

SYNOPSIS

Chapter 1 The Revolutionary War comes to the Meeker family of the predominantly Tory town of Redding, Connecticut, in April 1775. Sixteen-year-old Sam Meeker, who serves in Captain Benedict Arnold's Second Foot Guard, relates to the family and guests how the Minutemen beat the Lobsterbacks at Lexington and Concord and on the road to Boston. His younger brother Tim, who idolizes Sam, envies the snappy Patriot uniform. Sam and his father, Eliphalet "Life" Meeker, keeper of a village tavern, argue about a treasonous act. Part of the father-son conflict arises from the fact that Sam attends Yale College, a step above his father's education. Alone in the barn, Sam tells Tim he plans to fight the British. Later that night, Life orders Sam out of the house.

Chapter 2 Tim becomes confused. He knows that arguments lead to killing, as had happened two days earlier in Massachusetts when fifty Minutemen died in the initial confrontation. The next day on the way to church, Life insists that wars never right injustices. Tom Warrups, an Indian, draws Tim aside to divulge Sam's whereabouts at Warrups's shack. Tim pretends to help his friend Jerry move a log so he can reunite with Sam. His brother is hiding with Betsy, the fifteen-year-old granddaughter of Colonel Read, head of the militia, who opposes war. Sam and Betsy declare that a person should be willing to die to defend personal loyalties.

Chapter 3 Over the summer of 1775, the battles of Bunker Hill and Fort Ticonderoga have little impact on Redding. In September, Betsy tells Tim that Sam has written to her. Two months later, Betsy signals to Tim that Sam has come home in secret.

Chapter 4 Continental soldiers sweep through Redding to disarm Tories and confiscate their firearms. After a Patriot cuts Life's cheek for not surrendering his rifle, Tim runs to Warrups's hut for the Brown Bess and races back across the pasture with Sam in pursuit. They scuffle; Tim begs Sam to help their father. Sam, who is home when he is supposed to be buying cattle in Danbury, steals down to the tavern, comes face to face with Life, then flees.

Chapter 5 That winter, because food is scarce in Redding, soldiers frequently confiscate livestock. By the first of 1776, prices are rising. In April, Mr. Heron implies that he could help Tim become a surveyor, but actually enlists him as a spy and courier to Fairfield. Life refuses to involve his remaining son in the war. Tim attempts to deliver the message anyway by pretending to go fishing with Jerry.

Chapter 6 Two days later, Heron returns to Life's tavern. As a courtesy, Tim carries a keg of rum to Heron's house and offers to run errands. The next day, he makes a ten-hour trip to deliver a letter to Mr. Burr in Fairfield. On the way to Horse-neck to see Sam, Betsy overtakes Tim and notices the letter in his shirt, which she assumes is a love letter. She accuses him of reporting on Sam, snatches the letter, then tosses it

aside because it contains no useful information. Tim learns that Heron concocted the trip as a loyalty test.

Chapter 7 In August and September, Sam writes Susannah about hunger and cold. Near the end of November 1776, Tim accompanies his father on a forty-mile cattle-selling drive to Verplancks Point on the Hudson River. On the three-day journey from Redding, a rustler strikes Life with a gun barrel. Loyalists come to the rescue. Tim and his father cross into New York.

Chapter 8 The two arrive at Tim's cousins' home near North Salem, where quarreling Rebels and Tories disrupt the peace. To Cousin Ezekiel, Tim expresses ambivalence about choosing sides, but admits that his father is more pacifist than a Loyalist. At sunup, Tim and Life continue toward Peekskill and turn south along the Hudson River to Verplancks Point to trade with Mr. Bogardus, a livestock dealer. On the return trip, snow hampers their progress.

Chapter 9 While seeking the best route to Redding, Life disappears. At night in heavy snow, Tim drives the team toward home. When thieves approach, he pretends that he expects to rendezvous with an escort of six men. The ruse works; the rustlers gallop away. By midnight, Tim reaches the tavern.

Chapter 10 As taverner and man of the house, Tim must deal with high prices and scarce goods. In April 1777, British troops and heavy artillery approach. An officer sends men to arrest Captain Betts, Mr. Rogers, and Jerry Sanford. During a skirmish, Private Hodge is wounded near the tavern. Tory soldiers kill Captain Starr and decapitate Ned, a black slave. Overcome by violence, Tim vomits and runs toward Dr. Hobart's house.

Chapter 11 Benedict Arnold and General Silliman lead the Patriots after the British, who imprison Jerry. Betts orders Tim to ring the church bell, but Susannah menaces Betts with a poker and refuses to let Tim endanger himself. The Continentals come to the tavern for dinner. Tim reunites with Sam, who recognizes a change in his younger brother. Sam condemns the sale of beef to Bogardus. Susannah urges Sam to come home, but he vows to fight until the Patriots defeat the British. Susannah chooses peace over taking sides.

Chapter 12 In May 1777, Life Meeker dies of cholera on a British prison ship anchored off Long Island. Susannah plans to locate his grave on Long Island to erect a headstone. After three weeks' imprisonment, Jerry Sanford also dies and is dumped in Long Island Sound in a weighted sack. Betsy, Susannah, and Tim weary of war. During the winter of 1778-1779, Tim quits school. General Putnam's men guard the Middletown magazines; on December 3, Sam returns on Colonel Parsons's staff. As Sam predicted, thieves rustle four cows from the barn. Sam pursues the culprits, who capture him and charge him with rustling.

Chapter 13 Immediately after the arrest, Tim presses

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Sam's case with Colonel Parsons, who recommends that Tim appeal to General Putnam. Betsy leaves to ask her father's help. Colonel Read reports that there will be a court-martial and predicts that Sam's fate hinges on Putnam's decision. On February 6, Colonel Read reports a guilty verdict. The execution is set for February 16.

Chapter 14 On February 13, General Putnam refuses to extend clemency. Tim whets a bayonet and, ignoring his mother's objections, flings it into the stockade before he realizes that Sam and the other prisoners have been moved. A guard shoots, wounding Tim in the shoulder. The next day, a firing squad shoots Sam.

Epilogue Composing his memories of the Revolutionary War in 1826, 64-year-old Tim, a surveyor in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, profits in real estate and trade, marries, and sires children. He ponders a better way to win a nation's freedom.

How much of this book is true? The authors list the Meeker tavern, Putnam's camp, Ned's death, and the mysterious presence of Heron, a double agent, as facts. Jerry Sanford really did die in a prison ship. Sam is a parallel of John Smith, who was executed on Gallows Hill.

