The Incredible Here and Now

**Comprehension Questions**

**West**

According to the narrator what characteristics does the ‘West’ have?

**Everywhere People**

What kinds of people live in Parramatta?

**Esther**

Describe Esther

**School Yard**

Who are students afraid of in the school yard?

**Last Day of School**

What do the students get up to on their last day of school?

**School Holidays**

Name five things that Michael sees on his day out with his brother Dom.

**Roundabouts**

How do you think Dom feels when he drives around in his car? What evidence in the text tells you this?

**Making Pancakes**

Why do you think Dom gets away with so much?

**No more space for pigeons**

What does this vignette tell you about the way that Parramatta has changed over the years?

**Postie-bike**

Pick one sentence from this vignette that tells you something about Poppy’s personality.

Write it down. Explain what you learn about Poppy from this sentence.

**The Fast and The Furious**

What do the boys love about The Fast and The Furious movies?

**Driving East**

What happens at the party?

**Chicken**

What does Dom see through the chicken shop window?

**Esther’s Son**

What are the details in this vignette that show you that both Esther and her son are lonely people?

**Dom, Mum, Me**

What did Dom’s mum and Dad look like when they were young?

**Hair Art**

What do the men in the hairdresser’s shop look like?

**Ice-Skating**

What happens when Dom and Michael go ‘Ice-Skating’?

**Concrete**

Why do you think Michael believes that his life isn’t his life any more?

**Fist**

Why do you think Michael’s dad’s fist is damaged?

**Do you know the meaning of words?**

Why do you think it is so difficult for Michael to put the story into words? Why do you think heavy is the only word he can come up with?

**First Day, New World**

In what ways is the title of this story appropriate for this vignette?

**The Other Side**

How does Michael know that his dad is acting differently to the way he feels?

**This Place**

Name at least three places where Michael looks for Shadi.

**My Father’s hands**

What does Michael believe his father is thinking about when he is silent?

**Aunty Leena**

Describe Aunty Leena

**Staring**

Why does Michael think that everyone is staring at him?

**Shadi and The Pool**

What happens to Shadi at the pool?

**Communion**

What memories does Michael have of being at this cathedral?

**Girl with No Name**

Why don’t you think Michael can say her name?

**Wallpaper**

Why does Michael compare his mother to wallpaper?

**Walking in Different Ways**

How is the way his father walks him different than the way that Michael usually walks himself to school?

**Laughter**

Describe the different ways that all the family members laugh.

**Shadi, his cousin and his other cousin**

Why is it so amazing that Shadi has his arm around a girl?

**Granville Servo**

List at least five things Michael sees in Granville

**Sounds**

What sounds does Michael hear in his neighbourhood?

**Walking Instead**

How is the reader’s perception of Shadi changed in this vignette?

**Hooters and Horses**

What are some of the reasons why Michael and Shadi go to the bowling club with Popy?

**Aunty Leena says it’s good for me**

Why does Aunty Leena think it’s a good idea for Michael to take Sam to the lake?

**Poppy’s Stories**

What happened in the story Poppy tells Dom?

**McDonalds is the Centre of the Universe**

Why does everyone hang out at McDonalds at night?

**Above**

What are the questions Mo keeps asking that make Michael feel uncomfortable?

**Night Swimming**

What do Mo’s actions in this scene tell us about her personality?

**Assembly**

How do the boys react to the Mr Alloshi’s speech?

**Gifts**

What stories do the boys tell Dom?

**Bach**

What personality trait do Mo and Poppy share?

**Coke**

What did Dom always want to do at the Coke factory?

**Bread-Shop Man**

What is the inside of the bread shop like?

**Toilets**

Why does Michael really go to the toilet?

**Above and Below**

What is the difference between ‘above’ and ‘below’?

**Looking for God**

Why does Poppy like talking to everyone?

**Essential Information**

Why does Michael really need his brother right now?

**Out There**

What doesn’t Mr Alloshi understand?

**Riots**

What did Shadi and Michael see at the riot?

**Mo Knows**

Why does Mo think that the ghosts of the women who lived here might come back?

**Caught**

What do Michael and Mo get caught doing?

**Nowhere to go**

Why does Mo act very coldly towards Michael?

**Dom in a Box**

What keeps Michael’s mother’s force-field around her?

**Photos**

Describe the image that Michael looks at.

**Poof**

Why is Michael protecting Moses?

**Mo in the Window**

How does Mo treat Michael when he comes to visit?

**Anger**

How does Michael’s mum express her anger?

**You do what you have to do**

Why would Michael think that everything should look different?

**Park Bench**

Why did Michael’s mum carve her name into a bench?

**On Not Seeing Mo**

How does not seeing Mo make Michael feel?

**An Outing with Aunty Leena**

Why would Michael describe Aunty Leena as ‘bigger than the whole world and not saying sorry for it.’?

**Moses the Gangster**

Do you think what Moses did was wrong?

**Learning Insults**

What surprising thing does Mr Alloshi do?

**Never Sure**

Why do you think Mo isn’t sure about speaking to Michael?

**School Break**

What characteristics do Dom and Mohammed share?

**Shoes and Toes and Feet**

What do you think Poppy’s phrase ‘If you want to know who you are, watch your feet.

Because where your feet take you, that’s who you are,’ means?

**Visiting**

Describe the cemetery.

**Socks**

What do you think Michael means when he says that it ‘rained socks’ over night?

**Boxing**

According to Mohammed, what can you learn about yourself by boxing?

**Eels**

Who is Fuifui Moimoi?

**Shadi’s House**

What things do Shadi, Michael and Jen do at Shadi’s house after his parents have left?

**Esther’s Walls**

In ways is Esther ‘starting fresh’?

**Last Meeting**

How do you know that Michael is hopeful about the future? Pick a specific sentence in the vignette that tells you this.

**No one can tell that woman what to do**

Who is Mo going to listen to from now on?

**Dreams**

What happens in the dream that Michael keeps on having?

**The Incredible Here and Now**

How does this last vignette reinforce the importance of stories in The Incredible Here and Now?