chapter 29

Comprehension

1. What is Armpit's hotel like? **5 phones (one in bathroom) 2 TVs, 2 room suite**
2. What does Jerome Paisley show Armpit in his room? **a baseball bat**
3. How does Armpit greet Kaira when he gets out of the elevator and sees her for the first time? **He kisses her.**

Setting – the time and place of a story

Study the following chart to understand what setting might include.

Place	Time	Environment
The physical location The country, state, or city Mountains? Lake? Forest? Beach? Under a bridge?	Calendar and clock times Day, month, year Season Future Past Present	Details in the surroundings What else is going on around the characters? This includes the weather, air, is it crowded or isolated, etc.

Read back over the beginning of chapter twenty-nine looking for the details that the author uses to describe the setting. Use the chart above to help you know what to look for.

When he arrives at the airport...

Place	Time	Environment
Austin, Texas	morning	long line at the ticket counter, but he was able to pass it and go to the first-class section;

His hotel...

Place	Time	Environment
Downtown San Francisco	1:25 PM middle of July	Outside: fog filled the air, temperature was cold, freshness to the ocean air Inside: palace-like, grand, spectacular- giant chandeliers, ornate mirrors

Chapter 30

Comprehension

1. Why doesn't Armpit buy the wool jacket that Kaira picks out in the gift shop? **It cost \$995.**
2. What two things does Jerome Paisley take from Armpit's hotel? **a used band-aid and hair from a brush**
3. What did Armpit buy for Ginny? **A silk scarf**

Foreshadowing – ACCEPT REASONABLE RESPONSES

Clue/Jerome's action	Why do you predict he is doing this?
<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>	

Chapter 31

Comprehension

1. What did the man who approached Kaira's table want? her autograph
2. What makes Kaira so mad at Armpit? He asks her to write another letter so he can sell it.
3. What did Kaira do to Armpit before leaving the coffee shop? She threw her coffee on him.

Dear Kaira,

Accept reasonable responses.

Love,
Theodore

Chapter 32

Comprehension

True or False?

1. Armpit takes a cab back to the hotel. False
2. Armpit finds Kaira and apologizes to her. False
3. Fred is looking for Armpit and Kaira. True

He had tried to take too big a step, and the current had knocked him off his feet and was washing him away. All his efforts, at school and at work, were for nothing. X-Ray would most likely go to jail, and he probably would too.

Writing Opportunity

Write a five paragraph narrative about the following prompt.

We have all faced times in our lives when we have tried to take "too big a step". Think about a hard time in your life - a time you made a wrong choice, or when life was really hard. Write a story telling what happened and what you learned from the experience.

Use the space below to brainstorm. You may want to create a graphic organizer before writing your narrative on notebook paper.

Accept reasonable responses.

Chapter 33

Comprehension

1. Where was Kaira when Jerome entered her hotel suite? **in the shower**
2. What does Jerome do to Kaira? **He hits her repeatedly with a baseball bat!**
3. Who was the first person to come into the hotel room after Jerome? **Fred**
4. What does Kaira do to cause Armpit to ask “You all right?” and then walk on into the room to check? **She pulls an electrical cord to a lamp – making it crash to the floor.**

Imagery to create suspense

Sense of touch	Sense of hearing	Jerome’s inner feelings
<i>His hands were sweating inside the latex gloves.</i>	<p><u>Shower running and the sound of the television (The Skipper was yelling at Gilligan.)</u></p> <p><u>A rattling noise – it was his hand shaking so much the bat was knocking against the wall</u></p>	<p><u>His blood pounding inside his head</u></p> <p><u>His eyes blurred</u></p>

Action verbs create imagery!

Find three more sentences in which strong verbs are used to create imagery.

Sentence	Strong Verb	Page #
<i>The bat smashed against the back of her neck just below the base of her skull.</i>	smashed	240
<i>Jerome Paisley grabbed her by the ankle and dragged her away from the safety of the bed.</i>	grabbed, dragged	240
<i>Jerome turned away from Kaira and swang just as Fred lunged at him.</i>	swung, lunged	240

Chapter 34

Comprehension

1. What did Armpit do to Kaira’s letter? **He burned it in the fireplace.**
2. What did a man mistakenly announce at the Kaira Deleon concert? **Kaira had been murdered.**
3. The newspapers all refer to Armpit as a _____. **(hero)**
4. True or false? Detective Newberg realizes who Armpit is. **True**

Writing Opportunity

News Report **Use the rubric to score the news report.**

Chapter 35

Comprehension

1. What grade did Armpit earn in economics? **He got an incomplete.**
2. What happened to Aileen? **She was arrested.**
3. What did Kaira lose besides her money? **Her voice**

Situational irony

As it turned out, the evidence that would have been used to convict Theodore Johnson would now be used against Jerome Paisley to prove premeditation – to show he had planned to murder her. However, El Genius had pretty much confessed to everything, so it didn't look like there would even be a trial.

What can be considered situational irony in this passage? Explain your answer.

Jerome never expected the evidence he worked to provide while setting Armpit up for Kaira's attempted murder to be used to convict himself.

Complete the following by filling in parts of the plot.

Exposition

X-Ray finds Armpit and offers him to participate in buying concert tickets with him for the purpose of reselling.

Rising Action

**They buy twelve tickets and work to sell them.
Armpit's concert date cancels on him so he takes Ginny instead.
X-Ray provides Armpit and Ginny with counterfeit tickets and they are caught.**

Climax

Jerome tries to kill Kaira, but Armpit saves her!

