

Clocked Lives Answer Key

Model Critical Response:

The author warns that relying too much on technology can take away human freedom and connection. In the story, the Clock tells people when to eat, sleep, and work, which shows how choice is lost. Families and friends grow distant because the system separates their schedules, proving that technology can isolate people. The power outage shows that people have forgotten how to think for themselves, but also hints that they can regain freedom when they act independently. This warning applies to real life because many people already depend heavily on phones, apps, or online systems to tell them what to do. If technology becomes too controlling, society could lose personal decision-making. The story reminds us to use technology wisely without letting it control our lives.

Teacher Notes:

- **Skill emphasis:** Critical response = students explain *what the author is warning against* and support it with **evidence + real-world connection**.
- Accept different real-world connections (e.g., social media, reliance on GPS, screen time) as long as they are explained logically.
- Encourage students to balance text evidence with personal analysis.
- Extension: Ask students to imagine and write a short paragraph about a "new rule" they would add if they were designing the Clock, and then explain its possible consequences.