TIME LINE OF THE ACTION

- 1758** When the British try to oust the French from Nova Scotia, Life fights at Louisbourg, where his friend is killed.
- ca. 1759** Sam Meeker is born.
- ca. 1760** Betsy Read is born.
- ca. 1762** Tim Meeker is born.
- 1775** **April** Sam leaves Yale and appears at home in a Continental uniform.
April 19 Newspapers report the battles of Lexington and Concord.
April 21 Tim reunites with Sam at Tom Warrups's hut.
May 10 Ethan Allan and the Green Mountain Boys seize Fort Ticonderoga.
June 17 The British win the bloody battle of Bunker Hill at great loss.
September Betsy receives letters from Sam.
November Sam comes home and hides at Warrups's hut.
December Food is scarce in Redding.
- 1776** **January** Prices rise.
April Mr. Heron tries to hire Tim as a spy courier.
August-September Sam writes Susannah about inadequate food and clothing for soldiers.
October Life begins gathering cattle for his annual drive.
end of November Tim and Life depart for Verplancks Point, New York.
December Life disappears and is imprisoned; Tim returns home alone and assumes the role of tavern-keeper.
- 1777** **April 26** British troops approach Redding. Jerry is captured along with Captain Betts and Mr. Rogers; Ned and Dan Starr are killed. Captain Betts is released. Sam returns along with Benedict Arnold's company, which camps near Redding.
May Life Meeker dies of cholera on a prison ship anchored off Long Island, New York and is buried

in an unmarked grave.

mid-May Jerry dies on a prison ship; his corpse is dumped in Long Island Sound.

June The Meekers learn of Life's death.

1778 **winter** Tim halts his education and helps run the tavern. At Valley Forge, the Continental Army struggles through a miserable winter.

Dec. 3 Sam's company returns to Redding.

1779 **January** Sam warns Tim that rustlers may steal the family's remaining eight cattle.

late January Continental troops talk mutiny against harsh conditions. Rustlers take the Meekers' cattle; Sam is arrested. Betsy goes to her father for help.

Feb. 6 Sam is found guilty of rustling. Tim visits his brother in the stockade.

Feb. 13 General Putnam refuses to extend clemency.

Feb. 14 Tim leaves church in tears; the Meekers close the tavern. That night Tim hurls a sharpened bayonet into the stockade. A guard shoots him in the shoulder.

Feb. 16 Edward Jones is hanged; Sam is shot by firing squad.

fall Tim studies surveying with Mr. Heron.

1782 The war ends; the Meekers sell the tavern and move to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

1826 Tim thinks over his life and the price of freedom.

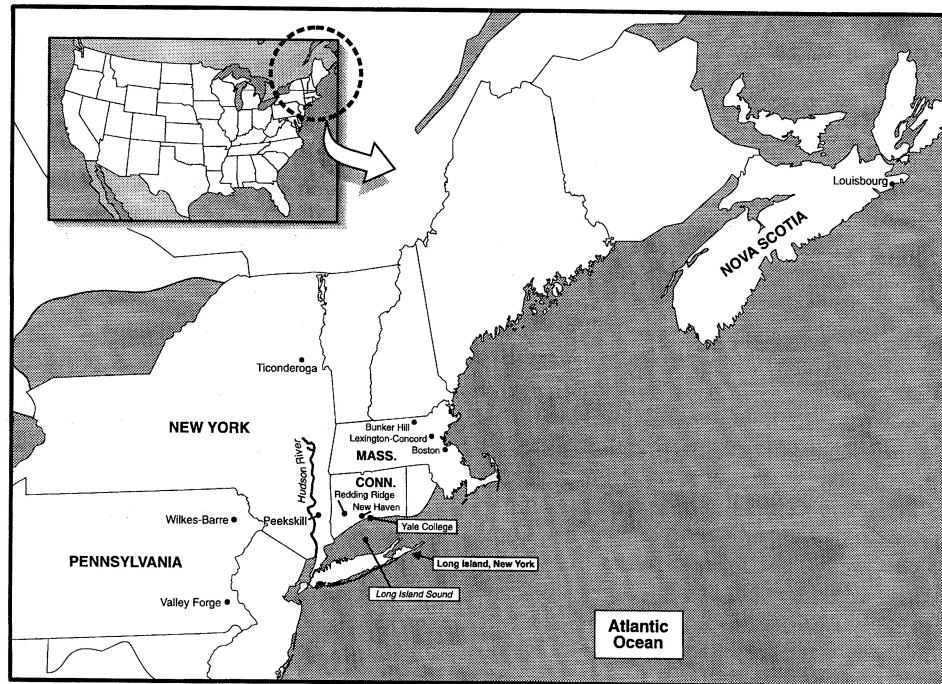
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Like their focal characters in *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, James "Jaimie" Lincoln Collier and Christopher "Kit" Collier are brothers. The sons of biographer Edmund and teacher Katharine Brown Collier, they grew up in the Depression era and remember hard times. Yet, following family tradition, they treasure a writer's freedom to create without adhering to a nine-to-five schedule. James, a freelance writer, was born January 27, 1928, in New York City and earned a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College. He served in the army during the Korean War from 1950-1951 and married the next year. He is the father of two sons, Geoffrey and Andrew, and makes his home in New York City.

An American Book Award-winner, James Collier, who also writes under the pseudonym Charles Williams, had a slow beginning as a freelancer, covering a six-year span of no sales. He worked at temporary jobs and played trombone with a jazz band during lean times. Since changing from adult fiction and magazine editing to writing for young adult audiences, he has produced a string of successful novels and nonfiction books on music and biographies of jazz performers as well as over 600 articles for magazines and music reference works, including *Reader's Digest*, *Village Voice*, *Esquire*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Boys' Life*, and the *Grove Dictionary of American Music* and the *Grove Dictionary of Jazz*.

James's younger brother, Christopher Collier, who was born June 29, 1930, in New York, served as a corporal in the Army during the Korean War. He studied history at Clark and Columbia universities, completing his Ph. D. in 1964. He has taught in public schools and at Columbia, the University of Bridgeport, Fairfield University, SUNY, NYU, and Yale. Currently on the history staff of the University of Connecticut, he

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specializes in early American history with a concentration on the American Revolution and the history of Connecticut. He lectures and writes academic articles and monographs.

Dr. Collier has worked as a project editor for Instructional Materials Films and has served as the associate director of the National Defense Education Act Institute in History. He is a consultant for a number of law firms, public utilities, museums, and print and electronic media firms. For many years, he lived in Redding with his wife, two sons, and daughter. In addition to his collaboration on six novels, he has published historical treatises and earned the Wilbur Cross humanities award and a Pulitzer nomination.

