

Standards Focus: Note-taking and Summarizing

For some students, reading can be a difficult, unpleasant task. Many students do not have the strategies they need to read for meaning, and they lose interest in the story because they cannot follow the action, do not understand the words, or do not relate to the characters.

Below is a chart you will be completing as you read *My Brother Sam is Dead*. It will guide you in understanding the plot, the changes in the characters, how the authors use the setting, and the lessons the authors want you to learn. It will help you remember things your teacher expects you to retain as you read the book.

Directions: Fill out the following chart as you read each chapter. Take time to consider the items in the chart because they will be the basis for other work your teacher will expect you to do on this novel—work that will show your understanding of the novel and the time period. For every chapter, be sure to read the guiding questions carefully. Questions differ slightly for each chapter.

Chapter I	
Plot	(Write a three to five sentence summary, focusing on the plot elements of exposition and initiating events.)
Character	(Write about the four main characters. What do they do/say that shows their qualities?) What is each character like?
Setting	(Write details from the story that show the authors' use of setting (time, place, situation) to reveal information.)
Theme	(Write details from dialogue/storytelling that help you see what Tim learns about life.)
Chapter II	
Plot	(Write a three to five sentence summary, focusing on the development of the plot.)

Name _____ Period _____

Character	(Write about Tim. What does he do/say that shows his qualities?) What qualities does he display?
Setting	(Write details from the story that show the authors' use of setting to reveal details about the colonial way of life.)
Theme	(Write details from dialogue/storytelling that help you see what Tim learns about life.)
Chapter III	
Plot	(Write a three to five sentence summary, focusing on the plot elements.)
Character	(Write about Tim. What does he do/say that shows his qualities?)
Setting	(Write details from the story that show the authors' use of setting to make the action seem more realistic.)
Theme	(Write details from the story that help you see what Tim learns about life.)