

## Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix

1. If you are familiar with the expression “power of the press”, please give an example of that power from the book.
2. Did anything in the story shock or upset you? Why?
3. Did something in the story make you smile? What was it?
4. Let’s list some differences between Jessie’s life in 1840 and the “real” world of 1996. Don’t worry, we will all help!
5. What will be the same in Jessie’s life in 1996 as it was in 1840?
6. What clues made you wonder if something was strange in Clifton?
7. Why did Ma choose Jessie to go for help rather than one of the other children?
8. How do you feel about Jessie’s parents keeping the truth from their family?
9. What did Jessie notice about the students touring Clifton?

10. Do you think Ma and Pa deserve to get their children back? Why or why not?
11. What will be the hardest differences in a modern school for Clifton's children to get used to?
12. Do you think the author was trying to teach you something with this story? What would it be?
13. If you were asked to write a sequel to Running Out of Time what would happen next?
14. Did you admire any of the characters? What did you like about them?
15. Was this book a quick read? Why or why not?
16. On page 74, Jessie wonders if Pa and Mr. Wittington believe what they say about education, or are they just playing a role for the tourists. What do you think?
17. When Jessie escaped from "Mr. Neely's" apartment, she remembered what Pa had said about thinking one bite at a time (p. 142). How did that help her? Could we imagine a situation where it might help us?
18. Congratulations! You have the hardest question! Jessie tried to be cautious like Hannah and Hannah tried to be brave like Jessie. If your family were in danger, what things about you would your family imitate? What things about someone else would you imitate?

19. Pretend that you are the editor. How would you tell the author to improve this book?

20. At the end of the book, do you feel hope for each of the characters?

21. On page 136, Jessie mentions bravery and bravado. Would you please give us some examples and help us understand the difference between the two words?