

Name _____



Samuel's Resolve

Directions: Read the excerpt carefully. Think about what the main character *says, does, and thinks*. Identify the character traits the protagonist shows. Support your answers with direct text evidence.

The Night Before Battle

Samuel clutched the worn musket his father had passed down to him, its wooden stock smooth from years of use. The campfire's glow flickered across his face as he listened to the distant roll of British drums. He swallowed hard, knowing dawn would bring the fiercest fight yet.

Around him, other young men whispered nervously, but Samuel kept his thoughts to himself. He remembered the promise he had made to his mother: to stand firm even when fear clawed at his chest. Adjusting the strap on his pack, he straightened his back and stared into the darkness.

"Tomorrow," he thought, "I will not run. Tomorrow, I will fight for our freedom."

Questions - Character Trait Analysis

1. What character trait does Samuel show by holding onto his father's musket and preparing for battle? Use text evidence to support your answer.
2. How does Samuel's promise to his mother reveal an important trait about him? Explain with proof from the text.
3. What does Samuel's choice to stay silent while others whisper suggest about his personality?
4. Which line from the excerpt best shows Samuel's determination? Why?
5. Based on the passage, describe Samuel in two traits (for example: brave, loyal, determined). Provide at least one piece of evidence for each trait.