

# BEFORE YOU READ

## 1 VOCABULARY

Match the word below with the pictures A-F.

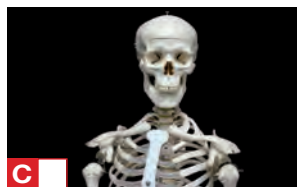
1 blood    2 white sheet    3 cloak    4 skeleton    5 fangs    6 witch



A



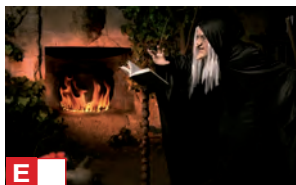
B



C



D



E



F

KEY

## 2 READING AND WRITING

Read the information and the email. Fill in the information in Laura's notes.

**INVITATION TO**  
a **HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
On Saturday 31st  
October 3-6pm  
At 41 Cherry Tree Road  
Games, prizes, lots of food  
and remember to dress up!!  
Let me know if you  
can come by Thursday

**MICHELLE**



From: Eve  
To: Laura

Shall we go to Michelle's Halloween party together? Let's both dress up as witches? My Dad will take us in the car but we'll need to come back by tube. We'll come and get you at 2.40. Ring me on my mobile (07816 22376) or after 6pm at home, (3872598) to let me know.

### Laura's notes

Day: **1** .....

Time: **2** .....

Dress up as: **3** .....


Travel to party by: **4** .....

Eve's evening phone number: **5** .....



## CHAPTER FOUR

# Trick or treat

Max and Laura spent the next few days thinking about the strange name on the file. 

“Mum, did Matilda Anderson talk to you about ‘Project Vampire’?” asked Laura.

“Why do you want to know that?” she laughed.

“Max said he saw a file with Project Vampire on it. It seemed a strange name.”

“You and your brother think everything is mysterious and strange. There’s nothing strange about it at all. Matilda is organising a Halloween party for the staff<sup>1</sup> at her gallery. She is very good at organising things. She has got all her notes about the party in that file.”

Mum smiled at Max and Laura. Their faces were not happy. “Sorry, you two. No mystery this time.”

It was finally 31st October, Halloween: a day when people usually organise parties, with games, wonderful food and, of course, ‘Trick or

1. **staff** : people who work at the gallery.



## Project Vampire

Treat'. When it is dark children, wearing Halloween costumes, knock on people's doors and hope they will give them something nice to eat.

At eight o'clock the twins and their friends were ready. Laura was dressed as a witch with a tall black hat, Max was a skeleton, Mark was a vampire with a cloak and fangs and Eve, under a big white sheet, was a ghost. Their mother was a bit worried. "It's very cold outside, children," she said, "and very foggy. Remember to wear your scarves and gloves."

"Skeletons don't wear scarves and gloves Mum. Don't be silly!" Max laughed. They all said goodbye and went out into the dark street.

It was very cold and extremely foggy but the streets were full of people going to Halloween parties.

The four friends walked to the tube station at the end of their road.

"OK, has everybody got their Travel Card?" asked Max. They all nodded. "Good. We'll take the tube."

The biggest art gallery in London, The National Gallery, was in Trafalgar Square and the children wanted to catch the thief before he stole more paintings.

The Underground was full of people dressed as witches, ghosts and strange monsters, all laughing and talking. When the train stopped at Charing Cross a few minutes later, the twins and the other two got off. They walked for about three minutes and soon arrived at the gallery in Trafalgar Square. It was very difficult to see because the centre of London was extremely foggy. Laura took a torch and a map out of her pocket.

"Let's separate," she said. "We can meet again here in half an hour."

"OK," Max agreed. The girls set off in one direction with the map and the torch while the boys went in the other direction.

Trafalgar Square was very strange that evening... Ghosts and





## Project Vampire

witches were looking out of the windows of big red London buses. The enormous column in the middle of the square was invisible in the fog and the statue of Nelson<sup>2</sup> on top of it seemed to float<sup>3</sup> in the air.

