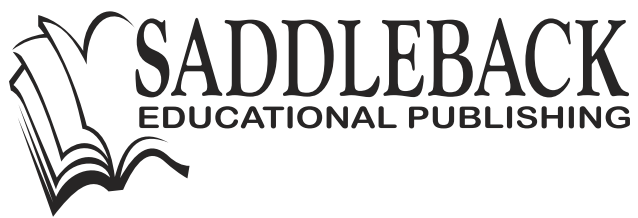


# *Focus* **ON READING**

*My Brother  
Sam Is Dead*

**LISA FRENCH**



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# Contents

<i>Introduction/Classroom Management</i> .....	<i>iv</i>
<i>Focus on the Book</i> .....	<i>vi</i>
Focus Your Knowledge .....	1
<b>I. CHAPTERS I–II</b>	
Focus Your Reading .....	2–3
Build Your Vocabulary .....	4
Check Your Understanding:	
Multiple Choice .....	5
Check Your Understanding:	
Short Answer .....	6
Deepen Your Understanding .....	7
<b>II. CHAPTERS III–IV</b>	
Focus Your Reading .....	8–9
Build Your Vocabulary .....	10
Check Your Understanding:	
Multiple Choice .....	11
Check Your Understanding:	
Short Answer .....	12
Deepen Your Understanding .....	13
<b>III. CHAPTERS V–VI</b>	
Focus Your Reading .....	14–15
Build Your Vocabulary .....	16
Check Your Understanding:	
Multiple Choice .....	17
Check Your Understanding:	
Short Answer .....	18
Deepen Your Understanding .....	19
<b>IV. CHAPTERS VII–IX</b>	
Focus Your Reading .....	20–21
Build Your Vocabulary .....	22
Check Your Understanding:	
Multiple Choice .....	23
Check Your Understanding:	
Short Answer .....	24
Deepen Your Understanding .....	25
<b>V. CHAPTERS X–XI</b>	
Focus Your Reading .....	26–27
Build Your Vocabulary .....	28
Check Your Understanding:	
Multiple Choice .....	29
Check Your Understanding:	
Short Answer .....	30
Deepen Your Understanding .....	31
<b>VI. CHAPTER XII–EPILOGUE</b>	
Focus Your Reading .....	32–33
Build Your Vocabulary .....	34
Check Your Understanding:	
Multiple Choice .....	35
Check Your Understanding:	
Short Answer .....	36
Deepen Your Understanding .....	37
<i>End-of-Book Test</i> .....	38
<i>Answer Key</i> .....	40

## Focus Your Reading

### *Vocabulary Words to Know*

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Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

**ammunitions**—explosives, bullets, and other materials used by the military

**massacred**—killed; slaughtered

**prevail**—to be successful through persistent effort

**constitutes**—forms; composes; makes up

**vicious**—fierce; savage; cruel

**civil**—polite; courteous

**triumphant**—proud of a victory or conquest

**inscription**—something specially written or engraved, often to autograph or dedicate something

**subversion**—working secretly to overthrow a government

**cordial**—warm; gracious

### *Things to Know*

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Here is some background information about this section of the book.

**Captain (later General) Benedict Arnold** was a skilled and daring Patriot leader in the early years of the Revolutionary War. In 1780, however, he betrayed his country, offering to hand the fort at West Point over to the British.

**Lexington** and **Concord** were the two Massachusetts towns near Boston where the first fighting of the Revolutionary War occurred on April 19, 1775.

**Minutemen** were the first volunteer soldiers in Massachusetts who met and trained regularly to fight for independence from Britain. They got their name from always having their muskets near at hand, so that they were ready to fight with just a minute's notice.

**Lobsterbacks** was a slang term for British soldiers. They got this name because of the long, bright red coats they wore as their uniform.

**Tories**, or **Loyalists**, were American colonists who supported King George III and the British Parliament.

**Patriots**, or **Rebels**, were American colonists who wanted independence from the British throne.

**Yale University** is one of the oldest private universities in the United States, established in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1718. This is the university that Sam Meeker attends.

