



Step by Wicked Step

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On a wild and stormy night, five students are sent ahead on a school trip. Gathered together in a spooky mansion, they find a secret room and a mysterious old diary. Little do they know that they share a common bond--they are all members of stepfamilies. and each person reveals his story, step-by-step.

Step by Wicked Step Details

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From Reader Review Step by Wicked Step for online ebook

Suraya Nordin says

This book is one of the literature component for secondary school in Malaysia. Although I'm not using it in my school, at least as a teacher I should know the story. Therefore, I read it. In my opinion, this novel aren't not the best among those novels assign for form 5 but it wasn't the worst. Its quite interesting but I think students in my school will not be able to imagine the setting in this novel. If we are going to do it, teachers have to show them using teaching aids like pictures and videos. The novel also contains a lot of flashbacks and difficult words(for form5 in my school to be specified). However, it is a good story and overall, I like it.

Gwen says

This is a short read and it's suitable for children . In my opinion,it's very simple and short . Each child has his or her own stories of stepfather , stepmother,stepsister etc ... It would be a great book for children . There aren't any climax or exciting events , but I still like it . I actually expected it to be adventurous and haunting as the children discovered a secret chamber (sort of) .The book would be more interesting if the author elaborated on Richard Harwick .

Widad Oteh says

This book was compulsory reading for my class so I read it while I was babysitting my siblings at a convention. There I was, pushing a pram down an aisle of shop stands, quietly bawling my eyes out.

Simply written yet full of depth and character, this book was written as a story to relate to. If you didn't like this book, chances were it was because none of the stories spoke to you, which is - I mean, good for you, you've probably had a decent family life. If you did relate to this book in some way, the story is brutal.

The strength of this book is in how real the stories are. They could be about anybody, happen to anyone. For me, the most touching story was by Colin, which is also the most heart breaking one, if none of the others affected you. I love the mention of the Bluebird of Happiness. If you know the song or the play, the mention will hit you hard. Colin uses it as a reason for his desire to find his father, but the use of the phrase is more than that: it relates to everybody's stories in the most poignant way.

I must say though, this theme might be a little complex for Malaysian secondary school reading. Just saying.

Natalia says

I got that book when I was 7 years old. now that I'm 21 years old, I still find myself reading it, it comforts me. It's a good book for a child. Perhaps I gave it such a good rating because I feel emotionally attached to it.

The diary entries are the reason why I love that book. The rest of the content is crap.

?? ? says

well, it might be a fun book to read if it isn't a mandatory for students to read. (my country's education system used to require most of all secondary students to read this book.)

It's an average novel. Nothing is exciting. Really. The concept is interesting but the story isn't. I wanted to give up on this book but I CAN'T. Ironical, i had reread for half a dozen times cause I needed to remember the whole details of story.

Yet, i believe that this novel does give us some advises. Not all stepparents are evil and kids are much wiser than we thought. They just have different points of view.

Ashley says

I studied this novel back in my final year in secondary school. It is not an outstanding book that would make a secondary school student love literature. The language used is simple and plain, nothing captivating at all. It's a young adult novel about how five schoolchildren have managed to cope in their broken families. Overall, plain book.

Joanne Hong says

3 years ago, I used to share a class with the 17 year-olds in my school.

One day, when I decided to rummage through the locker in my desk, I found a book called "step by wicked step". Being the busybody that I was, I decided to read that book during my free time. It took me about 2 days to finish that book as I couldn't take it home with me because it wasn't mine.

I remember thinking that it was a good book.

Fast forward to this year, I found out that the students at my school used to read "the phantom of the opera" for their literature classes. At first I thought: the education ministry should've just stuck with "the phantom of the opera" instead of giving us the type of books only elementary students would read, but then again maybe it was a good thing that they made that decision since I've realised that a majority of the boys in my school can't read about love or romance without laughing or making insensitive jokes. And let me tell ya something: this book is a great replacement.