**Falling
Action**

**Armpit returns home.
He and Ginny discuss what happened.
The media surround Armpit's home.**

Resolution

**Jerome and Aileen are arrested. Kaira sings
again. Armpit completes summer school.**

Small Steps - Final Test

Name: _____

- The title of this book can be related to which of the following literary elements?
 - flashback
 - onomatopoeia
 - theme**
 - personification
- Which of the following is part of the exposition of the novel?
 - X-Ray buys an ad in the local newspaper to help sell the tickets.
 - Armpit takes Ginny to the concert.
 - X-Ray asks Armpit to help him sell concert tickets for a profit.**
 - Armpit visits Kaira in San Francisco and ends up saving her life.
- What is the genre of this novel?
 - historical fiction
 - realistic fiction**
 - science fiction
 - nonfiction
- Which of the following is most likely the climax of *Small Steps*?
 - Felix beats up X-Ray and smashes his glasses.
 - Ginny has a seizure at the concert.
 - Armpit saves Kaira when Jerome tries to kill her.**
 - Kaira writes a song that Armpit is pretty sure he inspired.
- Which of the following best describes Kaira's attitude toward her stepfather, Jerome?
 - obedient yet disgusted**
 - admiring yet doubtful
 - jealous
 - sympathetic
- This novel deals with all of the following issues except _____.
 - race
 - friendship
 - religion**
 - acceptance
- All of the following describe Ginny except _____.
 - selfish**
 - supportive
 - friendly
 - sensitive
- Who is Jack Dunlevy?
 - Kaira's bodyguard
 - Armpit's boss**
 - X-Ray's father
 - Kaira's stepfather

9. What two classes is Armpit taking in summer school?
- economics and speech**
 - Spanish and history
 - math and mechanics
 - government and accounting
10. Which phrase best describes how Armpit's parents treat him?
- They involve him in their work.
 - They require him to help them all of the time.
 - They do not trust him.**
 - They are extremely proud of him.
11. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
- eloquent and encouraging
 - profound and serious
 - humorous and amusing**
 - sarcastic and stern
12. How would Armpit most likely behave if someone were to ask him again to make money by doing something like scalping tickets?
- He would hire someone to stand in line for him instead of wasting his own time.
 - He would consult his economics book first.
 - He would say no because he realizes that it can cause harm.**
 - He would gladly do it again and try to make more money.
13. At the end of the novel, the reader can conclude that _____.
- Kaira and Armpit are in a serious relationship
 - Armpit begins his own singing career and begins to travel all over the country performing at concerts
 - Armpit graduates from high school and goes onto college**
 - Armpit and X-Ray start a ticket scalping business together
14. Which of the following passages contains the best example of imagery?
- A used Band-Aid, crusted with blood, lay on the floor next to the wastebasket.***
 - She was talking to him, but he got the feeling that everything she said was for Fred's benefit.*
 - As the guard was looking them over, two uniformed police officers hurried quickly down the hall.*
 - She checked her small notebook, then knocked on Armpit's door.*
15. True or false? By the end of the novel, Armpit and Kaira are in a serious relationship.
- True
 - False**
16. Which of the following events caused Kaira to become extremely mad at Armpit?
- He spilled coffee on the new sweatshirt she bought him.
 - He asked her to write another letter to him so he could sell it to Felix.**
 - He was part of the reason that her drummer lost his job.
 - He refused to take Kaira home to meet his parents.

17. The protagonist is the main character of a story. Who is the protagonist in this novel?
- a. **Armpit**
 - b. X-Ray
 - c. Ginny
 - d. Kaira
18. Which of the following is the best theme for this novel?
- a. Mothers really do know best.
 - b. What goes around comes around.
 - c. **Take life one step at a time and you will succeed.**
 - d. Beauty is only skin deep.

And so he remained, paralyzed by indecision, a donkey between two haystacks.

19. What type of conflict is Armpit facing in this passage?
- a. **internal**
 - b. external
 - c. cognitive
 - d. none of the above
20. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
- a. an idiom
 - b. personification
 - c. **a metaphor**
 - d. a simile

*...But there ain't no net beneath the high wire.
Nearing the top, he starts to perspire.
He's climbing out of the frying pan...
And into the fire!*

21. Armpit was listening to this song while he was in the limousine on the way to the airport. Knowing what you know at the end of the book, these lyrics serve as _____.
- a. **foreshadowing**
 - b. a flashback
 - c. an allusion
 - d. symbolism
22. What type of figurative language is used in these lyrics?
- a. **idiom**
 - b. personification
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile

23. **D** _____ Theodore Thomas "Armpit" Johnson

24. **G** _____ Rex Alvin "X-Ray" Washburn

25. **I** _____ Kathy "Kaira DeLeon" Spears

26. **B** _____ Ginny McDonald

28. **C** _____ Billy Boy

28. **F** _____ Cherry Lane

29. **H** _____ Felix

30. **E** _____ Moses

31. **A** _____ Cotton

A. Kaira's drum player

B. Armpit's disabled friend

C. A person created by "El Genius," who writes threatening letters to Kaira saying how much he loves her and how bad he wants to murder her.

D. a teenage boy who has recently returned from Camp Green Lake

E. Felix's ticket selling partner

F. the mayor of Austin

G. a friend/business partner of Armpit's who convinces him to sell tickets

H. a dirty ticket scalper who does it for a living

I. a teenage pop idol

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