

A Guide for Using

# *My Brother Sam Is Dead*

in the Classroom

*Based on the novel written by  
James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier*

*This guide written by Corinne Coombs*



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# Introduction

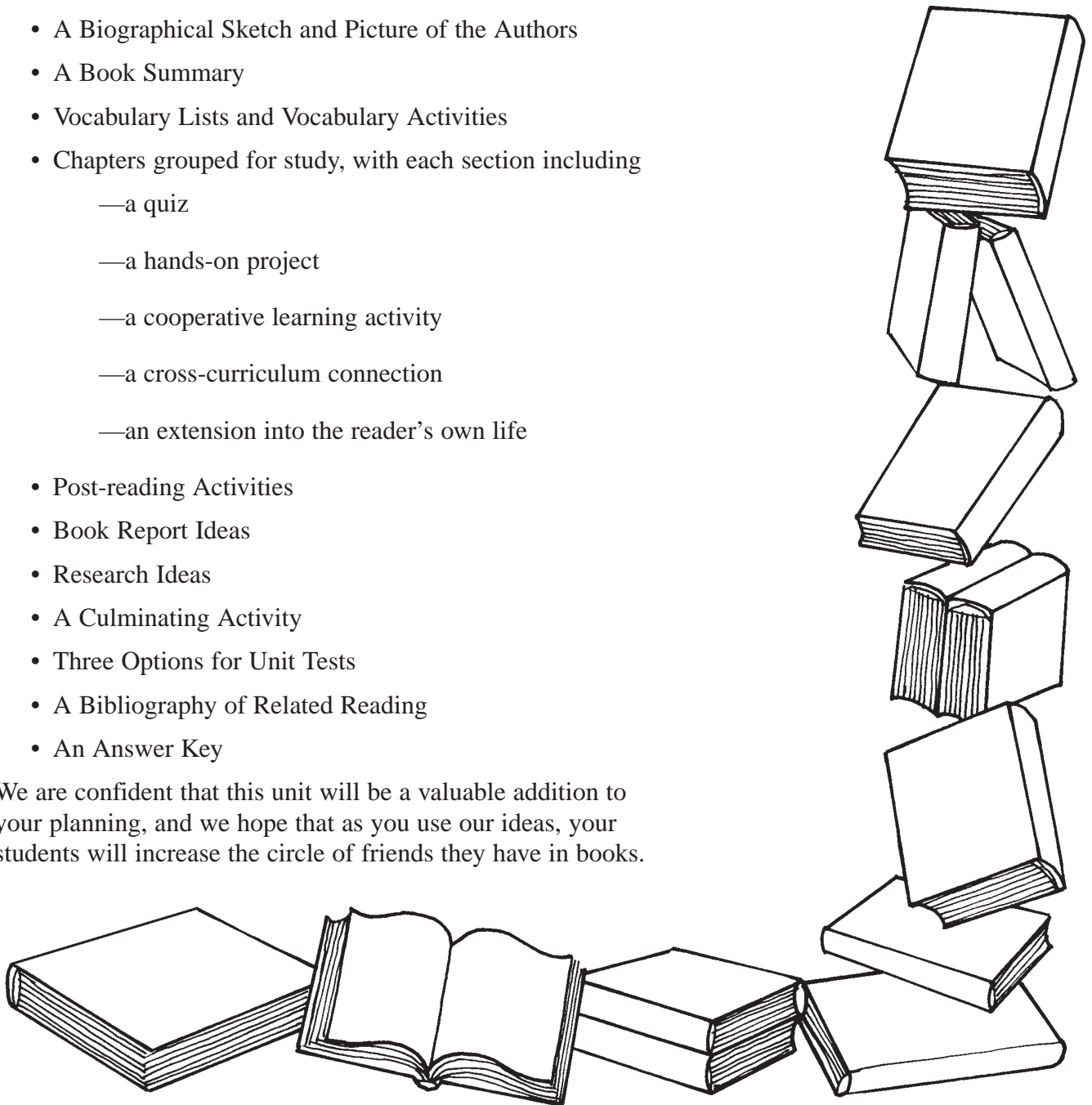
A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort, and guidance. It also gives us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever.

In Literature Units, great care has been taken to select books that are sure to become good friends!

Teachers who use this unit will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Sample Lesson Plan
- Pre-reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Authors
- A Book Summary
- Vocabulary Lists and Vocabulary Activities
- Chapters grouped for study, with each section including
  - a quiz
  - a hands-on project
  - a cooperative learning activity
  - a cross-curriculum connection
  - an extension into the reader's own life
- Post-reading Activities
- Book Report Ideas
- Research Ideas
- A Culminating Activity
- Three Options for Unit Tests
- A Bibliography of Related Reading
- An Answer Key

We are confident that this unit will be a valuable addition to your planning, and we hope that as you use our ideas, your students will increase the circle of friends they have in books.



# My Brother or My Father?

Sam decides to join the Patriot movement against his father’s wishes. Life is decidedly against the war and the Patriot cause. Tim is caught in the middle of their argument and is unable to decide which one he supports. He has always looked up to his brother because of his charisma and intelligence. Tim also respects his father’s opinion because his father is older and knows more about everything. If you were Tim and had to make a decision based on your father’s beliefs or your brother’s, which would you choose?

First, answer the following questions:

Would you support your father or your brother? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Now, rank the following factors in order of importance for supporting either your father or brother and write why you ranked it as such.(1 = most important).

\_\_\_\_\_ trust \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ intelligence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ common sense \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ loyalty \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ experience \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ personal belief \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Get in a small group to talk about your decisions. Determine the beliefs you share and those about which you disagree. One member of the group will report your conclusions to the class.

# Internet Scavenger Hunt

Use the Internet for Revolutionary War research. Look to this Web site: *The Revolutionary War: A Journey Towards Freedom*. At the site, you can read about famous historical figures of the Revolutionary War and answer the questions below.

**Step 1:** Type in <http://library.advanced.org/10966/> to go to the site.

**Step 2:** Click on the Infopedia Star at the left of the screen.

**Step 3:** Click on Historical Figures Collection.

**Step 4:** Choose a historical figure on whom to report.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace and date: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your historical figure's occupation before the Revolutionary War? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did this person join the Revolutionary War effort? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your famous person's significant involvements during the war? \_\_\_\_\_

What did this famous person do after the war? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional notes: \_\_\_\_\_

After you have completed your research, you will need to adopt the personality of the character to give a presentation to the class, explaining your (the character's) life and why you were involved in the Revolutionary War. In your presentation be sure to report and act as if you were the figure during the time of the war.

**Extension:** If you have extra time, explore the site for more exciting information about the Revolutionary War. Tell the class what you found.