

Running Out of Time

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

A Novel Study by:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 1 - 3

Multiple Choice

1. What does Jessie tell her sister she wants to be when she grows up?

- (a) A teacher.
- (b) A writer.
- (c) A doctor.
- (d) A preacher.

2. What illness is affecting many children of Clifton?

- (a) Diphtheria.
- (b) Pneumonia.
- (c) Influenza.
- (d) Scarlet fever.

Short Answer

3. What is the physical setting of the novel in Chapter 1? What did you learn about the place where Jessie lives?

Long Answer

4. What do we learn about Jessie's character by reading the first three chapters?

**A Little
Extra!**

What do you think might be in the "haunted trees" Jessie mentions in Chapter 1?

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Understanding the Story

Chapters 4 - 6

Multiple Choice

1. What kind of tourist site does Miles Clifton want Clifton to be?

- (a) A reality television show site.
- (b) One that people can watch, but not visit.
- (c) One that looks old, but with modern conveniences.
- (d) One that is open only to students.

2. What does Jessie do to her hair before she leaves Clifton?

- (a) She unbraids it.
- (b) She dyes it.
- (c) She cuts it short.
- (d) She ties it back in a ponytail.

Short Answer

3. Why does Jessie's mother decide her daughter must leave Clifton?

Long Answer

4. How does Jessie get out of Clifton? What are her first impressions of the "outside world"?

**A Little
Extra!**

How do you think Jessie's mother feels as she watches her daughter leave Clifton?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 7 - 9

Multiple Choice

1. Where does Jessie spend the night after she leaves Clifton?

- (a) In a cave.
- (b) In an underground corridor.
- (c) In a broom closet.
- (d) In a bathroom.

2. What is the name of the girl Jessie makes friends with in Chapter 9?

- (a) Nicole.
- (b) Heather.
- (c) Katie.
- (d) Selina.

Short Answer

3. In the tourist center, how does Jessie react when she sees photographs of herself and others of Clifton?

Long Answer

4. What clothes is Jessie wearing when she leaves Clifton? Why do you think Jessie is so worried about her appearance at first?

**A Little
Extra!**

Why do you think the tour guide is surprised when Jessie calls her "ma'am"?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 10 - 12

Multiple Choice

1. What is written on the side of the truck that Jessie hides in?

- (a) BreadFactory.
- (b) CliftonBread.
- (c) BestBread.
- (d) FlavorBest.

2. Where does Jessie hide after she jumps out of the truck?

- (a) In a ditch.
- (b) In a tree.
- (c) In an empty sentry box.
- (d) Under the truck.

Short Answer

3. Jessie overhears a guard explain to some Clifton tourists why the fence exists. What is his explanation?

Long Answer

4. Describe the sequence of events in Chapters 10-12 that lead to Jessie walking on a highway leading to Indianapolis?

**A Little
Extra!**

Why do you think Jessie regards the cameras in the trees as "being alive"?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 13 - 15

Multiple Choice

1. How does Jessie find proof she once lived outside Clifton?

- (a) She finds an old photo of herself and Hannah in her jeans pocket.
- (b) She recognizes what a gas station is once she sees it.
- (c) She hears a woman singing a song she remembers.
- (d) She remembers eating Doritos when she was little.

2. What does the large man warn Jessie not to do at the beginning of Chapter 13?

- (a) Use the payphone.
- (b) Eat the gas station food.
- (c) Drink the water from the creek.
- (d) Talk to strangers.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 15, why does Jessie marvel at how hard people have to work in the world outside Clifton?

Long Answer

4. What does Jessie find in the bag her mother gave her before she left Clifton?

**A Little
Extra!**

What does Jessie see at the gas station that she thinks are "car hitching posts"?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 16 - 18

Multiple Choice

1. Where does Jessie go after she escapes from Tol and Ray?

- (a) To a police station.
- (b) To a convenience store.
- (c) To a school.
- (d) To a restaurant.

2. What item in Mr. Neeley's car particularly amazes Jessie?

- (a) The radio.
- (b) The horn.
- (c) The DVD player.
- (d) The air conditioning.

Short Answer

3. What does Jessie tell Mr. Neeley once she gets a hold of him on the telephone? What is his reaction?

Long Answer

4. What does Jessie overhear people talking about in Mr. Neeley's apartment?

**A Little
Extra!**

What does Jessie do with the water Mr. Neeley gives her?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 19 - 21

Multiple Choice

1. Jessie thinks her relationship with Clifton's men is like:

- (a) Her pet cat playing with a mouse.
- (b) The family dog playing with a bone.
- (c) Her brothers stealing each others' things.
- (d) A fox chasing a rabbit.

2. What is the one thing Jessie does not use to publicize the news conference?

- (a) Radio.
- (b) Newspapers.
- (c) Television.
- (d) Internet.

Short Answer

3. Jessie begins to panic as she climbs out of Mr. Neeley's window. How does she overcome her fear?

Long Answer

4. What is the reaction of the reporters who show up for Jessie's news conference?

**A Little
Extra!**

Why can't Jessie get the board of health to listen to her about the epidemic in Clifton?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 22 - 25

Multiple Choice

1. When Jessie sees her brother Andrew again, why is he upset?

- (a) His friend has died.
- (b) His parents betrayed him.
- (c) The family pets ran off.
- (d) He has to do schoolwork in hospital.

