

Saint Martha School
Grade 7 Summer Reading

Read *My Brother Sam is Dead* by Collier and Collier and answer the following essay questions.

My Brother Sam is Dead : Response Questions

Answer each of the following questions thoroughly and thoughtfully. Make sure to support your answers with reasons and quotes. Leave space between each question for evidence of small group discussion.

This assignment must be completed in FINAL DRAFT FORMAT!!!

Chapter 1

Explain Mr. Mecker'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. Mecker'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 affects)?

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. Mecker 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

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. Mecker?

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?

Saint Martha School IXL Summer Math

www.ixl.com/signin/stmartha

All students entering grades second thru eight are expected to complete online math work designed to maintain and extend foundational math skills over the summer break. Through use of the website IXL (www.ixl.com/signin/stmartha), students have access to a comprehensive math practice site with an unlimited number of math practice questions in hundreds of skills. In addition to making math practice exciting, IXL is designed to help your child learn at his or her own pace. The website is adaptive and will adjust to your child's demonstrated ability level. The site also saves all of your child's results and time spent, so that student progress can be monitored. Students will be able to access this program during the summer as well as throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

When your child logs into IXL, he/she should click on the tab for the GRADE LEVEL that they just completed. For example, if your child will be in 3rd grade this fall, he/she should work on grade level 2 this summer. Only exceptions: students taking prealgebra in grade 7 should work on grade 8; students taking Algebra 1 should work on Algebra 1. Students should work on a variety of exercises. I recommend cycling thru one exercise per topic.

You may email me at dscanlon@stmarthact.eduk12.net after June 19, 2017 with any questions. The school office will also have a list of usernames and passwords.

User Id: First letter of first name + Last name (note just a few students have the digit "1" added to their name)

Password: School ID number (6 digits) ***Can be found on report card!**

Expectations: During the summer students should spend 20 minutes a day reviewing math skills on IXL. Students entering grades five thru 8 are expected to spend a minimum of **10** hours on IXL this summer. Students entering grades two thru four are expected to spend **8** hours on IXL this summer. Make sure your child is logged into our IXL site by recognizing our red emblem to ensure that he/she will get credit for the time he/she spends on IXL. Thank you parents for your support!