5 students who got together because they shared the same thing in common shared their stories as the night slowly progressed. Claudia and her stepmom ; Colin and his stepdad ; Pixie and her stepmom and stepsisters ; Robbo's sister and her stepdad ; As for Ralph, well, he didn't experience much heartbreak and was okay with his stepmoms. All the heartbreak were laid out that night, and advices as well as scoldings were exchanged.

All in all, this was a fun read for me although I did get depressed a few times due to how depressed the

characters themselves were. That should be a good thing though. It shows that the author was able to connect her reader with the characters she made, and believe it or not but connections like that are sort of the key to a well-liked book. The writing style was fine too, nothing too profound that even a 17 year-old wouldn't be able to understand. Honestly, I don't know why some of the people on this site found this book to be rather boring. Try reading "catch us if you can" and you'll understand the true meaning of boring.

Airaology says

I have to read this for my english class and although I find the topic about the book a tad weird (it's about 5 children on a field trip with one similarity: broken homes) It's a fast read and I actually enjoyed it. Makes you really wonder, if you were stuck between crosswords what would you have done? Run away or stay and fight.

Ines says

I very much enjoyed this book because I really connected with each of the characters, without getting swamped with too much information and too many stories at once - Anne Fine managed to clearly explain each of the children's stories. I also liked the balance of genres in this short book; there was a bit of horror and spookiness, some comedy (especially with Ralph's story) and a few passages which saddened the heart. In all, I would recommend this book to any level of reader and know that they would enjoy it as much as I did!

Ayla says

Six main characters, Richard, Claudia, Pixie, Robbo, Colin and Ralph came from broken homes, and the book revolves around the kids upon solving ways they solved their family relationship problems. Except Richard of course, who at first props me with a lot of questions about his link to the five kids besides having a broken family, and my questions are still not resolved.

What annoys me was that there was never a proper conclusion to this book. Like what was the real reason the kids are categorized together by Miss O'Dell, in fact, all of my questions were answered by blind guesses. But it was an easy read for me.

Chindian says

It was really good for a children's book actually. I just think it could've gone further than that. The story could've been elaborated more. The ending just didn't feel complete. I mean i wanna know what happened to those kids damn it! No closure. Nothing. It had potential though. I sort of fell in love with Ralph's story!

scarlettraces says

i tend to prefer Fine's adult novels (because when not writing for children you can let rip with the amoral and the nasty, and you don't have to include a moral) but i always enjoy the comedy in her children's books. which is to say that i liked Ralph's story the most, with the labelled lunchboxes and the subversive (third) stepmother. but its portmanteau design means there's something for everyone.

Sharon Teo says

I got confused towards to the end of the book, and could not figure out which story belongs to which kid, but I thoroughly enjoyed each child's tale. I love how the stories are told from the child's perspective and some observations by the kids really stood out for me. Like how adults are not really listening when kids are saying something, they are just "softening" the child up so they will be more open to the adult's suggestion, we are definitely all guilty of that! It feels like a depressing read at first, but being a children fiction after all, everything ends up well at the end. The lesson to Colin in the last chapter is what we should take away from the book.

Jacey says

I actually did really enjoy this book. It was my school's literature read for my year of students and despite it being depressing at some points if the story, I did really enjoy the fun bits as well. It was nice to see 6 different stories based on children with broken families and to be able to go through the many different emotions that they experienced.

Xi Wen says

This book is bland and boring to read. The story isn't convincing or captivating at all, there are little descriptions of the places they are in. This book lacks detail. The characters are so unreal, they are very miserable and depressed, their stories are so confusingly stupid and they would still argue and judge another's decisions. The author made no attempt to write a good book. Fictional works are supposed to teach and entertain readers, I learned that there are wicked books with zombified stories to bore students out of their mind and I felt the inverse of entertainment reading this book.

Overall, it was an agonizing read I had to force myself to finish it while I had other better books tempting me to burn this one. It might be entertaining if I read it 10 years ago. Malaysia's ministry of education is going all out to torture students with this book.

My Rating -5/5

