

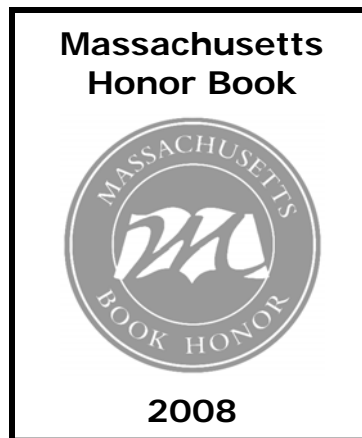
## A Reading and Discussion Guide

### *Bravo Zulu, Samantha!*

by Kathleen Benner Duble

Peachtree Publishers

Prepared by Barbara Friedman  
Library Consultant, Westminister, MA



### SUMMARY



Samantha doesn't think she has anything in common with "the Colonel", which is what everyone calls her grandfather. She can't bear to spend her precious summer vacation with grandparents and she becomes increasingly annoyed when her classmate Billy Burnham shows up and charms her grandfather. But Billy becomes her ally when she enlists him to help her discover something hidden on her grandparents' property. Sam begins to understand the reason for the Colonel's secrecy and forgets her need for revenge as the three begin to work furiously on a project that will take their relationships to new heights. This is a story about airplanes and adventure, but also about appreciating the needs of different generations.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do they call Sam's Grandfather, the Colonel?
2. How do you feel when you are around your grandparents? Do you think they should be "taking it easy" or should they be "trying something new"?
3. Have you ever been forced to spend time with a relative?
4. Did Sam make a wise decision to go to the lake without telling her grandfather?
5. Did the Colonel make a wise decision leaving Billy and Sam alone?
6. Does Sam like Billy? How do you know?
7. Have you ever been out at night without your parents knowing?
8. Have you ever kept a secret about a project? Why?
9. Was it right for the Colonel to keep his project secret? Why did he hide it?
10. Should Sam have honored her Grandfather's request to not go in the barn?
11. Sam's Grandfather uses uncommon words, he tells time differently, and he has certain behaviors that are different. Describe these and tell why "the Colonel acts the way he does?"

12. Can you define some of these: KP, NATO Phonetic alphabet, damage control? Did the use of these words add anything to the story?
13. The title of the book is unusual. What does it mean? How does it sum up one of the themes of the book?
14. People often say that someone has “an attitude”. What does that mean? Can you find examples in the story where someone has “an attitude”?
15. Did the Colonel need a trophy? Do you think everyone enjoys fame? What need does fame satisfy?
16. How are Sam and her grandfather different? How are they alike?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Use the NATO Phonetic Alphabet to spell your name or create some common phrases. Try: Happy Birthday or Have a great day! Use this link to help:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO\\_phonetic\\_alphabet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO_phonetic_alphabet)
2. Challenge your friends or classmates to an experimental paper airplane competition. Check out these titles or others at your library:

Bounford, Trevor. *Build Your Own Paper Air Force: 1000s of Paper Airplane Designs on CD to Print Out and Make*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2008.

Dewar, Andrew. *Fun and Easy Paper Airplanes*. North Clarendon, VT: Tuttle Pub, 2008.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kathleen Benner Duple is a Massachusetts author, living in Boxford with her husband and two children. She has written three novels: *The Sacrifice*, *Bridging Beyond*, and *Hearts of Iron*. She has also had two picture books published: *Pilot Mom* and most recently, *The Story of Samson*. Duple's books bring stories of history, family relationships, and adventure to middle school readers.

## HELPFUL LINKS

Read more about the author:

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/1857/Duple-Kathleen-Benner-1958.html>

The author's website: <http://www.kathleenduple.com/>

Read about the annual EAA Adventure in Oshkosh, Wisconsin

<http://www.airventure.org/>

Read about famous aviators

[http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/ft\\_wrightbrothers.html](http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/ft_wrightbrothers.html)

## SUGGESTED RELATED MEDIA

### CODES

Janezko, Paul B., and Jenna LaReau. *Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing*. Cambridge, MA.: Candlewick Press, 2004.

Manns, Nick. *Operating Codes*. Boston: Little, Brown, 2001.

### EXPERIMENTAL AIRPLANES – Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Experimental Aircraft Association. *Aerocrafter: The Complete Guide to Building and Flying Your Own Aircraft*. Oshkosh, WI: AeroCrafter, 2001.

Kermit Weeks. *All of Life is a School*. KWIP Publishing, 2008.

Nicholson, John. *"Keep 'em Flying"*. Oshkosh, WI: Paul Harvey Audio/Video Center, 1998.

Wallace, Lane E. *Wild Blue Wonders: Exploring the Magic of Flight*. Oshkosh, WI: Experimental Aircraft Association, 2001.

### FAMOUS AIRPLANES

Chaquet Uldemolins, José María. *Famous Aircraft in Origami: 18 realistic models*. Mineola, N.Y.: Dover Publications, 2008.

Dancer, Audrey. *Super Fast*. New York: Children's Press, 2008.

Jarrett, Philip. *The Color Encyclopedia of Incredible Airplanes*. London: DK Publishing, 2007.

Weiss, Harvey. *Strange and Wonderful Aircraft*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995.

### RECORDS AND FACTS

Glenday, Craig. *Guinness World Records 2008*. [United States]: Guinness World Records, annual.

Olmstead, Larry. *Getting into Guinness: One Man's Longest, Fastest, Highest Journey Inside the World's Most Famous Record Book*. New York: Collins, 2008.

*Ripley's Believe It or Not! Special Edition*. Scholastic, 2009.

*The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*. Paw Prints, 2008.

## IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE . . .

Creech, Sharon. *Walk Two Moons*. New York: Harper Torch, 2004.

Lisle, Janet Taylor. *The Art of Keeping Cool*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000.

