How is war—specifically the Revolutionary War—depicted in the following passages? Be specific. How is the author shaping the reader’s view of the war?

*“‘I will not have subversion, I will not have treason in my house. We are Englishmen, we are subjects of the King, this rebellion is the talk of madmen.’*

*‘Father I am not an Englishman, I am an American, and I am going to fight to keep my country free.’*

*‘Oh God, Sam fight? Is it worth war to save a few pence in taxes?’*

*‘It’s not the money, it’s the principle.’*

*‘Principle, Sam? You may know principle, Sam, but I know war . . .Have you ever heard a man shriek when he felt a bayonet go through the middle of his back? I have, Sam, I have. I was at Louisbourg the year before you were born. Oh, it was a great victory. They celebrated it with bonfires all over the colonies. And I carried my best friend’s body back to his mother—sewed up in a sack.’” Collier 21*

*“‘I heard your fight,’ I said.*

*‘I’m too old for him to tell me what to do anymore,’ Sam said.*

*‘This morning he said you were full of college-boy wind,’ I said.*

*‘That’s because I wouldn’t obey him.’ He picked up a stone and began jiggling it from hand to hand. ‘I guess he’s still mad at me.’*

*‘He cried last night after you left, Sam, maybe he knows something about wars that you don’t.’*

*Nobody said anything for a minute. I picked up a stick and began to push it into the fire to see it burn. Then Betsy Read said, ‘Timmy are you on your father’s side or Sam’s?’*

*I wished she hadn’t asked me that question. I didn’t want to answer it; in fact, I didn’t know how to answer it. ‘I don’t understand what it’s all about,’ I said.*

*‘It’s simple,’ Sam said. ‘Either we’re going to be free or we’re not.’*

*Betsy touched his arm. ‘It isn’t that simple, Sam. There’s more to it.’” Collier 33*

*“[Colonel Parsons] put his hand behind his head and leaned back. ‘Do you want to know what General Putnam is thinking? It’s this. He’s thinking that he can’t win the war if he doesn’t keep the people on his side. He’s thinking that he can’t keep the people on his side if the troops are running amok among the civilian population—raping the women, stealing the cattle, burning houses. He is determined to scare the wits out of the troops to keep them in line. And he’s thinking that it doesn’t matter very much who he executes to do it. So many men have died, so many mothers have wept, so many brothers and sisters have cried. He is thinking that in the long run if he executes somebody, he’ll shorten the war and save more lives. It doesn’t matter to him very much who he executes; one man’s agony is like another’s, one mother’s tears are no wetter than anybody else’s. And that’s why he’s going to have Sam shot.” Collier 194*

Evaluative

Does this seem like an accurate view of war?

Does it teach us anything about war that we hadn’t previously understood? If so, what?

Biggest question that it raises?

Homework: Answer that question in one good paragraph—at least 6 solid sentences.