Eve and Laura stopped in front of the main entrance to the museum. The doors behind the huge columns were obviously closed. They looked up and saw lots of small windows.

“A thief could never get through one of those windows,” said Eve. “They’re too high.”

“Look, I can see a light. Somebody is inside the museum.”

“Come on. Let’s take a look.”

As they were walking towards the main entrance, the fog suddenly became very dense.

“Eve, where are you?”

“Here. Laura... Can you...?”

Suddenly they heard the sound of running and ... Crash ... Laura fell to the ground. Above her stood a vampire in a long black cloak. Blood was dripping<sup>4</sup> from his fangs and his face was a ghostly white.

Laura stood up and said angrily, “Hey Mark, be careful! You shouldn’t run fast in the fog. It’s dangerous...”

But when the vampire looked at the two girls they saw immediately that it wasn’t Mark. They froze<sup>5</sup> when they saw the strange greeny-yellow colour of the man’s eyes.

Eve was the first to speak but when she did her voice was shaking.<sup>6</sup>

2. **the statue of Nelson** : see dossier on page 50.

3. **float** : move slowly in the air.

4. **dripping** : falling in small drops.

5. **froze** : became immobile, completely still.

6. **shaking** : if your voice is shaking you cannot control it and it sounds strange because you’re nervous.

“... Err ... Sorry ... We thought you were our friend ... but...Sorry we didn't see you. It was foggy and ...” She was too scared<sup>7</sup> to continue. Then, to their surprise, the vampire spoke in a cold voice.

“What are you doing here? It's not a good night for you to be out in London. Not tonight! Go home! Do you understand?”

Laura and Eve didn't have time to answer because the vampire ran away into the foggy night.

“Who was that!?”

“Or, what was that?”

“He had blood on his face, didn't you see?”

“It was part of his costume ... I hope! Vampires drink blood, remember!”

“In any case, he had a good idea. I think we should go home. We're not going to see a thief with all this fog.”

“Right. And the boys will be back soon ... Look! Here they come now!”

Max and Mark arrived, smiling. “So, did you two lady detectives find anything?” asked Mark.

Max interrupted his friend when he saw that Laura and Eve were shaking.

“Hey, are you two alright? You look as if you saw a ghost!”

“We did, nearly. We saw a vampire!” exclaimed his sister.

“A vampire? What are you talking about?”

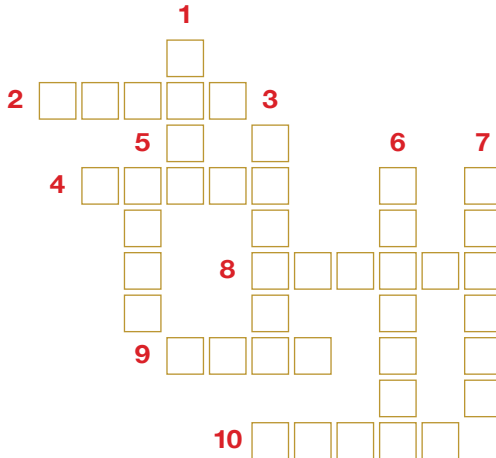
“Come on, let's go home and we can tell you what happened,” said Eve.

7. **scared** : when you're nervous and worried about something.

# UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

## 1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Use words from Chapter Four to complete this crossword.



### Across

- 2 Laura remembered that vampires drink .....
- 4 If you want to dress as a ghost you need a white .....
- 8 Mrs Marel gave them special Halloween ..... to eat when they got home.
- 9 The vampire had strange .....
- 10 The children couldn't see very well because it was dark and .....

### Down

- 1 The vampire told the girls to go .....
- 3 There is a ..... of Nelson in the middle of Trafalgar Square.
- 5 They decided to separate and then meet again in half an .....
- 6 When Eve spoke to the vampire her voice was .....
- 7 Laura and Eve saw a light on inside the .....