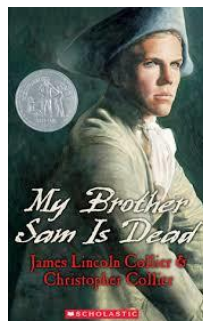


## My Brother Sam is Dead



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| ISBN-10          | 0-590-42792-X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ISBN-13          | 978-0-590-42792-0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Author           | Collier, James Lincoln and Collier, Christopher                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Publisher        | Scholastic Paperbacks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Copyright        | 1974                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Lexile           | 770L                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Genre            | Historical Fiction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Synopsis         | 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. With the war soon raging, Tim knows he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats and between his brother and his father.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Themes           | Family Relations, Perseverance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Protagonist      | Male, Revolutionary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Note             | Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| More Information | <a href="http://www.scu.edu/character">www.scu.edu/character</a>       |

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 1***



**Key Paragraph**

Page 7-8:

“God meant man to obey. He meant children to obey their fathers, he meant men to obey their kings. As a subject of the Lord Our God I don’t question His ways. As a subject of His Majesty, George the Third, should you question his ways? Answer me this, Sam---do you really think you know better than the King and those learned men in Parliament?”

**Writing Prompt**

In the above quote, Sam’s father captures the theme of rebellion in this novel. Think about how rebellion relates to justice. Sometimes rebellion is driven by the pursuit of justice. Other times, rebellion is misguided and contradicts justice. Pretend you are Sam. How would you argue his father’s opinions of obedience?

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 2***



**Key Paragraph**

Page 25-26:

Some people said that the King was the King and that was that, and we ought to do what he said. Other people said that men were supposed to be free to govern themselves and we should rebel and drive the Lobsterbacks out altogether. Some others said, well, they were born Englishmen and they wanted to die Englishmen, but that the Colonies ought to have more say in their own government, and that maybe we'd have to give the Lobsterbacks a taste of blood just to show the King that we meant business...

**Writing Prompt**

In the above quote, we see that Tim is learning that not everything is so "black and white." There are many arguments about the government of the colonies. While everyone wants to seek a society where values such as freedom and justice prevail, there are many differing philosophies on how to achieve that.

Which of the mentioned arguments do you agree with? Write a 2 paragraph essay explaining your opinion.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 3***



**Writing Prompt**

Justice requires the protection of every person's inborn and unalienable rights. Sometimes it is necessary for a person or a people to fight for those rights. Shortly after Tim made the statement in the above quote, a group of Continental soldiers came into Redding and straight into the Meekers' tavern. They wanted to take Father's gun and threatened him for it. At that point the war became very close and real for Tim and his family.

Could this happen to you in present times? Write an argumentative essay explaining how something similar could happen, or why you do not have to worry about it happening to you.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 4***



**Writing Prompt**

Going behind Father's back, Tim plans to deliver letters for Mr. Heron. In these pages, Tim starts to learn things that make him suspicious of Mr. Heron as a spy. During the American Revolution the punishment for treason (being a traitor) was death. Write an argument explaining whether this type of punishment was just or unjust.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 5***



**Writing Prompt**

Consider the following question: Were the cowboys really Patriots or were they just taking advantage of the situation? Apply the justice requires restraint theme to their actions. Write an argumentative essay to answer.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 6***



**Writing Prompt**

Justice requires restraint. Justice also requires wisdom—the wisdom to know right from wrong, proper punishments for crimes, what is fair and how to settle disputes, etc. In the above quote and from the way Tim handled the confrontation with the cowboys, we see that he was wise in that situation. Write an argument explaining what wisdom is and how a person gets it.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
*My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 7*



**Writing Prompt**

To every reasonable person, war is a very undesirable situation. Some believe war is never justified; others believe war is sometimes a necessary last resort to preserving justice. According to Susannah Meeker in the key paragraph above, “War turns men into beasts.” It is true that there are many atrocities and horrors in war. Of course, she is making a generalization about all men involved in war. Others may argue that men (and women) who fight in wars are defenders of the weak or mistreated.

Do you agree with Mrs. Meeker that war desensitizes people and destroys their moral conscience, or is she being unfair to the humanity of men in arms? Write an argumentative essay defending your position.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 8***



**Writing Prompt**

Consider why Sam feels so strongly about the war and his role in it, why he would make such a pledge. Also consider Mother and Tim's feelings and what they have been through. Who do you agree with? Do you think Sam should honor the pledge he made, no matter what? Consider the role justice plays in making and breaking pledges. Write an argumentative essay in answer to these questions.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 9***



**Writing Prompt**

As a reader, we know that Sam is innocent of the crime, as do all of the other people who know him well. After reading chapters 13 and 14, think about what you would have done if you were Tim or Mother. Could they have done more to try to help Sam? Explain in an argumentative essay.

**Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt**  
***My Brother Sam is Dead, Day 10***



**Writing Prompt**

Justice points its finger at the guilty. Now it is your turn to play a part in justice. Write a five-paragraph essay answering the following question: Who is responsible for Sam's death? Develop a thorough argument explaining your opinion of who deserves the blame for killing Sam. You may choose more than one person if you decide.