

Week 1 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. At the beginning of the novel, Sam comes home after being away for over three months. How does Tim feel about seeing Sam?
 - A. He thinks he looks and sounds ridiculous.
 - B. He admires and envies him because he looks brave in his uniform talking about the war.
 - C. He is not interested in Sam's return. He has more important things to think about.
 - D. He is unhappy because he doesn't like sharing his room with his brother.
2. What was the nickname for American soldiers who were part of a small hand-picked elite force which were required to be highly mobile and able to assemble quickly?
 - A. Navy Seals
 - B. Lobsterbacks
 - C. Minutemen
 - D. Green Berets.
3. What are "telling points"?
 - A. Places people go to hear news about the war.
 - B. Secret spy messages.
 - C. Sticks with sharp points used to bully someone into telling something.
 - D. Points scored in a debate. Sam is good at debates at Yale.
4. Why did Sam come back home at the beginning of the book? :
 - A. It was Spring Break.
 - B. To get Father's gun to take to war.
 - C. He got terribly sick.
 - D. He got kicked out of college for drunkenness.
5. What does the word "subversion" mean?:
 - A. under water.
 - B. disobedience.
 - C. another version.
 - D. high intellect.

6. Place the following events in chronological order:
1. Sam comes home in April.
 2. The Revolutionary War begins.
 3. Sam steals the gun.
 4. Tim makes a promise not to tell Father about Sam taking the gun.
- A. 1, 2, 4, 3
B. 1, 2, 3, 4
C. 2, 1, 4, 3
D. 4, 3, 1, 2
7. In whose tent did Sam stay after arguing with Father as well as when he came back to town the next time? :
- A. Tom Warrups.
B. Ned.
C. Mr. Beach.
D. Sacagawea.
8. When did the war finally feel real to Tim? :
- A. When Sam came home and talked about it.
B. When the townspeople argued and took sides.
C. After the American soldiers came searching for weapons and threatened Father.
D. When they had to raise the prices at the tavern.
9. Which was NOT a reason that Father didn't want Tim to carry letters for Mr. Heron?
- A. He needed Tim to work at the store and the tavern.
B. He didn't want Tim to get involved in the war.
C. He wanted Tim to join the British army and fight against Sam instead.
D. He was suspicious of which side Mr. Heron really was on.
10. What happened to Father and Tim before they reached New York?
- A. They were stopped by a band of cowboys who hit Father, but were saved by another group of riders.
B. They were caught in a blizzard and had to stay at a stranger's farm for the night.
C. They were stopped by a band of cowboys who took their cattle and left.
D. Their wagon broke down and they had to sell a cow to buy a new wheel.

Week 2 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. What does the word, "livelihood" mean?
 - A. being full of energy and life.
 - B. a way of earning money in order to live.
 - C. the part of a town where the people live.
 - D. the state of being alive as opposed to dead.

2. How did Tim lose sight of Father on the journey back from Verplancks Point?
 - A. One of the cows got loose and Father went after it and never came back.
 - B. Tim fell asleep again and fell off the wagon without Father noticing.
 - C. Father planned to ride a mile or two then come back and check on Tim. If he spotted cowboys, he could ride back and they could find a place to hide, but Father didn't come back one time.
 - D. Father was riding a little bit ahead and the heavy snow covered the road and Father's tracks and Tim got lost.

3. What gruesome act did Tim witness through the window of Captain Starr's house as he was running back from trying to get the doctor?
 - A. He saw a British soldier cut off Ned's head.
 - B. He Mr. Heron wearing an American soldier uniform.
 - C. He saw Sam getting tied up by British soldiers.
 - D. He saw Betsy Read kissing another boy.

4. Which one of Tim's friends did the British soldiers take with them as a prisoner?
 - A. Betsy Read
 - B. Tom Warrups
 - C. Ned
 - D. Jerry Sanford

5. What news did the Meekers find out in June of 1777?
 - A. That the war was over.
 - B. That Father was dead.
 - C. That the French were going to send aid to the British.
 - D. That Sam and Betsy were getting married.

6. What happened to Sam when he tried to stop thieves from stealing their cows?
 - A. The thieves killed him.
 - B. The thieves told the authorities it was Sam that was stealing the cows and he was arrested.
 - C. The thieves led him into a trap and kidnapped him.
 - D. Mother didn't know it was him and she shot him thinking he was one of the thieves.

7. What NOT a reason General Putnam was so unmerciful to Sam?
 - A. He knew Sam personally and didn't like him.
 - B. Sam was not where he was supposed to be when the incident occurred.
 - C. He couldn't believe Mrs. Meeker because she was his mother and would say anything to save her son.
 - D. He needed to be harsh with punishment because there were so many soldiers doing bad things.

8. What was the verdict and sentence in Sam's trial?
 - A. He was given 5 years at Fort Leavenworth.
 - B. He was not guilty and would be freed.
 - C. He was to be shot.
 - D. He was to be hanged.

9. What did Tim do on the night before Sam's execution?
 - A. He held a candlelight vigil in the center of town.
 - B. He decided to enlist as a British soldier so he could get revenge on the Americans.
 - C. He organized a protest in front of the stockade.
 - D. He got the gun and went to go break Sam out of the stockade.

Character Based Literacy Program Assessment
My Brother Sam is Dead

Name _____

Date _____

10. What does the word “foreboding” mean?
- A. A piece of clothing worn on the front of the body.
 - B. a warning or feeling something bad will happen soon
 - C. hopeful, wishful
 - D. giving the wrong impression

Final Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. Which war is taking place in the setting of this novel?
 - A. French and Indian War.
 - B. The Civil War
 - C. World War I.
 - D. American Revolutionary War

2. Which is NOT a term used in the American Revolution for someone on the British side of the war?
 - A. Patriot
 - B. Lobsterback
 - C. Tory
 - D. Loyalist

3. What did Betsy Read's grandfather do?
 - A. He was the Governor of Pennsylvania.
 - B. He was a spy for the British.
 - C. He was Colonel Read, head of the militia.
 - D. He was a blacksmith.

