

You had a couple of big clues right off the bat:

1. The central, 15 -letter entry read GIMMETHREESTEPS
2. There were four pairs of circled letters throughout the grid.
3. The clue for 59-D read, "Chicago trains (which sound like a letter that is often used to represent half of a pair of shoes)"
4. The title was "A Walk in the Words"

So, once you completed the grid, you should've noticed that you needed to "take 3 steps" with each "pair of shoes" in the grid, and each pair of shoes was represented by an L-R letter pairing.

You needed to start with the straddled feet, and then walk by skipping over the letter directly adjacent to each "foot".

And then, you should've taken all 12 letters ( 3 steps $x 4$ pairs of shoes, make sure to exclude the initial Ls and Rs) and put each "group" (threesome) of steps in order from top-to-bottom. Within each "group", you were just ordering the letters in the order that you stepped on them. Once you got there, you found the phrase PACE YOURSELF, which was indeed a two-word phrase and something that I hope you did while solving this behemoth of a meta.

