

8th grade

Hello American History Students-

I am so excited to be teaching American History for the 2021-2022 school year. I love history! I hope you will enjoy learning about it as much as I will enjoy teaching it. To get your learning jump started over the summer I would like you to read, *My Brother Sam is Dead*. *My Brother Sam is Dead* is about Tim Meeker who 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.

While reading the book I want you to respond to questions on the next page.

You must type your responses to the questions in size 12 font and double spaced.

The responses are due on Wednesday, September 8, 2021

A few friendly reminders:

- We will be discussing this book in the first week of school and throughout our study of the American Revolution.
- Please remember when you are selecting the book do not read the children's version of the book.
- If you have any questions please feel free to email me at [rshinners@bjams.org](mailto:rshinners@bjams.org).

I hope you have an amazing summer and I am already looking forward to seeing you in August!

Best,

Mrs. Shinnors

### ***My Brother Sam is Dead Chapter Questions***

#### **Chapter 1**

Explain Mr. Meeker's statement, "You may know principle, Sam, but I know war."

#### **Chapter 2**

Explain the statements that Mr. Meeker makes, "But you never get rid of injustices by fighting" and Sam makes, "Either we're going to be free or we're not." How is Mr. Meeker's comment an argument against war? How is Sam's comment an argument for war? Which one do you agree with? Why?

#### **Chapter 3**

How would you explain Tim's statement, "It made me wonder how the war was going to make us freer if you couldn't read any paper you wanted any more." What does this tell you about war and revolution in general?

#### **Chapter 4**

Tim said, "... anybody who joined the army to fight couldn't be a coward." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

#### **Chapter 5**

Why do you think men like Tom Warrups could work for both the Patriots and the Tories? What is your opinion of people who take both sides of a dispute?

#### **Chapter 6**

What was the message in the letter? Why was Mr. Heron sending it? What does this tell you about communication during this time period?

#### **Chapter 7**

How did the war affect Tim's family (think beyond physical effects)?

#### **Chapter 8**

What did Tim really think about the war? Had he made up his mind which side he was on?

#### **Chapter 9**

What do you think happened to Mr. Meeker? What impact will it have on Tim?

#### **Chapter 10**

Explain Tim's statement, "I still hadn't figured out what he was fighting for. It seemed to me that we'd been free all along."

#### **Chapter 11**

Mrs. Meeker begs Sam to come home after his father's death. Sam refuses. Tim says that he realizes that his brother will never leave the army because he thinks he is part of something big. Explain what Tim means by "something big."

#### **Chapter 12**

8th grade

Explain the statement, "In war the dead pay the debts for the living."

### **Chapter 13**

Patrick Henry, a famous Patriot, said, "Give me liberty or give me death!" How might his words have inspired soldiers like Sam?

### **Chapter 14**

What was the irony of Sam's pending execution? How is this similar to the irony of what happened to Mr. Meeker?

### **Epilogue**

What is your reaction to the statement, "But somehow, even fifty years later, I keep thinking that there might have been another way, besides war, to achieve the same end." Do you think the United States could have become a nation without the Revolutionary War?