



# Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - My Brother Sam Is Dead

Grade level 5  
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 770L

## Table of Contents

Introduction to Book Punch® .....	1
Printables .....	1
Text-to-Self.....	2
Evidence and Inference .....	3
Reading Check.....	4
Curriculum Integration.....	5
<i>Vocabulary</i> .....	5
<i>Character Exploration</i> .....	5
<i>Additional Writing Prompts</i> .....	6
Printable Worksheet Links .....	6

## Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

## Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document..

## **Text-to-Self**

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

### **Text-to-Self Topic 1**

In the story, Sam joins the American Revolutionary Army because he feels that the colonists are taxed unfairly by the British. His father thinks that fighting over taxes is not worth the lives that will be lost. Sam claims he is standing up for a principle. Write about a time you stood up for something you believe in. Describe what you did and how it made you feel.

### **Text-to-Self Topic 2**

In the story, Tim has to take on important responsibilities while his father and older brother are absent. He helps his mother run the tavern and make decisions concerning the farm. Write about a situation in which you had to take on important responsibilities. Describe what you did and how you felt about the situation.

### **Text-to-Self Topic 3**

At the end of the story, Tim tells the reader that he has written down the events as they happened fifty years before. The story is his memory of what happened to him and his family during the Revolutionary War. Write about a memory you would like to preserve and give reasons you want to keep it alive.

**Evidence and Inference**

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

**Evidence and Inference Topic 1**

In the story, Tim Meeker watches a group of soldiers enter the Meeker tavern. Write a paragraph describing the scene Tim views when he sneaks in to see what the soldiers want.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 4)*

1. When Tim looks into the taproom, what is happening to his mother?
2. When Tim looks into the taproom, what does he see happening to his father?
3. What do the soldiers want?
4. How does Tim's father answer the soldiers' questions?

**Evidence and Inference Topic 2**

One of the responsibilities that Tim takes over after his older brother has left is to help his father drive the cattle to be sold at market. Write a paragraph describing what happens during their journey to the market.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 7)*

1. Describe the men Tim and his father meet on the way to the market.
2. What do the men Tim and his father meet on the way to Verplancks say? What do the men ask the Meekers? What do they accuse Father of being?
3. How do these men act towards Tim and his father?
4. What happens at the end of this event? How is the situation resolved?

**Evidence and Inference Topic 3**

An event or events are ironic when there is a difference between what one expects to happen and what actually does happen. Write a paragraph telling what eventually happens to Sam. Explain why this is ironic.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)*

1. Who arrests Sam and why?
2. Why do things look bad for Sam?
3. What is the outcome of Sam's arrest?
4. What is ironic about what happens to Sam? Whom do the authors lead you to expect will cause problems for Sam? How is the way things turn out for Sam different from what you expect?

## Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

### Reading Check Topic

In the story, Tim grows up during the American Revolutionary War. Write a paragraph about the difficult circumstances during which Tim must grow up.

1. As the war begins, Tim is upset because his father and his brother Sam disagree about a decision Sam has made. What did Sam decide?
2. One day, as the war progresses, Tim is delivering a message for Mr. Heron, a neighbor. What happens to Tim on the trip that is completely unexpected?
3. Because Tim's brother is away, Tim must help his father on the annual trip to sell cattle and purchase goods. What loss does Tim suffer on the way home?
4. At the end of the story, Tim finds out what has happened to his father and Tim's friend, Jerry Sanford. What fate did they share?

## Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

### Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from My Brother Sam Is Dead that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
agitator	A person who upsets others
independent	Not influenced by others
injustice	Something that is not fair
rebellion	Open resistance to a government

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of My Brother Sam Is Dead include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
colony	A distant territory owned or controlled by a home country
commissary	A store that supplies food in a military post
Continental	American soldiers in the Revolutionary War
exchequer	Treasury of a state or nation
Lobsterbacks	A slang term for British soldiers during the American Revolution
massacre	Killing large numbers of helpless people
Minutemen	American soldiers during the American Revolution
parliament	A group of people that creates laws
patriot	A person who loves his or her country
tavern	A small inn, usually with a restaurant
treason	An act meant to harm one's own country
vile	Very objectionable
surveying	Accurately measuring the earth's surface
militia	A group of citizens that has some military training and is called on only in emergencies
scorn	An emotion showing anger and disgust

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

### Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Tim is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe him to someone who doesn't know him. (What does Tim look like? What kind of personality does he have? What does he like to do?)

Compare and contrast Tim with Sam or another character in the book.

**Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing**

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

In the story, Sam returns home after a three-month absence. He is very excited about having joined the American Revolutionary Army. Write a paragraph describing Sam's return and the reactions of his father and his brother, Tim.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 1)*

**Additional Writing Prompts**

See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of My Brother Sam Is Dead, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

In the story, Sam and his father argue about the war. Write a paragraph describing the different points of view Sam and his father have regarding the American Revolution and war in general.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 1)*

In the story, Sam is asked to help Mr. Heron. His father has a definite opinion about the request. Write a paragraph explaining what Mr. Heron wishes Sam to do and Mr. Meeker's reaction to the request. Include Mr. Meeker's reasons for his reaction.

*(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 5)*

**Printable Worksheet Links**

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

copyright © 2008 Merit Software