CRITIC'S CORNER

In *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, Tim Meeker enters manhood with a survivor's burden of loss and suffering. Based on actual events, the novel receives praise for realism and for an uncompromising portrayal of the impact of war on everyday life. Central to the plot is a perplexing theme—the ambiguities of choosing sides during a divisive political conflict that threatens lives and often pits neighbors and families against each other. The Colliers leave students to grapple with the unresolved questions about senseless and excessive violence and injustice.

The authors' working method is a factor in the book's verisimilitude. Chris Collier originated Tim Meeker's story and laced it with citations from diaries, letters, and eyewitness accounts. James Collier fleshed out the plot with additional characters and humor. The Collier brothers have earned numerous awards, including a Newbery Honor Book, ALA Notable Children's Book, and a nomination for the National Book Award. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, which is available on disc recording, cassette, and sound filmstrip, has become a standard entry on school reading lists in both language arts and social studies.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the realities of rebellion and war
2. To list and contrast various wartime behaviors, particularly desertion
3. To define reasons for courage and daring
4. To evaluate the death of a parent or sibling
5. To account for the author's emphasis on responsibility and maturity
6. To describe the physical, mental, and emotional effects of coping during uncertain times
7. To outline the relationship between war and commerce
8. To account for chaos and indecision among leaders
9. To characterize Colonial beliefs and principles
10. To explain the purpose of an epilogue
11. To enumerate the needs of an army on the march
12. To justify harsh laws and punishments

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain why Sam enlists on the Patriot side
2. To account for Susannah's fears
3. To project how Tim's children will honor their father, uncle, and grandparents
4. To explain how Redding accommodates opposing loyalties
5. To contrast Sam, Ned, Life, and Jerry as war victims
6. To evaluate changes in Tim as son, brother, citizen, and taverner
7. To account for Tim's success as a tradesman and land dealer
8. To isolate moments when Tim contemplates the conflicting principles of his brother, mother, and father
9. To explain why taverns are essential to Colonial economy

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10. To characterize Betsy as friend and confidante
11. To account for the devaluation of money and commissary scrip

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of James Collier and Christopher Collier's style, present the following terms and applications to their historical novel:

bildungsroman [bihl' duhnz . roh . mahn] literally a "formation novel," which describes the coming-of-age of an untried or naive youth. The maturity of Betsy, Jerry, Sam, and Tim figures into the story, but it is Tim's growth that remains at the heart of the story. The title suggests that, whatever the value of running the tavern and making family decisions to his self-esteem, Tim will never overcome the heartache of loss during one of the era's most trying political periods.

epilogue a concluding section, moral tag, or closing speech or peroration that summarizes theme or action. Tim's closing remarks about his brother's death build on earlier themes and motifs and express from a mature point of view his adaptation to loss, change, and personal involvement in national history. The inclusion of Life's somber remark about "[paying] the debts of the living" force readers to weigh the costs to their ancestors, who were drawn into a difficult war at the cost of property, friends, family members, and lives.

first-person limited narrative a story told from the vantage point of a single observer who stands at the heart of the story and lives its action. *My Brother Sam Is Dead* examines events as they affect Tim, whose voice tells the story in lively tones that gradually give play to subdued reflection of the costs of war. Because the field is limited to Tim's thoughts and reactions, the reader gets an intense study of war from the young civilian's point of view.

historical fiction a fictional representation of an historical era. James Collier and Christopher Collier select a real time and place in which to develop the family problems of the Meekers, who must decide how to cope with national rebellion. The inclusion of real events, routes, weather, personalities, and exigencies express how real people suffer during a major conflict in which no one knows the outcome or punishment for disloyalty or for choosing the losing side.

irony an implied discrepancy between what is said or done and what is meant. Life's intent to remain out of conflict and Sam's loyalty to beliefs are the ironic meat of the novel. Regardless of their sincerity, they both fall victim to the war—one anonymously in a prison ship, the other in public ignominy in his home town. The irony underscores the authors' intent to raise questions in the minds of readers about wartime injustice, one of the costs of freedom.

THE AUTHORS' USE OF SETTING

The milieu of *My Brother Sam Is Dead* places the action in the center of armed conflict, which even the most peace-loving can not avoid. The facts of Patriot engagements with British regiments reflect the immediacy of the plot:

- 1775 April 19** Minutemen and British redcoats fight at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, where fifty Patriots die.
- May 10** Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold lead the successful raid of the British at Fort Ticonderoga, New York.
- June 15** George Washington heads the Continental

Army.

June 17 The British win the Battle of Bunker Hill, Massachusetts.

1776 July 4 The Declaration of Independence protests the tyranny of George III.

1777 Sept. 11 The British are victorious at the Battle of Brandywine.

Dec. 19 Washington's troops begin the disastrous winter at Valley Forge.

1782 Nov. 30 The opposing sides sign a peace accord in Paris.

1783 Sept. 3 The American Revolution reaches its official conclusion.

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in James Collier and Christopher Collier's *My Brother Sam Is Dead* should include these aspects:

Themes

- intergenerational conflict
- envy
- heroism
- isolation
- adaptation to war
- trust
- loss
- guilt
- good intentions
- circumstance

Motifs

- asserting parental control
- leaving home
- adapting to wartime privation
- coping with uncertainty
- making choices
- developing self-confidence
- taking responsibility for actions
- accepting parental weaknesses

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in this novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint the context in which the item appears.

1. The damn Lobsterbacks marched out of Boston yesterday. (Chapter 1, p. 2)
(Sam's vernacular reference to the English army refers to the bright red uniform coats, which are the scarlet hue of a boiled lobster. The opposing forces are known as the Continental Army, whom General George Washington leads. Supporters of Redcoats are referred to as Tories or Loyalists and Continentals are known as Patriots or Rebels.)
2. Across the Danbury-Fairfield Road from us was the church and the graveyard. Next to the church, on the other side of Cross Highway was an empty field where the trainband practiced drilling. (Chapter 2, p. 24)
(Each local area in the Colonies had its own military unit, which served as the militia or home guard. The all-male trainband consisted of local people who volunteered to serve and who selected their own officers from the ranks. The militia trained periodically by drilling on the

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town common. The group was mobilized for local defense. Militiamen generally fought with regular Continental army troops only for a limited time when combat occurred in their region or colony. In contrast, the Minutemen were Massachusetts's crack special forces charged with being ready "on the shortest notice.")

3. Our church in Redding Ridge was the Anglican Church. "Anglican" meant English Church; in England everybody had to belong to it, or at least they were supposed to. (Chapter 2, pp. 24-25)

(Tim refers to the Church of England, which was the preferred religion of the British royal family, its supporters, and most of the population. He notes that local Presbyterians tend to live near the Presbyterian Church; Anglicans build on the Ridge. So-called for the Pope, Papists were Roman Catholics; several colonies excluded them from freedom of worship because they were considered a threat to Protestant faiths.)

