

OPERATION ALPHA PAPA



Chapters 1 & 2

1. Where is the novel set?
2. What is Aaron doing at the beginning of the story?
3. Relate the Smith family's background (page 5 – 6)
4. What is happening between Aaron and his brother, Doug?
5. What made Keryn embarrassed in chapter 1? (page 3)
6. *He'd slipped into the role of big-brother-guardian to the four teenagers with surprising ease?* Who is referred to here and what is meant by this statement?
7. What is the meaning of: *You're about as subtle as a cyclone?* (page 3)
8. List all of the words on page 4 that indicate that Aaron was really angry.
9. What is meant by *I don't regret falling for their beautiful abductor either?* (page 6)
10. What season is referred to in Chapter 2?
11. What was Aaron's assignment?
12. What did Aaron find at the park?
13. Can you suggest why these objects may have been in the garden?
14. What happened as he left the amphitheatre that morning?
15. Describe Aaron's unsuccessful attempt to reach home.
16. Why did Aaron risk crossing the train tracks just in front of the Bunbury train?
17. What does Aaron mean by *It wasn't a game anymore?* (page 16)

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Chapters 3 & 4

1. Scott does not go out immediately to find Aaron. Why does he choose to speak with Doug first?
2. Why does Doug feel that he doesn't know his place in the family any longer?
3. Why does Doug ask whether the situation might be related to the money being held in trust for the Smith children?
4. List everyone who is now out looking for Aaron.
5. Why couldn't Aaron flag Scott down on page 25?
6. How is Aaron feeling at the end of the scene on page 26? Try to use some great descriptive words here.
7. Why, on page 25, had Scott turned around and left before finding Aaron?
8. What did Aaron find when he returned to Minnowarra Park?
9. Aaron felt relieved on page 31 that Scott, Eric and Solomon were at the park. He felt safe. What happened next that made him realize that he was certainly not safe yet?
10. What is meant by *pandemonium*?
11. Why do you think Aaron started to run on page 32?

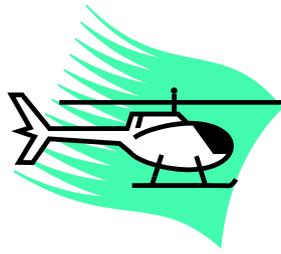
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Chapters 5 & 6

1. Why was the shopping centre the safest place at the time? (page 34)
2. Where did Aaron hide when he arrived at the shopping centre?
3. How did Scott ensure that the gunman was unable to catch up with Aaron in the shopping centre?
4. The police have found the car and the driver. Where were they?
5. Explain why it looks like Aaron is involved with the body they have found in the pond.
6. Why were the police able to identify Aaron's fingerprints?
7. Who is Brad and why do you think he accompanied Doug when he went to work at Chicken Treat?
8. What is it that makes Aaron's legs give way under him?
9. Why does Doug use his torch to examine Aaron's eyes?
10. Why didn't Doug tell Brad about Aaron?

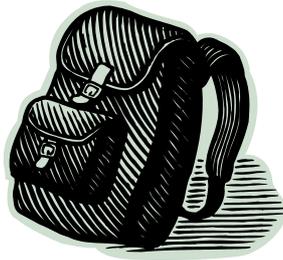
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Chapters 7 & 8

1. How do you think Scott knew that Doug had seen Aaron?
2. Why were the Smith kids a *danger to themselves*? (page 50 - 51)
3. What was there in the backpack that Scott could use to trace Aaron?
4. Describe how the author uses humour even in a tense situation on pages 52 – 53.
5. Why did Scott need Doug's clothing on page 53?
6. How had a device been put into Doug's clothing?
7. Why did Aaron say that he did not want to come home yet? (pages 54 – 55)
8. Why was Aaron asked to turn off the mobile phone?
9. Explain the meaning of the book's title *Alpha Papa* (page 57)
10. Why did Andrew suggest that Scott not answer the phone? (page 60)
11. What is the *dime*?
12. What is meant by *cam clothing*? (page 61)
13. What did Scott say that upset HD on page 63
14. What was in the backpacks? (page 63 - 64)
15. List all of the items from the backpacks, in order of importance to you, from the most important at '1' to the least important.
16. Do you think that HD can make it to the cabin in time? Why or why not?

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Chapters 9 & 10

1. What does Aaron really need at the beginning of chapter 9 and which he will have plenty of when he arrives at his destination?
2. What is the trouble referred to at the bottom of page 68?
3. On page 69, whose hand *clamped over his* (Aaron's) *mouth*?
4. How did HD show Aaron that he was a friend?
5. Why did HD secure Aaron by taping his mouth and *pinning his hands behind his back*? (page 70 – 71)
6. Rewrite paragraph 2 on page 74 in your own words.
7. Aaron is totally confused (page 75). Give reasons for this confusion.
8. What is the word used to describe someone who is really cold and unable to warm themselves up? (page 77)
9. Scott says on page 79, *There are too many pieces of the puzzle still missing*. List the pieces of the puzzle that you have discovered so far.
10. The sleeping bag is described as a cocoon. Why is this image used? (page 80)
11. What word (on page 80) is used to describe the state of having insufficient water to carry on normal bodily activities?
12. Describe how you think Scott is feeling by the end of chapter 10.
13. How do you think HD knew so much about how to treat Aaron?

