



Purchase the novel, *My Brother Sam Is Dead* by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier.

***My Brother Sam Is Dead* – Summer Reading Project**

All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father.

War is raging and Tim knows he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father.

VOCABULARY DEFINITION

Directions: Define each of the following words.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. agitator | 7. Continental Army | 13. tavern |
| 2. independent | 8. Lobsterbacks | 14. treason |
| 3. injustice | 9. massacre | 15. militia |
| 4. rebellion | 10. Minutemen | 16. scorn |
| 5. colony | 11. parliament | |
| 6. commissary | 12. patriot | |

LITERARY ELEMENTS QUESTIONS

Directions: Answer each of the following questions, thoughtfully and thoroughly. All questions must be answered in complete sentences.

1. **Point of View:** From whose point of view is this story told? In the first-person point of view, whose feelings and thoughts do readers get to know best?
2. **External conflict:** What conflict in the outside world are the citizens of Redding facing? With whom is Tim in conflict?
3. **Suspense:** What uncertainty or anxious feeling do you have as you finish reading Chapter 9? Why does this *suspense* make you want to read on?
4. **Internal conflict:** What contrasting ideas and values does Tim struggle with inside his mind? Be thorough in your response.
5. **Irony:** Irony is the contrast between what one would *expect* to happen and what *actually* happens. What's *ironic* about Mr. Meeker dying on a British prison ship?
6. **Point of View:** In the story, Sam and his father argue about the war. Write a paragraph describing the different points of view Sam and his father have regarding the American Revolution and war in general.
7. **Character:** Imagine that Tim is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe him to someone who doesn't know him. (What does Tim look like? What kind of personality does he have? What does he like to do?)

ART PROJECT:

Imagine you've been asked to draw a full-color illustration for a new edition of *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. The illustration should show just one (1) of the many exciting and important events in the story. Select and draw this illustration, and write a brief caption that tells what is happening in the scene you have depicted. You may use images from the internet to help create a more detailed picture.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Directions: Answer four (4) of the following questions, thoughtfully and thoroughly. All questions must be answered in complete sentences.

1. Tim's father has a violent temper. How does Tim cope with it? What do *you* think of Tim's way of coping with it?
2. Do you think Tim would really have shot his brother if Sam hadn't managed to get the gun back? Explain.
3. Have you ever been in a highly dangerous situation? What actions did you take right away? Looking back, do you think these actions were effective? Explain.
4. Mr. Meeker says he doesn't care who—the British or the Revolutionaries—the beef-cattle finally end up with: he simply needs the money to support his family. What do you think of Mr. Meeker's viewpoint?
5. How would you describe Tim's feelings in the Epilogue? Do you think his feelings are natural, or strange? Explain.
6. Suppose you could write a "happy ending" to this story. What would happen in your happy ending? What would the story tide be? Would your ending be realistic and historically accurate? Explain
7. In the story, Sam joins the American Revolutionary Army because he feels that the colonists are taxed unfairly by the British. His father thinks that fighting over taxes is not worth the lives that will be lost. Sam claims he is standing up for a principle. Write about a time when you stood up for something you believe in. Describe what you did and how it made you feel.
8. In the story, Tim Meeker watches a group of soldiers enter the Meeker tavern. Write a paragraph describing the scene Tim views when he sneaks in to see what the soldiers want.
9. In the story, Tim has to take on important responsibilities while his father and older brother are absent. He helps his mother run the tavern and make decisions concerning the farm. Write about a situation in which you had to take on important responsibilities. Describe what you did and how you felt about the situation.
10. At the end of the story, Tim tells the reader that he has written down the events as they happened fifty years before. The story is his memory of what happened to him and his family during the Revolutionary War. Write about a memory you would like to preserve and give reasons why you want to keep it alive.

This assignment will be counted as three (3) writing activities (writing activities are worth 20% of your grade) by your English teacher.