

Read the following extract and then answer the questions. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

**William Wenton and the Secret Portal**  
by Bobby Peers

Pontus Dippel positioned his forehead against the scanner next to the lift. He was on his way to do one last pass before he left for the night. The items downstairs, collected from all corners of the globe, were some of the rarest and most valuable artefacts in the world. Now they were safely stored in the Depository for Impossible Archaeology – a secured room beneath the Institute for Post-Human Research.

A green beam flashed across Pontus' forehead and the lift opened with a *ding*. He entered and two guard-bots wheeled in behind him as the doors closed. When the lift opened again, Pontus proceeded down a long hallway and stopped in front of a steel-clad security door. Neither Pontus nor the guard-bots noticed a dark figure materializing behind them.

Pontus placed his forehead on another scanner.

"Welcome," a computerized voice said.

The door slid open with a quiet *swish*, and light spilled into the dark hallway. He was about to continue into the room when one of the guard-bots behind him said, "HALT!"

Pontus whipped around and spotted a figure coming towards them. A woman slowly stepped into the light. She had black, uncombed hair that draped like tentacles over her face, and rows of yellow teeth that snarled inside her grinning mouth. Something on the woman's left hand glinted in the dim light.

"HALT!" the guard-bot said again.

With one swift movement, the woman raised her metal hand and a beam shot out – vaporizing the two robots.

"No, it—it can't be..." Pontus said, holding up his hands in defence and backing away. "It's not possible. You're supposed to be ... dead!"

The woman followed him into the room, closing the door behind them.

**Words in Context**

Find and highlight the following words in the text.

- Artefacts
- Materializing
- Proceeded

What do you think they mean?  
What word or phrase could you replace them with?

**Retrieval questions**

1. Where is Pontus?
2. Where is the Depository for Impossible Archaeology?
3. How does the author describe the woman's hair?

**Inference questions**

1. What do you think Pontus Dippel's job was? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
2. Find three pieces of evidence which suggests this a fantasy story.
3. What do you think the name 'Post-human' suggests about the story?
4. What do you think the guard bots look like? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

**Choice questions**

1. What word in the text mean 'turned quickly'.
2. Why is the word 'swish' in an italic font?

**Challenge question**

Who do you think the woman is and how do you think Pontus Dippel knows her?

Could you draw an illustration for this book extract?

Possible answers

Words in context

Artefacts - an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.

Materializing – appear

Proceed – Carry on or continue

Retrieval Questions

1. Institute for Post Human Research or in a lift
2. Underneath the Institute for Post Human Research
3. Black, uncombed hair that draped like tentacles

Inference Questions

1. Security guard – he did one last pass – guards will check a building.
2. Guard bots, Post-Human Research (after humans), green beam flashed, woman had a metal hand, vaporizing beams
3. Post means after so it is set after humans have existed
4. Draw a picture – have wheels and speak

Choice Questions

1. Whipped around
2. To add emphasis and the author has used them for onomatopoeias (swish, ding)

Challenge

Own answers – look for and use any clues