4. They'll throw you in a prison ship and let you rot. (Chapter 5, p. 72)

(Both American and British authorities held prisoners of war on anchored ships, where living conditions were notoriously subhuman. Prisoners were crammed together below decks in stale quarters with few sanitary facilities, scanty protection from extremes of heat and cold, and meager and spoiled provisions. Filth and disease were rampant. Cholera, a highly contagious fever, killed many prisoners, as did consumption or tuberculosis, a lung disorder that results from too little fresh air and polluted water and food.)

5. But not with thirty cows to look after as well. Besides, the woods are full of those cow-boys over there. (Chapter 7, p. 90)

(Cowboys was a synonym for raiders or rustlers claiming to collect cattle for troop commissaries. Sometimes the cowboys were Patriots, sometimes Loyalists; sometimes they were simply gangs of roving thieves. The uncertainty causes Life and Tim to stay alert while driving cattle to Mr. Bogardus.)

6. Here I was in a foreign country, and it was just like being at home. (Chapter 7, p. 98)

(Tim's description of the Hudson River Valley as "a foreign country" illustrates the separateness of the thirteen colonies before the formation of a centralized federal government. Each colony or state was almost like a separate nation. However, regardless of country of origin, ethnicity, or religion, the impressive similarities of speech, custom, religion, and laws enabled the colonies to unite against a common tyrant, George III.)

7. So Business seemed good, but actually it wasn't, because a lot of people—the ones on official business—paid in commissary notes, which were just pieces of paper that wouldn't be worth anything at all unless the Rebels won. (Chapter 10, pp. 128-129)

(Paper money came into circulation during the American Revolution as Congress issued Continental bills. The purchasing power of bills constantly declined. Soon alternate forms of currency were needed. Commissary notes were interest-bearing certificates issued by army purchasing agents in exchange for goods supplied to the Continental army. These passed into general circulation

like currency; their ultimate value depended on the tide of the war and redemption by Congress.)

8. "They're after the munitions stored in Danbury," he said. "I came up here to warn the militia." (Chapter 11, p. 147) (Stockpiles or magazines of ammunition and armaments were valuable raid trophies. The British troops that swept through Redding were on a 25-mile march inland to seize or destroy Patriot munitions stored in Danbury, Connecticut. The initial battle of the Revolutionary War occurred when British troops marched out from Boston to seize or destroy the munitions collected by colonists in Concord.)

9. He said, "In war the dead pay the debts for the living." (Chapter 12, p. 167)

(The consequences of war—its debts—must be paid by someone. War inevitably causes death; a certain number of people will die, both soldiers and noncombatants. Those who do pay the price make it possible for others to survive and enjoy the rewards of victory after the war. Ironically, Life himself is one of the war's casualties.)

10. The Continental Army was encamped at a place called Valley Forge out in Pennsylvania somewhere. (Chapter 12, p. 168)

(One of the historic tests of the Continental Army was the winter at Valley Forge, a dismal time of hunger, cold, and despair for General Washington's 10,000 troops. On December 23, 1778, Washington wrote that 2,873 men were unclothed or shoeless. A quarter of his men died from smallpox, cholera, pneumonia, and consumption; others were too sapped and ill to serve the army. Pennsylvanians living in the vicinity kept the troops alive with gifts of fresh game and fish and what vegetables and grain they had to spare. An alliance with Baron von Steuben's Prussian soldiers rejuvenated the Continentals and renewed their courage for the next year's decisive battles.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the historical novel.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Describe Tim's everyday life as a colonial child.
(Tim Meeker's life is governed by the family tavern. He cares for the livestock—feeding and watering a horse, fowl, and pigs, plus tending and milking the cow and collecting hen eggs. He helps with the tavern chores, such as cutting and hauling wood, drawing water from the well, scrubbing floors, washing windows, delivering kegs of rum and beer, and serving customers. When school is in session, Tim attends if he is not needed by his parents at the tavern. He ducks out whenever possible to swim, climb trees, fish, and play games with his friend, Jerry Sanford. On Sundays, Tim and the Meekers attend a lengthy church service at the Anglican Church.)
2. Describe the stages by which the war engulfs Redding Ridge, Connecticut.
(At the war's beginning in 1775, Tim expresses surprise that life "wasn't any different from usual" in spite of the conflict with England. Battles are distant events described in the newspaper or announced by Sam. Then the Conti-

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mental soldiers come to Redding to confiscate Tory guns. They threaten Tim's father, Life Meeker, and cut his cheek in a scuffle. This episode shocks Tim as his first direct experience of the conflict. By 1776, food becomes scarce and prices rise. But the war itself remains remote. In April 1777, war arrives in Redding in the form of British troops, who arrest townspeople, shoot a Rebel messenger, and kill a group of local Patriots in a skirmish. That summer, Susannah and her sons learn of the deaths of both Life Meeker and Jerry Sanford on prison ships anchored off Long Island, New York. Through 1778, everyday life as well as tavern commerce become an increasing struggle to locate food and supplies and to cope with spiraling prices. Finally, the town becomes winter headquarters for General Putnam's regiments; soldiers are constantly in and around town. The climactic impact is the military execution of Sam for a crime he didn't commit.)

3. Why is Sam found guilty of cattle stealing even though he is innocent?

(The two rustlers whom Sam caught with stolen cattle turn the charge against Sam. Because there are two accusing one, the situation dooms Sam. According to the evidence, he comes from a Tory family, so his loyalty and his mother's testimony are suspect. Even though he was in the tavern when the cattle were taken from the barn, he could have arranged this to feign innocence. Officially, Sam incriminated himself because he had deserted his post. Finally, General Putnam wants to make an example of a guilty soldier to keep the Continental troops in line and to retain civilians on the Patriot side. So many men have died by this point in the war that Putnam is not fazed with the loss of one more life.)

4. What side does Life Meeker support?

(Life Meeker, who survived grim times in the English war against the French at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, passes for a Tory and expresses strong Loyalist beliefs in the opening argument with Sam. He claims, "We are Englishmen, we are subjects of the King, this rebellion is the talk of madmen." He throws a customer out of the tavern for speaking against King George III. Also, Life sells cattle in New York, knowing a good deal of the meat will feed British troops.

However, most of Life's statements and actions show him to hold a neutral or pacifist position. Just after Sam leaves home to fight with the Continentals, he explains to Tim, "You never get rid of injustices by fighting." He refuses to allow Tim to carry Tory messages for Mr. Heron, saying, "This is one war I'm not going to fight." When questioned about selling his cattle, he replies, "I'm interested in making a living, not fighting a war." Tim comes to an understanding of his father's position, which he explains to his cousin Ezekiel. Although Life can make it sound right to support the King and England, Tim is sure that his father is more pacifist than Loyalist. Tim asserts, "He's just against wars.")

