

The background of the cover is a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. A long, dark rifle barrel is positioned diagonally across the center of the page, pointing from the bottom left towards the top right.

# *Sam the Minuteman Study Guide*

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For the book by  
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Progeny Press

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## Synopsis

Sam and his mother and father live on a farm in Lexington, Massachusetts, in the year 1775. America is still a British colony, but the people are unhappy. In Boston, Sam sees soldiers sent by the King of England to keep order. “They want to keep us from being too strong,” Sam’s father tells him.

One night in spring, Sam awakens to hear church bells ringing. The British soldiers are marching to Concord where the colonists have hidden weapons. Sam’s father, a Minuteman, rushes to the village green, hoping to hold back the British army. Sam goes along to help.

In the early morning light, the British troops appear. There seems to be a thousand soldiers, and only 80 Minutemen. Outnumbered, the Minutemen begin heading back to their homes. But someone, somewhere fires a gun, and without warning, the Revolutionary War begins.

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**Dig Deeper:**

15. Look up the word *injustice* in your dictionary and write the definition in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When you see an injustice, an unfair situation, or a situation where God is not being honored, you may become angry just as Jesus and Moses did. Below are some examples of situations that might make you angry. Under each situation write a good way to use your anger and a bad way to use your anger.

*Example 1:*

You see a bully in the schoolyard picking on a boy much smaller than himself. This makes you angry, so you . . .

**Good Response**

**Bad Response**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*Example 2:*

Your brother finds the drawing you have been working on for days. He starts to scribble on it before you notice. When you finally notice, the drawing is completely ruined, and you get angry. You . . .

**Good Response**

**Bad Response**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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16. Read Ephesians 4:26 again. Do you think it is a sin to be angry? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does the verse mean when it says “When you are angry, do not sin”?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17. If you were in the same situation that Sam was in, would you have been angry?

\_\_\_\_\_

What would you have done? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Write about a time when you got angry and what you did (whether you responded well or not). Then think about what you’ve read in the Bible and write how you might have acted differently. Use another sheet of paper if you need more room to write. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### *Vocabulary*

Definitions:

disperse: to separate; go in different directions

bayonets: short knife-like instruments that fits on the barrel of a rifle

riots: disturbances of the public peace by a number of persons

revolution: sudden change in the government of a country; to rebel against authority

glinting: to flash out as with a stream of light

1. riots; 2. notice; 3. distance; 4. glinting / bayonets; 5. disperse; 6. revolution.

Mystery Word: courage. mental strength to face difficulty; bravery; accept reasonable definitions.

*Optional Exercise:*

1. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

### *Cause and Effect*

Reading down the right column: 4, 5, 2, 1, 3.

### *Word Pictures*

1. a: a bright river of red; b: buzzed about like bees; c: lobster backs.

2. Similes will vary. You may wish to put the students in small groups and have each group come up with one simile.

3. Answers will vary. The students should indicate that their voices get louder.

4. Answers will vary. The author is trying to give the reader a sense of what it was like to hear the marching of the troops coming closer and growing louder.

### *How the Author Creates Mood*

1. b; 2. c; 3. b; 4. a; 5. a.

### *Looking at the Story*

1. Most of the minutemen, like Sam's father, were farmers.

2. She worked indoors cooking and making the things they needed.

3. Answers may vary. Food was provided for the family, crops that they grew could be sold, clothing was made for the family. Accept reasonable responses.

4. The British soldiers were afraid the colonists were becoming too strong.

5. To Concord. The soldiers wanted to seize the weapons hidden at Concord.

6. Sam notices the apple blossoms, the scent of the apple blossoms, the dew on the grass, the sounds of the birds.

Answers will vary. Sam probably noticed these things because of the stillness of his surroundings and because the tense situation probably caused more awareness.

7. The first battle ended with eight minutemen being killed. The British soldiers were not prevented from going to Concord.

8. His friend John had been shot, and eight minutemen were killed. Sam may have never been exposed to such violence.

9. In the second battle, the minutemen fired on the soldiers from the cover of rocks and trees.

10. The battle went better for the minutemen. The soldiers eventually retreated to Boston while farmers shot at them along the way. (Historically, 73 British soldiers were killed, and 200 were injured or missing by the time they reached the safety of Boston.)

11. The minutemen stayed hidden and were harder targets for the British who were marching out in the open.

12. His friend John was shot in the first battle. Sam wanted to shoot all the British. Answers will vary. The next time the church bells rang (When the soldiers were returning from Concord) Sam immediately grabbed his gun and ran outside.

13. Answers will vary. The actions of the moneychangers in the temple were an affront to God.