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Chapters 11 & 12

1. What things do you learn about HD from the first 4 pages of chapter 11?
2. Why does Scott tell Aaron the story about the spray can on pages 86 – 89?
3. How does HD get messages to Scott and Aaron?
4. *Scott couldn't help feeling that something was terribly wrong.* (page 89) What do you think was so terribly wrong?
5. List all of the words on pages 90 - 91 that express Aaron's feelings when HD was about to give him the injection.
6. Why has HD decided to go on alone (page 91 – 92)
7. What *suspicious were confirmed* on page 94?
8. How did Scott manage to handcuff Aaron? (page 95) Why did he feel he had to do this?
9. Explain how Scott really annoyed the gunman on page 96.
10. What does it mean by a *package deal*? (page 97)
11. What had this incident with the gunman proved to Aaron? (page 97)

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Chapters 13 & 14

1. Aaron is angry on page 99, quote a line to back up this statement.
2. Why did Aaron receive *a sharp jab in the ribs*? (page 99)
3. Why was Scott making it as difficult as possible for the gunman? (page 99 - 100)
4. Why was Scott so worried about Aaron being cold? (page 101)
5. What do you think might have happened if HD had not been able to cut Doug off?
6. Why did HD grin when he saw the German Shepherd? (page 103)
7. On page 106, find an expression that means to be restricted by something.
8. How did Scott try to keep Aaron warm? (page 106)
9. Who was raven? (page 106 - 107)
10. Find an expression on page 108 that means to look around.
11. What does Scott give as the possible reason for Aaron being chased by the gunman? (page 108)
12. Why does it say that Scott had mixed feelings as he watched Raven go? (page 109)
13. There is an example of personification on page 109. What is it?
14. Explain the role of the crossbow in the story.
15. What injuries has Scott received that needed treatment on page 114 - 115?

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Chapters 15 & 16

1. What did Aaron find when he woke up? (page 117)
2. Who were these people who were caring for Aaron? (page 118)
3. Why did Aaron need antibiotics? (page 119)
4. What do you understand about the name patches on the SAS shirts? (page 120)
5. Why was the jacket so important to Aaron? (page 122)
6. What do you learn about HD on pages 125 and 126?
7. HD asked Andrew to stop the police from coming in yet. Why does HD ask Andrew for more time?
8. What were the two cryptic statement used on page 129? Explain what you think they mean.
9. What do you think it meant by 'The Piper's playing again.....'? See page 128
10. How do you think Aaron was feeling all of this time?

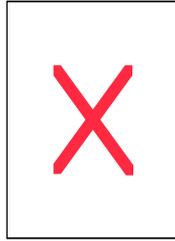
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Chapters 17 & 18

1. If you were in the SAS, what name and symbols would you use for yourself? (page 136) Draw the symbol.
2. What was Aaron's nickname? (page 138)
3. Give two reasons why Raven kept Aaron restrained? (pages 138 – 139)
4. Why did Aaron feel humiliated? (page 141)
5. Describe the nightmare Aaron had on page 142.
6. What was responsible for the nightmare? (page 143)
7. Why did Raven have to keep Aaron asleep? (page 144)
8. What is meant by *Raven's got him trussed up tighter than a blowfly in a spider's web?* (page 147)
9. Why was it fortunate that the SAS were having a practice in this area just when Aaron and Scott needed help?
10. How would you describe the members of the SAS?

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Chapters 19 & 20

1. What is meant by the illegal sale of stolen body parts?
2. What is meant by organ donation?
3. How did Khan come to be in Australia? Where was his real home?
4. What was in the brief case that Aaron found in Minnowarra Park? (page 159)
5. Explain how Aaron came to be involved in this whole business?
6. What was it in the newspaper that made Aaron rather disappointed? (page 163)
7. Why is Aaron relieved that Doug has gone home and left him alone at the hospital? (page 164)
8. What does Aaron mean by *I hope I end up like you two*? (page 165) Who is Aaron referring to?
9. What was the surprise parcel that arrived for Aaron? (page 166)
10. Do you think that there is a hint on page 167 as to the next book in the series? Give your reasons.
11. Write a review of the book for the local paper. Include the name of book, the author, the main story line, main characters, type of book, as well as a statement of how you enjoyed the book and whether you would recommend the book to anyone else.