

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES
“I’m Not Scared”

Text guide by: Fran Bernardi

CONTENTS

Areas of Study	Chapter	Topics Covered
Area of Study 1- Reading and the study of texts	Chapter 1- Genre	-
	Chapter 2- Structure	-
	Chapter 3- Historical Issues	3.1 Poverty in Southern Italy 3.2 Kidnapping
	Chapter 4- Style	-
	Chapter 5- Background Notes	-
	Chapter 6- Chapter Summaries	-
	Chapter 7- Character Profiles	7.1 Michele Amitrano 7.2 Secondary Characters
	Chapter 8- Themes and Issues	8.1 The loss of innocence 8.2 Human morality
	Chapter 9- Sample Examination Questions	9.1 Sample Part 1 questions 9.2 Sample Part 2 questions
	Chapter 10- Final Examination Tips	-

AREA 1:

READING & THE STUDY OF TEXTS:

I'M NOT SCARED

Chapter 1

GENRE

Niccolo Ammaniti's fictional novel, *I'm Not Scared*, is an emotional, sinister drama about the loss of childhood innocence. It is a coming-of-age story presented with nostalgia for the lost childhood of the ten year old protagonist, Michele. Michele's moral awakening occurs in an intense setting. The summer heat wave intensifies the emotions of Michele and the adults, who are acting strangely. The tragedy of the novel lies in the destruction of the small community as a result of the decisions and actions of the adults, which impact significantly on the children.

I'm Not Scared is a mystery that develops into a kidnapping suspense thriller. The adults of the idyllic rural southern Italian town of Acqua Traversa are involved in a nefarious ransom scheme. Michele's mysterious and terrifying discovery of the kidnapping victim, Filippo, in a hole next to an abandoned farmhouse, leads him to discover the dark secrets of the adults in Acqua Traversa. The powerful and sinister stranger, Sergio, who comes to stay at Michele's house, disturbs Michele. The hushed meetings between the adults intrigue him. The threat of the boy's murder forces Michele to make a courageous decision to exact justice for the boy and thus acknowledge the betrayal of his parents.

Chapter 2

STRUCTURE

An epigraph by Jack London precedes the narrative. This serves to indicate the essence of the theme of the dark side of life, which Michele comes to see, and the consequences of succumbing to immoral temptation.

The narrative follows the basic plot pattern. The setting is introduced immediately and strikingly as one of the hottest summers of the century. A flashback is used in the first chapter to introduce the characters and Michele's place in his family. The major complication in the story, which sets up the focal mystery, is Michele's discovery of Filippo in the hole next to the abandoned house. The story climaxes in the last chapter when Michele is in the gravina on Melichetti's property. In the ambiguous conclusion, both Michele and his father are symbolically left in the dark.

The child and adult worlds in the novel are paralleled through a mutual lack of comprehension. Ammaniti presents these parallel worlds through subtextual nuances. Michele comes to realise the fear of his parents, thus in the town of Acqua Traversa, the children are not the only ones who are scared.

SAMPLE