5. How does Sam's view of war change to resemble his father's pacifism?

(When Sam first departs with the Continental Army in 1775, he is spirited, idealistic, and exuberant in a fancy and colorful uniform. To Sam, the symbolic dress pref-aces gallant, high-principled adventure. When he speaks

of principle, his father answers, "You may know principle, Sam, but I know war." Life describes friends with brains sliding out of split skulls, with throats cut and blood pouring out between fingers, and shrieking with bayonets in the back. To Life, war is misery and death, not adventure.

When Sam returns to Redding in 1778, his appearance signals his changed status. He is tired, thin, and no longer innocent. His bright uniform is now torn and incomplete. He explains the effects of war to his family in almost the same terms his father had used three years earlier: war is seeing friends killed—screaming in death from a bayonet wound, torn in two with guts dangling out both sides. War is torment and dehumanization.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. What religious beliefs widely held in Colonial society does Tim express?

(Tim expresses many fundamental Christian beliefs that were widely preached as a basis for behavior: "Boasting was pride and pride was a sin." "Lying was a sin and so was going against your father." "We even had to work on Sunday, which was a sin." "Idle hands make the Devil's work." (Susannah's words to Tim) "Laziness was sloth and sloth was a sin." Cursing, drunkenness, and lasciviousness are sins, according to Tim. He doesn't appear to believe these pat statements. He mentions them in an offhand, almost humorous way only after he or Sam has committed the infraction in question. And he often implies or states that he doesn't care whether it's a sin or not.)

7. Discuss James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier's use of irony.

(Irony is the source of meaning in the historical novel. In the early years of the war, irony tinges Tim's comment after the Continentals search the town for hidden guns: "The war had finally come to Redding, and it was terrible." Later events are truly terrible, proving this comment both understated and naive. Mr. Meeker, who sought a pacifist haven in his home and tavern, is captured by cowboys on the charge of selling cattle to feed the British army. For no clear reason, he ends up on a British prison ship, where he dies in spite of his public posture as a Tory. Earlier, he had warned of the horrors of prison ships. His dying words drip with irony: "And now I go to enjoy the freedom war has brought me."

Most ironic is the manner of Sam's death. Signalled from the title that Sam will not survive the war, the death is a callous injustice: Sam is shot by the army he has staunchly supported for allegedly stealing his own family's cattle. The event occurs after Sam repeatedly urges Tim to slaughter the animals to avoid the exact situation that occurred. This reality is in painful contrast to Sam's bold declaration early in the war that a citizen should be willing to die for principles.)

8. How does Tim mature during the story?

(In the opening chapter, Tim is a child interested in ducking chores and impressing his big brother with childish feats like throwing a stone over the tavern. He yearns to perform daring deeds like his dashing brother. On the way to Verplanck's Point, Tim is proud to be entrusted with a man's job, but childishly shows off his oxen-driving prowess to children along the way. After cowboys

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capture Life, Tim makes a great leap toward maturity. He sensibly decides to get the wagon home and devises a workable plan to outwit lurking cowboys. The next morning, he immediately begins planning the day's work, shouldering his new responsibilities as tavern-keeper like a man. As he says, "I was acting more like a grownup. You couldn't say that I was really an adult, but I wasn't a child any more, that was certain." Finally, Tim understands better than Sam why his brother stays in the army. Knowing the purpose of sacrifice and commitment, Tim feels more like Sam's equal.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. Which side should Tim have chosen—Tory or Patriot? (There are multiple reasons for both choices. Forces that could propel Tim toward the Loyalist side include Sam's execution by the Continental Army, Mr. Meeker's capture by Rebel cowboys, and his justification of the Loyalist position. Generally, the town of Redding supported Life's views without being great supporters of the King.)

On the other side of the conflict, events push Tim toward the rebel side. Significant to Tim are Life's death on a British prison ship, Sam's loyalty to the Patriot cause, and the capture and killing of Redding neighbors and Tim's friend Jerry. Any of these examples might have soured Tim against Tory loyalty and forced him to side with the Rebels. The other possibility is that Tim, like his father, may have opted for pacifism.)

10. Why does the novel end on an ambiguous note? (Fifty years after his brother's death, Tim states, "I keep thinking that there might have been another way, beside war, to achieve the same end." By this point, the United States has a stable government, states have set up their own governing systems, and England has given up hope of colonizing this section of North America. Even with the comfort of peace, a wife and children, and a profitable profession, Tim's mind and heart recall the fear and anguish of a conflict that cost him half his family. Another aspect to settlers like Tim is the continued fight with Indians for possession of the frontier. Although Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, does not seem like the Wild West, in Tim's day, a move west from the civilities of the Atlantic Coast put white settlers in constant jeopardy where peace remained a nebulous hope. Tim has seen what turmoil can do to friends, neighbors, father, friend, and brother. His ambivalence toward violence seems like a sensible attitude.)

Questions 11-13 Creative Level

11. In a speech, contrast Tim and Sam as colonial citizens. Note the differences in their aims and objectives. Explain how Tim maintains his brother's memory.
12. Create a mural of Redding Ridge. Place markers at significant places, for example, Sam's arrest, Betsy's delivery of a secret message, the Tory encampment, and Tim's visits to Mr. Heron.
13. Give a thumbnail report on the role of soldier Deborah Sampson to the American Revolution. Comment on her risks as the rare female soldier among males on both sides.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Mathematics and Economics

1. Make a chart of the duties of participants in a the cattle drive. Why does Life Meeker deal with Bogardus, a known buyer, rather than someone closer to Redding? What does he fear from the cowboys? Why is the return home far more fearful and dangerous than the departure? How does the disastrous journey affect the operation of the tavern?
2. Divide the class into small groups to research the financial elements of the story, particularly trade, mercantilism, depreciation, inflation, commissary scrip, the English Exchequer, and colonialism.
3. Describe aloud the difference between operating a tavern during peace and during war. Why do officers from both armies congregate at Meeker's Tavern? Why does Susannah determine that she can no longer serve Patriot officers? Why does the government require that taverns remain open?

Cinema

1. View some of these films about young people who make difficult decisions about family loyalty: *Member of the Wedding*, *Souther*, *Ishi*, *Glory*, *Little Women*, *Life with Father*, *My Side of the Mountain*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *I Remember Mama*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Daughters of the Dust*. Discuss why filmmakers focus on conflict between adults and youth.
2. Compose a storyboard for a film about a national revolution, such as those that have ravaged Argentina, Russia, France, Cuba, Vietnam, South Africa, China, and Hungary. Select and summarize a part in the film for yourself.

