

1. Where is the Depository for Impossible Archaeology? (Retrieval question.)
2. What do you think Pontus Dippel's job was? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (Inference question.)
3. 'She had black, uncombed hair that draped like tentacles over her face'. What is this an example of and how does this make you feel? (Vocabulary question.)
4. What do you think the name 'Post-human' suggests about the story? (Inference question.)
5. What do you think the guard-bots might look like? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (Inference question.)

William Wenton and the Secret Portal

By Bobbie 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 the 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 his hands up 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.