4. Which of the following is NOT true about how Tim felt about being a tavern keeper?
 - A. He liked meeting and listening to people from different places coming and going.
 - B. He hated it and wished he was a farm boy instead.
 - C. He was grateful he didn't have to work on a farm because the work is harder.
 - D. He didn't mind it, but he'd rather be playing than working.

5. What kind of gun did Father own?
 - A. Winchester Rifle
 - B. AK-47.
 - C. The Brown Bess
 - D. Matchlock Musket.

6. When American soldiers came to the tavern to take Father's gun, Tim ran to Sam to bring the gun to save Father. Why did Sam then hesitate to bring the gun to save Father?
 - A. He hated Father and refused to save him.
 - B. He didn't have the gun.
 - C. He figured Father was already dead.
 - D. He thought he might get hanged for deserting his post since he was not supposed to be there.
7. Who was stealing cows from people during the war?
 - A. The British soldiers.
 - B. The American soldiers.
 - C. Both the British and American soldiers.
 - D. No one.
8. What was the main difference in religion between England and the American Colonies?
 - A. America had freedom of religion and people could go to any church. In England, people had to go to the Church of England.
 - B. Everyone in England was Catholic and everyone in America was Protestant.
 - C. People in America were very religious, but not many people in England were religious.
 - D. There was no difference.
9. What did the message that Mr. Heron hired Tim to carry to Fairfield say?
 - A. "We can't trust Captain Benedict Arnold."
 - B. "There are too many tories in Redding. We need more troops."
 - C. "The Read family is dangerous. Colonel Read must be killed."
 - D. "If this message is received, we will know that the messenger is reliable."
10. How did Tim feel the first time he crossed the border into another state?
 - A. He was disappointed because there was nothing different about it.
 - B. It was the most exciting time of his life. He couldn't believe how amazing it was.
 - C. He fell asleep on the wagon and woke up not knowing he was in a different state.
 - D. It was just how he imagined it would be.

11. What is NOT one advantage the British had over the Americans?
- A. More soldiers
 - B. French allies
 - C. More training and experience
 - D. Better supplies
12. Who were the Platt family that Father and Tim stayed with in New York?
- A. Tim's grandparents
 - B. Tim's cousins
 - C. A minister and his family that like to help people.
 - D. Mr. Platt was head of the Loyalist Party of New York.
13. After Tim lost contact with Father, how did he escape from the cowboys that stopped him?
- A. He grabbed one of their guns when they were pulling him off the wagon and he shot them all.
 - B. He made up a lie and pretended that he thought they were the escort that was supposed to meet him, and they left so they wouldn't run into the "real" escorts.
 - C. He saw them before they saw him and he hid behind a big boulder.
 - D. He pretended that he had a contagious disease and his mother had just died of the same disease in the wagon, so they left.
14. What does the word "liable" mean?
- A. likely
 - B. lying in writing
 - C. a sticker with information about a product.
 - D. a spoon for pouring soup
15. What was Tim's reaction to seeing Ned's head getting chopped off by a British soldier?
- A. He went running into the house and picked up a sword and stabbed the soldier.
 - B. He screamed and ran away.
 - C. He ran and told Father.
 - D. He vomited all over himself and lay along side the stone wall crying.

16. Where did Tim really go when he told Mother he was going to check on the livestock while the American soldiers met in the tavern?
- A. To go spy on Mr. Heron.
 - B. To find the doctor because he was wounded and didn't want Mother to know.
 - C. To go find Sam in the nearby army encampment.
 - D. To go enlist in the army.
17. Which of the following characters was likely a spy?
- A. Mr. Heron
 - B. Colonel Read
 - C. Eliphalet Meeker
 - D. Ned
18. What happened to Father?
- A. He was hanged in Long Island for treason.
 - B. He died of cholera on a prison ship.
 - C. He tried to escape and was shot.
 - D. He was taken to England and decided to stay there.
19. What was Sam arrested for?
- A. espionage
 - B. deserting
 - C. stealing his own cows
 - D. treason
20. What was the last thing Sam said to Tim the last time he saw him?:
- A. "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
 - B. "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."
 - C. "You're the best brother I've got, Tim."
 - D. "God save the King!"
21. Which of the following was a real historical person NOT mentioned in the novel?
- A. George Washington
 - B. Benedict Arnold
 - C. King George III of England
 - D. Abraham Lincoln

22. What does the word “floundering” mean?
- A. A type of fish
 - B. To dip in batter for frying
 - C. To struggle helplessly
 - D. bragging.
23. What happened to Tim when he went to break Sam out of the stockade?
- A. He got a minor gunshot wound in his shoulder and realized the prisoners were no longer there, so he went home.
 - B. He successfully snuck into the stockade and untied Sam, but only Tim got away. Sam was killed.
 - C. He shot all the guards and freed Sam.
 - D. He got shot while trying to free Sam and died the next day.
24. What year was it when Sam was killed?
- A. 1775
 - B. 1801
 - C. 1779
 - D. 1960
25. Which of the following characters in the book did NOT die?
- A. Ned
 - B. Jerry Sanford
 - C. Betsy
 - D. Eliphalet Meeker

Answer Keys

Week 1 Assessment

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. C
10. A

Week 2 Assessment

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. D
10. B

Final Assessment

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. C
8. A
9. D
10. A
11. B
12. B
13. B
14. A
15. D
16. C
17. A
18. B
19. C
20. C
21. D
22. C
23. A
24. C
25. C.