Science and Health

1. Discuss the physical uncertainties of war, including hunger, despair, cold, fatigue, loneliness, insecurity, disillusion, danger, threat of execution, defeat, bad weather, stress, and grief. Why is cholera a virulent killer of prisoners?
2. Explain why Jerry's corpse is so unceremoniously jettisoned into the sound. Why are sanitary burial procedures important to locals and the British army?
3. Explain why snow is a contributing factor to Life's disappearance and to Tim's role as head of the Meeker family.
4. Explain with a chart the fermentation of beer or the distillation of rum. Discuss why potables were easier to trade than currency.
5. Contrast Susannah's situational abuse of alcohol with true alcoholism. Which addiction is deadlier?

Geography

Draw a map that depicts the distance between major battles of the American Revolution. Name and locate battles that occurred in 1776. Locate Redding, Connecticut, on the map and explain its importance to local trade. Discuss the significance of the tavern's location to troops on both sides of the conflict.

Art

1. Sketch the weapons and heavy artillery of the American Revolution along with prison ships, uniforms, and fortresses. Comment on the Boston Tea Party, which lies in the

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background of Sam's mind when he departs from Yale to enlist with the Continentals.

2. Draw a book jacket, web site, mural, or series of posters emphasizing the four seasons in Connecticut, traders on the Hudson River, the millstream, rural life, farm work, ox teams, seining at the wharf, signals from the church belfry, small crossroads communities, or the intrusion of war on local serenity and industry.
3. Using desktop publishing or other media, design a chart featuring the major voices supporting the Colonies' separation from England, a page on New England from an atlas of the Revolutionary War, a banner welcoming British officers to Meeker's tavern, a sign offering beef or land surveys, multiple views of a hogshead or a musket and ramrod, a business card for a taverner or historian, visiting hours at the stockade, an epitaph for Jerry or Life, a news feature about Redding's part in the Revolutionary War, an illustrated entry on cholera or consumption, and a schematic drawing of colonial Connecticut.

Social Studies and Law

1. Write a brief letter to General Putnam on behalf of Sam. Explain why Sam is a victim of circumstance who deserves to live.
2. Outline the history of colonial Connecticut. What philosophies caused dissenters to mutiny against the British king? Why would a double agent like Heron have been useful to both sides? Why were fast horses, beef supplies, and dependable spies and couriers essential to the war effort?

Music

Distribute the words and music to "Yankee Doodle." Contrast its light-hearted rhythm, rhymes, themes, and subject matter to more serious wartime classics, particularly patriotic anthems and marching songs.

Language Arts

1. Compose an extended definition of patriot. In what ways are all four members of the Meeker family patriotic? To whom is Betsy loyal? What current models of patriotism compare with that of the Revolutionary War minutemen?
2. Apply the terms "drum-head court" and "pyrrhic victory" to events in *My Brother Sam Is Dead*.

Literature

1. Characterize Life Meeker's influence on his family. How does the repetition of his words in the final chapter underscore his value as a role model to his sons? Why does Susannah suppress her grief for him? What is ironic about his death from an epidemic aboard a prison ship? Why is it difficult for Tim to honor both his parents and his brother?
2. Sketch a Freytag diagram of the novel's action. Label parts that form exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Why does this clear delineation of action lend itself well to radio, audio cassette, animated screenplay, or the stage? Explain what problems a producer would have in staging *My Brother Sam Is Dead* as a play, opera, TV miniseries, docudrama, or outdoor musical drama.
3. Explain briefly the purpose of the Brown Bess. What did firearms mean to colonists? Why do the Meekers treasure the rifle? Why does Sam consider his claim on the gun justified? How does the absence of the gun trigger a potentially deadly confrontation between Life and the

officer who confiscates weapons in Redding? What is the effect on Sam of seeing his father powerless against a Continental inquisitor?

History

1. Draw a character web representing the relationships of real and fictional characters, including Tim, Sam, Life, Susannah, General Putnam, Benedict Arnold, Jerry, Ezekiel, Ned, Colonel Read, Betts, Betsy, Tom, the church congregation, Mr. Beach, Mr. Heron, and the Continentals and Lobsterbacks. Where do cattle, horses, fish, a dog, and oxen belong on this chart?
2. Compose a first person account of the battles of Lexington and Concord. What time of day did the shooting start? Which group attained the best position at each battle? Why were the Minutemen so eager to face overwhelming numbers of enemy soldiers? Why did the British leave Boston to fight on unknown turf?

Drama

Role-play the influence of these characters on the Meeker family: cowboys, escorts, tavern customers, Dr. Hobart, General Putnam, Heron, Betsy, Mr. Beach, Ezekiel, Mr. Platt, the Irish soldier, or Mr. Bogardus. Explain how the book would change if the two main characters had been girls.

Education

Lead a debate about how to teach surveying. List important practical information about courses of study and instruments, particularly the transom, level, plumb bob, and compass. Explain why land speculation makes Tim Meeker a rich man. Describe the purpose of surveying in the real estate business. Compare Tim's job with that of Lewis and Clark.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Explain in a paragraph how Susannah and tavern customers could assist Sam, Jerry, and Life with visits to the prison ship and Continental camp, supportive letters, food, warm clothes, shoes, ammunition, or medical supplies. Discuss how Redding's citizens could justify humanitarian actions.
2. Write several conversations that are only implied, such as Sam's farewell to Betsy, General Putnam's testimony at the court-martial, Edward Jones's conversation with Sam on the day they are executed, Bogardus's dealings with Life and Tim, Susannah's refusal to serve Continental soldiers, Jerry's discussion of shad, and the rustlers' accusation against Sam. Act out your dialogue for an audio or video taping.
3. Compose a short speech in which you describe the role of rebellion and conflict in Redding and in the lives of these characters: General Putnam, Colonel Read, Edward Jones, Mr. Bogardus, Susannah, Ezekiel, Carter, Captain Betts, Betsy, Private Hodge, Benedict Arnold, Judson, Dan Starr, Ned, Zalmon Read, the Dutch seiners, and Mr. Beach.
4. With a group, create an illustrated glossary of these terms: gallows, mumble-the-peg, tap, plowshares, candle mold, Johnny cake, hogshead, quirt, hardtack, and rushing a chair seat.
5. Create a bulletin board contrasting these settings: Redding, Newtown, Verplancks Point, the Hudson River, Boston, Lexington, Hesse, Tuscany, Piedmont, Serbia,

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Windham, Bunker Hill, Concord, Danbury, New Haven, Wethersfield, Yale College, Compo, Horseneck, Long Island Sound, Trinity College, Dublin, Boston Harbor, Westchester County, Louisbourg, Barbados, Stratford, Litchfield, Peekskill, Wilton Parish, Mohegan, North Salem, Lonetown, Wilkes-Barre, Valley Forge, Golden's Bridge, Aspetuck River, Norwalk, Haverstraw Bay, Middletown, New York, White Plains, Umpawaug, and Fairfield. Mark places that display historic monuments of the Revolutionary War.