2. Why can't Jessie see her parents when she is in hospital?

- (a) They have diphtheria.
- (b) They could catch diphtheria from her.
- (c) They are in custody while police question them about Clifton.
- (d) They refuse to see their children.

Short Answer

3. According to Andrew and Hannah, why did Mr. Seward storm in and take over the Clifton school waving a rifle?

Long Answer

4. How do you think Jessie might find the world has changed since 1996? Give a couple of examples of how the author could update the novel if she rewrote it today.

**A Little
Extra!**

What was Mr. Neeley's real name?

Name: _____

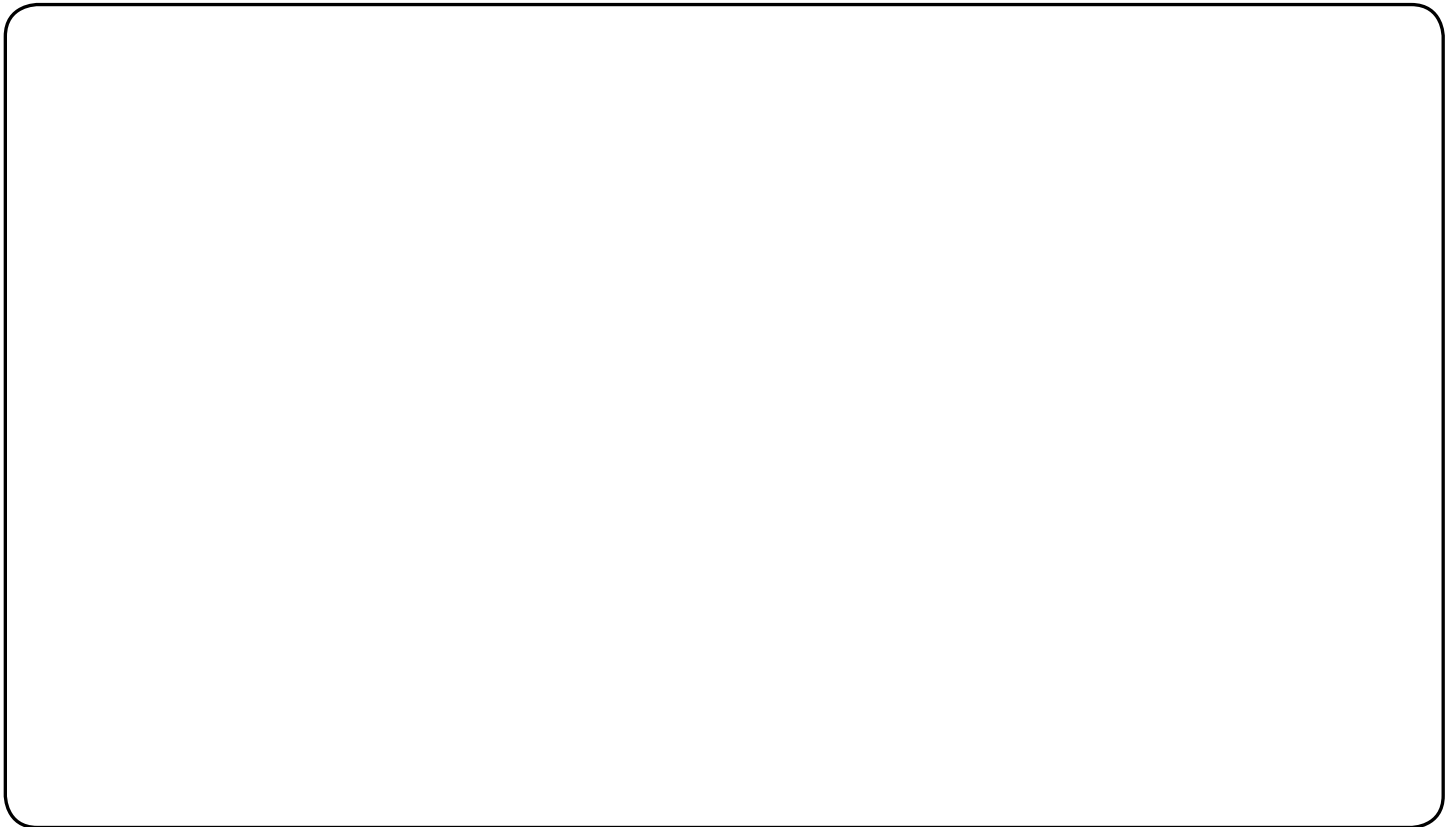
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Story Setting

The setting is the time and/or place in which a story happens.

1. Describe the setting of *Running Out of Time*. When and where does it take place?

2. Draw a picture of a setting described in the story.



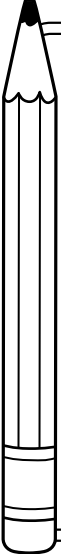
3. Explain what you have drawn above.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Quotation Quest

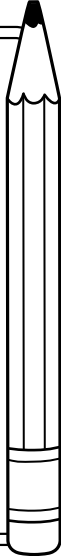
Skim the novel and write down three favorite quotations, or quotations you think are important to the story.



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____

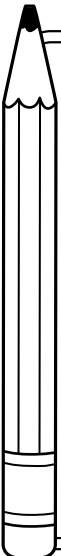
Why I chose this quotation: _____



Quotation: _____

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Why I chose this quotation: _____



Quotation: _____

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