**I’m Not Scared Comprehension Questions**

**Chapter One**

1. When and where is the novel set?
2. How are each of the characters introduced/ described
3. What are the gang doing?
4. Who is Melechetti and why are the children scared of him? Should they be?
5. What do the gang see and decide to do?
6. What is the forfeit and who has to do it? Why?
7. Why does Michele step in for Barbara? What does this say about him?
8. What does Michele discover and why does he keep it a secret? (p29)
9. Describe Papa
10. Describe Michele’s dream on p38? How does he imagine the boy in the hole on p39?

**Chapter Two**

1. Where is Michele going and what does he think about? (p43)
2. Who is Tiger Jack? (p44)
3. How is the boy described? What happens (p46,47)
4. What does Michele imagine about the boy? (p48,49)
5. What happens to Michele when he gets home?
6. How is Mama described (p54)
7. How does Michele’s imagination play on him (p56)

**Chapter Three**

1. What does Michele realise the boy was asking for and what does he do?
2. Describe some of the things Michele thinks about at the end of this chapter.

**Chapter 4 (p68)**

1. Why do you think Filipo as decided he must be dead?
2. Who is Sergio and what role do you think he has in the kidnapping?
3. Why does Michele urinate on his father’s truck?
4. What is the significance of the unhappy ending of Michele’s story?

**Chapter 5 (p92)**

1. Michele thinks that Barbara is hurting the dog when she is actually trying to take care of it. What does this show about his new perception of parental figures?
2. Why does Michele cry when he hugs his father? What does Pino’s reaction reveal about his character? (p107) He has been concerned. He is reassured that there is still that connection.
3. Describe the scene that occurs between Michele and Filippo. How has their relationship developed? (p115)
4. What is the significance of Sergio interrupting Michele when he is trying to protect himself from monsters?

**Chapter 6 (p119)**

1. How have both Michele and Salvatore betrayed their friends?
2. What does Michele learn in this chapter?
3. What mistake does Felice make when he finds Michele? What does this show you about the sort of soldier he would be?
4. How has the violence of kidnapping started to threaten Pino’s whole family?
5. What is the significance of the dream Michele has in this chapter where the monsters are trapped and drowning? How does this relate to the fact that his father has rescued him and his mother?

**Chapter 7**

1. Why is it significant that Michele’s mother is cleaning the house so there is no sign of the arguments and actions of the visitors?
2. Is Pino trying to buy Michele’s silence or approval? Explain you answer.

**Chapter 8**

1. Why is Michele riding closer to the farmhouse every day? What does this show you about the moral dilemma he is facing?
2. Why does Michele take his old bike, the Crock, when he wants to visit the abandoned farm house?
3. Why does Michele tell Salvatore that they will be moving away?

**Chapter 9**

1. What does Michele realise about his father in this chapter?
2. How has the kidnapping completely disrupted the families of Acqua Traverse?
3. What are the adults talking about all night?

**Chapter 10**

1. What do Mama’s actions show about her state of mind? Explain what she is thinking when she places the pillows over their faces.
2. Why doesn’t Michele let Maria watch the argument?
3. Why is it chilling that Pino suggests using the soldier’s draw to settle the argument?
4. Why does Michele go to the Gravina? What decision is he making when he does this?
5. What fears does Michele have to face to save Filippo? Which of these are legitimate fears?
6. How does Michele ultimately prove that he is as heroic as the comic book heroes he idolises?
7. What is the significance of the blood on Pino’s hands?
8. Does Pino redeem himself in the final scene? Explain your opinion with evidence from the text.

**Activities**

Write the police report of the final scene

Review the ending. Decide what made the ending shocking, satisfying and suspenseful. Make a list of quotes that fall into these three categories.

Write an alternate ending. How would this change the effect of the novel of the reader.

With the revelations about his family Michele’s world view is changing. Explain this change and the effects on Michele. Use examples.

Write a letter home.