

# I'm Not Scared

Key Scene Analysis



# The Forfeit (18-21)

- What line indicates that Michele is older and reflecting on the past?
- Find three examples of Skull's sadistic nature.
- "During those days it was Barbara Mura, the fat girl, she was the lamb that took away the sins." Describe how Barbara is treated by the men. Give your definition of the word sacrifice.
- "Michele's won. He does it."(p.22). What prompts him to take on the forfeit? To what extent then, is he a sacrificial lamb?
- "There was something dirty, something...I don't know. Something nasty, that's all. And I didn't like my sister being there." (p.19). How does this indicate Michele's innocence?
- What does Michele doing the forfeit say about his nature?



# The Discovery of Filippo (26-29)

- What examples are we given that Michele is quite an intelligent young boy?
- On what grounds does Michele overtly justify keeping his find a secret? (p.30) What other reasons might Michele have for wanting to keep his find to himself?
- What first indications do we get of Michele's active imagination?
- Describe the relationship between Michele and Maria.

# Family Dynamic (30-37)

- Using the description of the town, list the ways that we can see the town is poor and isolated.
- What evidence is there of this household being representative of a patriarchal society?
- Describe the relationship between Teresa and Pino.
- From this introduction to Papa, does he seem like a good father? Why/why not.
- How does Michele view his father?
- Why is Soldier's Draw significant?
- Why is the gift of the Gondola significant? What does it represent?

# Goes down the Hole (42-46)

- List all of the figments of Michele's imagination.
- Who is Tiger Jack? Why is he important to Michele?
- How does Michele handle fear?
- Describe the condition of Filippo.

# Make Believe it's his Brother (65-67)

- Why does Michele think that Filippo is his brother?
- What does this say about Michele's imagination?

# First time they speak (71-77)

- What evidence is there that Filippo is traumatised?
- Who do we know to be the Lord of the Worms?
- What effect does the visit have on Michele? How would it be traumatic for him?
- Does Michele still believe Filippo is his brother?

# The First Meeting of the Adults (81-86)

- Describe the relationship between the adults.
- How has Sergio asserted his authority?
- Why is Michele so shocked to hear Sergio speak to his father the way that he did?
- How is Teresa behaving during this meeting? What does it say about her role?
- Compare Filippo Carducci's mother with Teresa. What are the similarities and differences?
- When does Michele (and the reader) first realise that Pino isn't the man he first appeared to be?



# “Papa was the bogeyman” (87)

- What is the realisation for Michele?
- Do you think he fully comprehends what is occurring?  
Why/why not?

# Scared of Sergio (93-95)

- Why is Michele so afraid of Sergio?
- What comment does Teresa make that indicates her feeling pressured / stressed?



## Bonding and the Promise (108-113)

- Why does Michele think it's important to tell Filippo his mother loves him?
- Why does Filippo think that everyone is dead?
- What exchange occurs between them that shows they are still very young?
- In what ways do they start bonding?
- What's significant about 'the promise'?

# The Betrayal (130-136)

- Salvatore is Michele's best friend, but in what ways is he jealous of him?
- How can we see that even Michele is affected by the poverty? What does he say about his father? (pg 132)
- How is Michele trading his secret for a subbuteo team out of character?
- How does he feel afterwards? What does Michele then realise about the wealth of 'possessions'?



# Teresa and Felice (149-154)

- How does Teresa react when she sees Michele? Do you think this was justified?
- In what ways is Teresa's reaction somewhat hypocritical?
- What does Felice's behaviour towards Teresa indicate about his character? How does he treat women/ children compared to the men?
- Read the last paragraph in this section. What do Teresa's words tell us about her character?

# The bribe (155-158)

- “Why did you put him in the hole?” What answer does Pino give? What is your view on this answer? Can certain acts be justified?
- What does he say they’ll do to the boy if Michele goes back?
- Describe how Pino is treating his son. In what ways is he ensuring that Michele won’t go back to the hill?

# The Promise and the payoff (161-165)

- Why is Michele feeling guilty? What conflict is he facing?
- What do Michele's parents buy him? Why have they bought him it? What position does it put him in?
- What does Michele do with the bike? What does this signify?



# The passing of Time (169-171)

- What pressures is Michele feeling?
- What physical presence does the hill have over Michele?



# Filippo's Gone (177-184)

- Describe the weather. In what ways is it foreboding?
- What information does Salvatore give Michele? In what ways is he redeeming himself?
- “Stop all this talk about monsters, Michele. Monsters don’t exist. It’s men you should be afraid of, not monsters.” Why does Papa originally say this to Michele? Why is it now ironic?
- What realisations is Michele starting to understand about the adult world?
- Re-read the passage about cats and lizards (pg 184). What has prompted him to think of this? Who is the cat and who is the lizard? What is it describing?
- What indication is there that the police are coming? What atmosphere does this create?

# The Adults turn on each other (188-195)

- Describe Michele's insight to the adult's behaviour. What analogy does he think of?
- Describe Teresa's disposition. What evidence is there that she is emotionally distraught?
- How is Felice behaving? Why doesn't he want to kill Filippo?
- What does Papa suggest they do with the boy? Do you think he feels remorse for his actions?
- "Felice froze like they were playing one-two-three star." How does this observation signify Michele's innocence?

# A happy ending? (207-215)

- What is the significance of Michele choosing the Crock, instead of the Red Dragon?
- Why does Michele go to Filippo? What does this say about his character?
- What condition is Filippo in?
- How can we see the bond that's been created between the two?
- “No, you're not scared. You're not scared. There's nothing to be scared of. Hide.” What is Michele doing here?
- “He had lost. As usual.” What picture of Pino is Ammaniti creating?
- “Papa they're coming. Run for it. Run for it.” Why is this significant?