

Student Packet

Grades 7–8

My Brother Sam Is Dead

James Lincoln Collier
Christopher Collier

NOVEL UNITS[®]



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WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



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MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

by

James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

Student Packet

Written by
Jean Jamieson

Contains masters for:

- 1 Prereading Activity
- 1 Freewriting Activity
- 1 Study Guide (three pages)
- 2 Literary Analysis Activities
- 1 Encoded Puzzle Activity
- 2 Poetry Activities
- 1 Characterization Activity
- 10 Vocabulary Activities
- 2 Story Review Activities
- 2 Comprehension Quizzes
- 1 Novel Test (six sections)
- Detailed Answer Key

PLUS

Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Point softcover edition published by Scholastic Inc. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

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Name _____

My Brother Sam Is Dead
Study Questions—Page 3 of 3
Use During Reading

56. What does Tim see on the way to Dr. Hobart's house? (*pages 143-145*) Does this have an impact on his allegiance? (*page 145*)
57. What is the purpose of the wounded man's ride to Redding? (*page 147*)
58. What does Mrs. Meeker reply to Captain Betts when he questions her patriotism? (*page 149*)
59. What two Continental Army Generals arrive at the tavern in Redding? (*pages 152-153*)
60. Why doesn't Sam come to the tavern when he goes to Redding? (*pages 155-156*)
61. Why won't Sam come home when his enlistment is up? (*page 161*)

Chapters XII–Epilogue, pages 164-211

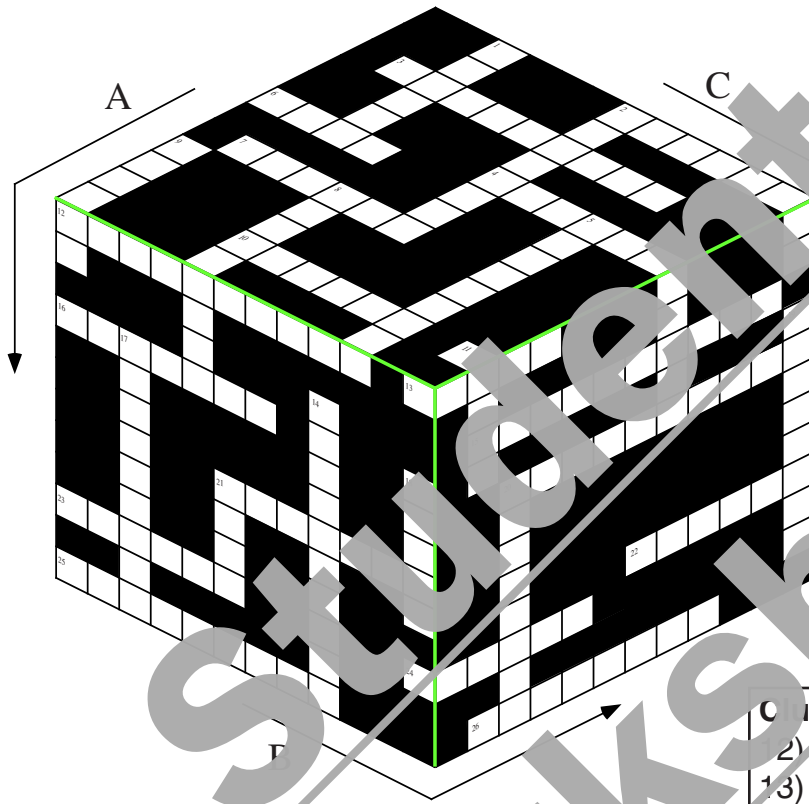
62. How do Tim and Mrs. Meeker find out about the fate of Mr. Meeker? (*pages 164-165*)
63. How has Betsy's attitude about war changed? (*pages 166-167*)
64. Why does Tim feel like he is trading her? (*pages 168-169*)
65. What do the Meekers get as payment for goods instead of money? (*page 169*)
66. When does Sam return to the area with General Putnam? (*page 170*)
67. What advice does Sam give Tim regarding the cattle? (*pages 173-174, 177-178*)
68. What does Sam tell his mother and Tim about General Putnam? (*pages 174-175, 178*)
69. Why is Sam accused of being a cattle thief? (*pages 184-189*)
70. What has Sam done that will not help his case? (*pages 188-189*)
71. What kind of a trial will Sam have? What does Colonel Reed predict? (*page 190*)
72. What is the occasion of the court-martial? (*page 192*)
73. How does Colonel Parsons explain General Putnam's thinking to Tim? (*page 194*)
74. Why does Tim take a bayonet to the execution? What becomes of it? (*pages 201 & 205*)
75. Why does Tim go to Sam's execution? (*page 207*)
76. What studies does Tim take up with Mr. Heron? (*page 210*)
77. Where do Mrs. Meeker and Tim locate after the war ends? (*page 210*)
78. Fifty years after the war, what is Tim still wondering? (*page 211*)

Name _____

My Brother Sam Is Dead
Activity #13: Vocabulary
All Chapters

Vocabulary Crossword

Directions: Read the clues given to figure out the vocabulary word placement on the puzzle.



Clues in the "C" direction

- 2) nagged
- 3) large casks or barrels
- 4) regret
- 6) abrupt
- 7) flat-bottomed rowboats
- 10) anchored
- 11) riding
- 19) military unit
- 20) a present

Clues in the "B" direction

- 2) bargained
- 13) flashy
- 15) disobedient
- 16) respectable behavior
- 20) pupil
- 21) chaos
- 22) heavy sled
- 23) spin around an axis
- 24) food for domestic animals
- 25) arsenals of weapons
- 26) walking purposefully

Clues in the "A" direction

- 1) one who drives cattle or sheep
- 2) trousers
- 5) stubborn
- 8) pattern
- 9) revolt
- 14) minor figure
- 17) calculating
- 18) garbage
- 21) ring out

Name _____

Identification By Quotation

Directions: Find a character on the right who matches the quote on the left. Write the letter of the character next to the matching number. Each character is to be used only once.

