**Activities for…  
The Runner by Keith Gray**

**Activity 1**

Imagine you are a runner, what would you do to survive? Think about what your day would be like and what you would do. Perhaps you have slept in a train station all night, how would you feel? Think ab out how you would find food, how you would avoid the ticket collectors, where would you sleep at night? Think about your feelings, are you scared, hungry tired, bored? You can pick one incident you make up and focus on that or you could cover a whole 24 hours. You could either discuss it or write it down as a creative writing exercise. Remember to give your character a name and an age, and perhaps mention why your character is a Runner.

**Activity 2**

Do you think The Runner is an accurate story? Do you think children really live on trains? Perhaps it will surprise you to learn that many children in India make railways their home. Using the following web sites find out about the Railway Children of India. You might like to compile a report, listing facts and figures and including pictures. Here are some sites to get you started;

<http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/08/south_asia_indian_railways0_runaway_children/html/1.stm>

**\*\*Please note these sites are not written for young people and they may need some help with them, depending on the age of your reading group\*\***

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**Activity 3**

Why do you think Jam created the elaborate story about himself and the existence of other runners? Do you think he was trying to escape? If you do, what do you think he could be trying to escape from? Imagine you are Jam. Either write down or discuss what the story from Jam’s point of view. You might want to include things like;

* Was he happy at home?
* What are his parents like? We only meet his mum for a short while in the book and his dad is only briefly mentioned.
* Why did Jam invent such an imaginative story about himself? Do you think he wished it was real?