6. Give a chalktalk on intergenerational conflict. Discuss ways that Life and Susannah could avoid extreme displays of anger at the table and in private. Advise Sam and Tim on how to deal with an irate father and drunken mother.
7. Select scenes that would give pictorial evidence of family love and loyalty. Include Betsy, Tim, Sam, Jerry, Life, the North Salem cousins, and Susannah.
8. Give an oral account of Sam's life and death to a distant relative born after the American Revolution. Explain the exigencies of war that lead to unfair treatment, hasty injustices, and martyrdom.
9. Propose a week's menus for the tavern. Draw on authentic colonial recipes and goods available in Connecticut. Choose a meal you would like to prepare for your class and describe the contrasting flavors, aromas, and textures.
10. Discuss with a small group a title that removes suspense from a story. Suggest titles for the novel that build suspense and enhance reader involvement.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of farm and inn work, suffering, fear, disloyalty, intimidation, honor, strategy, skill, friendship, resilience, journeys, and neighborliness among the characters.
2. Compile a list of actions that prove Tim's courage and maturity.
3. Compose a scene in which Susannah and Tim place a headstone on Life's grave.
4. Make a character list and explain the relationship of each to Sam. Include Betsy, General Putnam, the Continental Army, Betts, Ned, Tim, Life, and Mr. Beach.

JAMES COLLIER'S PUBLISHED WORKS

Cheers, 1961
Somebody Up There Hates Me, 1962
The Hypocritical American: An Essay on Sex Attitudes in America, 1964
Battleground, 1965
A Visit to the Firehouse, 1967
The Teddy Bear Habit, 1967
Sex Education U.S.A.: A Community Approach, 1968
Which Musical Instrument Shall I Play?, 1969
Rock Star, 1970
Danny Goes to the Hospital, 1970
Practical Music Theory, 1970
Why Does Everybody Think I'm Nutty?, 1971
The Hard Life of the Teenager, 1972
It's Murder at St. Basket's, 1972
Inside Jazz, 1973
Jug Bands and Hand Made Music, 1973

The Making of Man: The Story of Our Ancient Ancestors, 1974
Rich and Famous: The Further Adventures of George Stable, 1976
Give Dad My Best, 1976
Making Music for Money, 1976
The Great Jazz Artists, 1977
CB, 1977
The Making of Jazz: A Comprehensive History, 1978
Planet Out of the Past, 1983
Louis Armstrong: An American Success Story, 1983
When the Stars Begin to Fall, 1986
Decision in Philadelphia: The Constitutional Convention of 1787, 1987
Outside Looking In, 1987
Duke Ellington, 1987
The Reception of Jazz in America, 1988
The Winchesters, 1989
Benny Goodman and the Swing Era, 1989
The Rise of Selfishness in America, 1991
My Crooked Family, 1991
Jazz: The American Theme Song, 1993
The Jazz Kid, 1996

CHRISTOPHER COLLIER'S PUBLISHED WORKS

Roger Sherman's Connecticut, 1971
Connecticut in the Continental Congress, 1973
Roger Sherman: Puritan Politician, 1976
Lyme Miscellany, (contributor) 1977
Long Island Sound, 1978
The Pride of Bridgeport: Men and Machines in the Nineteenth Century, 1979
The Literature of Connecticut History, 1983

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The Bloody Country, 1976
The Winter Hero, 1978
Jump Ship to Freedom, 1981
War Comes to Willy Freeman, 1982
Who is Carrie?, 1984
Decision in Philadelphia, 1985
The Clock, 1992
With Every Drop of Blood, 1994

RELATED READING

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*
Lois McMaster Bujold, *Memory and Mirror Dance*
Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*
Howard Fast, *April Morning*
David Feintuch, *Midshipman's Hope*
Zlata Filipovic, *Zlata's Diary*
Esther Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*
Paula Fox, *Slave Dancer*
Jean Craighead George, *Julie of the Wolves*
Thomas Hardy, "The Man He Killed"
Robert Heinlein, *Between Planets*, *Red Planet*, and *Starship Troopers*
Irene Hunt, *Across Five Aprils*
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields"
Scott O'Dell, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Sarah Bishop*, and *Streams to the River, River to the Sea*

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Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Theodore Taylor, *The Cay*
Dalton Trumbo, *Johnny Got His Gun*
Yoko Kawashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*
David Weber, *Honor Among Enemies*
Jessamyn West, *Except for Me and Thee*

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The American Revolution. Modern Curriculum, 1994.
Clark, Philip. *The American Revolution*. Marshall Cavendish, 1988.
Lukes, Bonnie L. *The American Revolution*. Lucent Books, 1996.
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MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

VOCABULARY TEST

In the lines that follow, replace the boldfaced word with the original choice.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| balking | clapboard | depreciation | render | telling |
| bayonet | clemency | fusillade | sedition | unscrupulous |
| bluntly | compulsory | gallows | sloth | vile |
| chowder | constitutes | learned | surveying | withers |
| ciphering | defection | lasciviousness | tavern-keeper | wry |

1. In my house I will decide what **denotes** _____ treason.
2. Do you really think you know better than the King and those **educated** _____ men in Parliament?
3. Mostly they were in debates where he scored a **significant** _____ point over his enemy or whatever you call them.
4. **Lust** _____, stupid, not lasciviousness.
5. I know that daydreams are **laziness** _____.
6. I can't bear to look at you anymore in that **wretched** _____ costume.
7. **Give** _____ therefore unto caesar the things which are Caesar's.
8. I liked **calculating** _____ all right, but I didn't care much for spelling and studying the Bible and memorizing psalms.
9. Having a father who was a **host** _____ was a lot better than being a farmer's son, like most boys.
10. I could see he'd got a little gash from the **blade** _____ clip when I jerked it out of his fingers.
11. He said that Sam was too smart a boy to be fooled by **treason** _____.
12. What with the oxen **stalling** _____ so much we were two hours behind schedule.
13. There was a commotion in the British ranks, and a quick **burst** _____ of shots.
14. Some are **unethical** _____ when they're hungry.
15. Prices kept going up and up, and **devaluation** _____ of the paper money took a lot of the profit out of it.
16. General Putnam is a great and dedicated patriot and he does not take **desertion** _____ from duty lightly.
17. The one thing Putnam cannot do at this point is show **mercy** _____.
18. They had built a **scaffold** _____ up on a hill to the west of the encampment.
19. The Sunday before there would be a **required** _____ church attendance.
20. "I can't help you," he said **directly** _____.

MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with characters. Choose your answers from the list of characters below. You may use some of the answers more than once and some not at all.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| _____ 1. preaches every Sunday morning | A. Arnold |
| _____ 2. provides Tim with an alibi | B. Beach |
| _____ 3. is named Eliphalet | C. Betts |
| _____ 4. steals Brown Bess | D. Betsy |
| _____ 5. grabs Heron's letter from Tim | E. Ezekiel |
| _____ 6. resigns his post as head of the local militia | F. Life |
| _____ 7. welcomes his cousin to North Salem | G. Susannah |
| _____ 8. refuses to grant clemency | H. Heron |
| _____ 9. seems both Tory and Patriot | I. Putnam |
| _____ 10. is beheaded | J. Jerry |
| _____ 11. lives in a shack behind Col. Read's house | K. Tim |
| _____ 12. moves to Wilkes-Barre with his mother | L. Sam |
| _____ 13. hurls a bayonet into the stockade | M. Ned |
| _____ 14. officer assigned to guard the cattle | N. Warrups |
| _____ 15. sustains a cut on the cheek | O. Col. Read |

Part II: Cause and Effect (20 points)

Finish each of these statements.

1. Tim and his father stay overnight at North Salem because _____

2. The Meeker family attends church because _____

3. Mrs. Meeker refuses to serve Continentals because _____

4. Cowboys make travel unsafe because _____

5. The war seems distant at first because _____

6. Continental troops come to Redding because _____

7. Cholera ravages the prison ship because _____

8. A law forbids raising prices because _____

9. The Hudson River impresses Tim because _____

10. Sam succeeds at Yale because _____

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Part III: True-False (20 points)

Mark each statement either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Mrs. Meeker goes to General Putnam to prove that Sam is innocent.
- _____ 2. Sam is arrested for desertion.
- _____ 3. Redding is split evenly between Loyalists and Tories.
- _____ 4. Tim tries to take the Brown Bess away from his brother.
- _____ 5. Tom Warrups is treated as an equal.
- _____ 6. Betsy Read is Sam Meeker's girl friend.
- _____ 7. Mr. Meeker forgives Sam for disobedience.
- _____ 8. Tim does not witness the hanging.
- _____ 9. Heron is a dedicated Loyalist.
- _____ 10. The escort attempts to rescue Life from the cowboys.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Account for the changes in Tim's loyalties.
- 2. Describe the progress of the war at the beginning of the novel.
- 3. Discuss the role of courier.
- 4. Summarize Life's opposition to the war.
- 5. Explain how operation of a tavern worsens by the winter of 1778-1779.

MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Settings (20 points)

Identify a setting that fits each of the following descriptions. Select your answers from the list that follows.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| A. New York | E. Barbados | I. Verplancks Point | M. Boston Harbor | Q. prison ship |
| B. England | F. New Haven | J. Long Island Sound | N. Valley Forge | R. Louisbourg |
| C. Danbury | G. Wilkes-Barre | K. Redding Ridge | O. Bunker Hill | S. New York |
| D. Compo | H. North Salem | L. Lexington and Concord | P. Yale College | T. Peekskill |

- _____ 1. location of Putnam's headquarters in the winter of 1778-1779.
_____ 2. location of British prisoners
_____ 3. Tim's home in 1826
_____ 4. Mr. Bogardus's trading station
_____ 5. home of the Platts
_____ 6. location of the earliest battles
_____ 7. the Continental Army winter camp
_____ 8. place where a hundredweight of tea was dumped
_____ 9. battleground where Life heard men shriek
_____ 10. source of rum

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

Fill in the blanks with answers that complete each statement.

1. _____ angers his father at the dinner table by announcing that the Minutemen beat the "_____ " in Massachusetts.
2. According to Sam, Captain _____ designed the Patriot _____.
3. The cousins welcome _____ and Tim after a Committee of _____ escorts them to North Salem.
4. After _____'s death, _____ takes solace in drink.
5. Tim watches _____ remove a minie ball with _____.

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Part III: Identification (30 points)

Place an X by statements that refer to Sam.

- _____ 1. writes a love letter to Betsy
- _____ 2. angers his father by his enthusiasm for the Patriots
- _____ 3. is absent from duty without permission
- _____ 4. drives the ox team in a six-inch snow
- _____ 5. is punished in part because his family are Tories
- _____ 6. takes Brown Bess
- _____ 7. assumes the role of tavern-keeper
- _____ 8. knows that Heron is a double agent
- _____ 9. thinks of New York as a foreign country
- _____ 10. writes letters that don't give a location
- _____ 11. tosses a bayonet into a stockade
- _____ 12. beheads a Redding citizen
- _____ 13. sends messages by Betsy
- _____ 14. prefers Anglicans and Papists to Presbyterians
- _____ 15. considers Tim a good brother

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Contrast different attitudes toward loyalty.
2. Summarize the stages of the trip to Verplancks Point.
3. State Sam's reasons for enlisting and staying in the army.
4. Account for changes in Susannah.
5. Compare the causes of death for Ned, Sam, Jerry, and Life.

MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. constitutes | 11. sedition |
| 2. learned | 12. balking |
| 3. telling | 13. fusillade |
| 4. lasciviousness | 14. unscrupulous |
| 5. sloth | 15. depreciation |
| 6. vile | 16. defection |
| 7. render | 17. clemency |
| 8. ciphering | 18. gallows |
| 9. tavern-keeper | 19. compulsory |
| 10. bayonet | 20. bluntly |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. O | 11. N |
| 2. J | 7. E | 12. K |
| 3. F | 8. I | 13. K |
| 4. L | 9. H | 14. C |
| 5. D | 10. M | 15. F |

Part II: Cause and Effect (20 points)

Answers will vary.

Part III: True-False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Settings (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. K | 6. L |
| 2. Q | 7. N |
| 3. G | 8. M |
| 4. I | 9. R |
| 5. H | 10. E |

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

1. Sam, lobsterbacks
2. Arnold, uniform
3. Life, Safety
4. Life, Susannah
5. Dr. Hobart, forceps

Part III: Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. | 6. X | 11. |
| 2. X | 7. | 12. |
| 3. X | 8. | 13. X |
| 4. | 9. | 14. |
| 5. X | 10. X | 15. X |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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