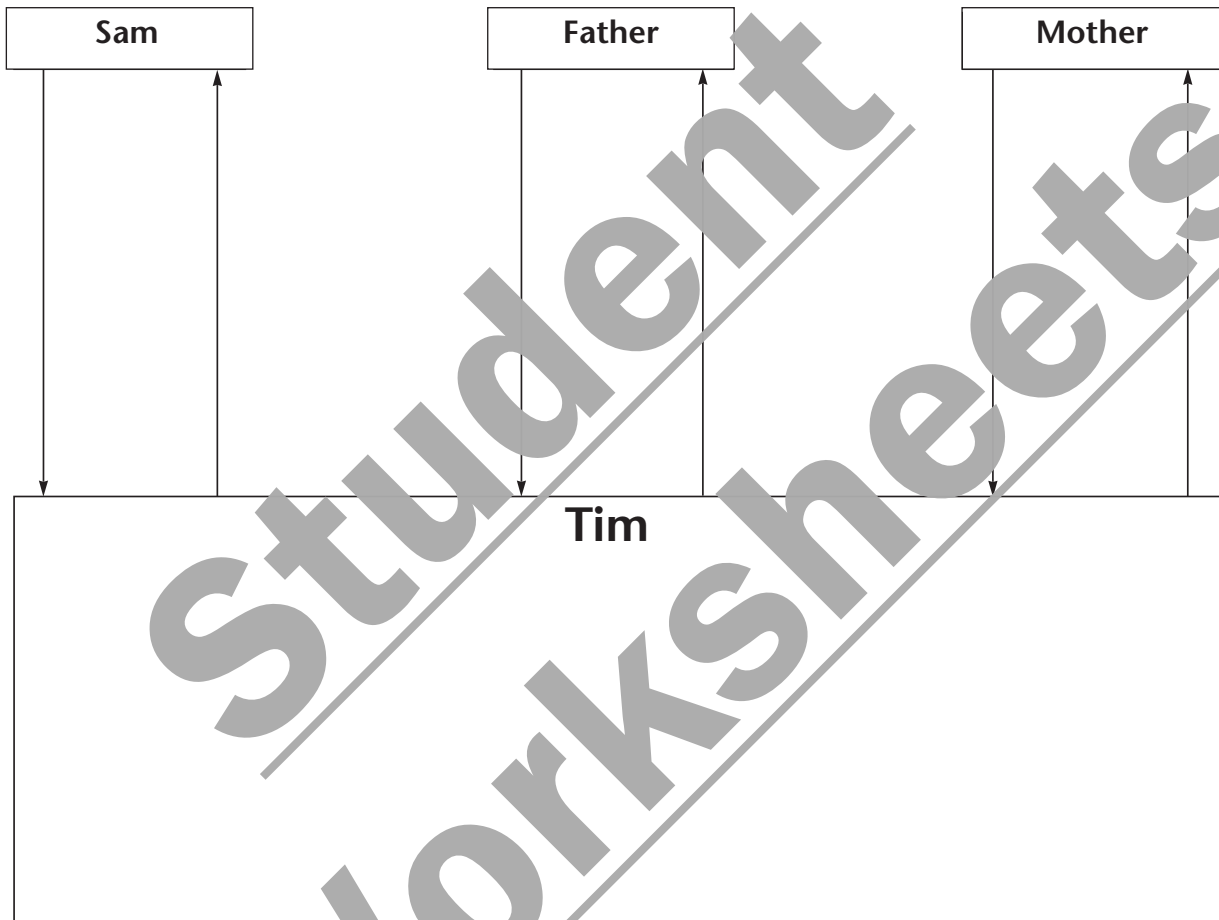
- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| _____ 1. | “Sir, it’s worth dying to be free.”
(page 7) | a. Colonel Parsons |
| _____ 2. | “I need a boy to walk down to
Fairfield for me.” (page 68) | b. Tim Meeker |
| _____ 3. | “Sam, you can’t take it, we need it
at home. Father needs it.” (page 36) | c. General Putnam |
| _____ 4. | “You may know principle, Sam, but I
know war.” (page 2) | d. Mr. Meeker |
| _____ 5. | “That isn’t news, Colonel Mead. I’ve
known that for three weeks.” (page 19) | e. Betsy Meeker |
| _____ 6. | “Because I happen to believe you, I’m
going to give you a letter to see General
Putnam.” (page 194) | f. Sam Meeker |
| _____ 7. | “Laziness has run wild, and the
decency between people has
disappeared...” (page 10) | g. Mr. Putnam |
| _____ 8. | “Oh, we’re all Patriots. After all, my
grandfather was head of the militia.”
(page 10) | h. Mrs. Meeker |
| _____ 9. | “The time is valuable. I’ll consider it.
That is all.” (page 196) | i. Mr. Heron |

Directions: Choose one of the characters. Write a description of that character. Give your opinion of that character.

Name _____

Written Response

Directions: Think of words and phrases that describe Tim, and put them under his name. Then think of words and phrases that tell how Tim feels about his brother, Sam, his father and his mother, and how they feel about Tim. Label the arrows with these words and phrases.



Directions: Use the notes you have written on the chart above, and write a character sketch of Tim. (A character sketch is a brief, vivid description of a person. It includes physical characteristics and personality characteristics.)