

# Using “Steps on a Journey from Grief to Forgiveness” in the Classroom

*Cynthia Peters and Carey Reid*

*This lesson plan accompanies pp. 32-22 of Issue #33 of The Change Agent. It has various parts that can be used together or independently.*

## Discuss and Explore the Story

- Was there anything about David Potorti’s story that you found interesting or surprising?
- Have you ever been on a journey from grief to forgiveness? Can you share it?

## Using “Steps...” As a Way to Explore Your Own Experiences

- Think about the idea that crisis can trigger positive change. Do you agree or disagree? If you agree, can you explain why crisis might have this effect?
- Create your own picture story, like David Potorti’s, describing how a crisis led to change. You should try to explain to the reader what the steps were in the transformation.
- Share your picture stories. Take time to ask each other questions about your stories.
- Re-write and refine the picture stories based on feedback.
- Present them to a larger audience, such as your whole program, or enlarge the pages and create a display at your local library.

## Take Action

- If you have not done so already, consider taking action as part of your journey.
- Use the “Resources” on p. 54 to see examples of community organizations. Or use the Internet to find organizations that meet your needs.

## Next Steps Skills—Summarize and Re-Tell

- College and careers often require that a person be able to summarize a text in their own words. Write a 3-5 sentence paragraph that sums up the most important ideas in this story.
- One way to make sure you have understood a story is to be able to retell it in your own words. The following two pages include the pictures from David’s story, but not the words. Use the blank spaces to re-tell David Potorti’s story in your own words.

## Write a 5-Paragraph Essay

- Describe David’s journey in a 5-paragraph essay.
- Make an outline. Try grouping David’s “steps” according to themes. For example, he *took part in actions*—including the Walk for Healing and Peace and the Stonewalk memorial. He also *met with other family members and survivors*—such as parents of soldiers killed in Iraq, the father of someone killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, and families of those killed in the Madrid bombings. Experiment with different ways to organize the material.
- Re-write and refine the essays and picture stories based on feedback.
- Include the most important “steps” along his journey. Use transition words such as first, second, then, next, and later.

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# Steps on a Journey from Grief to Forgiveness, 2001-2011

Write some background about David Potorti here. Use the lines next to the photos to write the story behind the photo. Refer back to his story on pp. 23-33 of Issue 33 of *The Change Agent*.

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