The butcher gave me a strange look when I asked for some fresh chicken blood, but he didn't ask any questions. I sprinkle the blood around, hoping a vampire will smell it.

It's been less than thirty seconds when there's a thud behind me. I spin around to find a hooded figure looming over me.

"Who are you?" I demand. I need to make sure it's a vampire and not someone trying to save me from getting captured.

He removes his hood, revealing the most dazzling face I've ever seen. His pale skin glows softly, which is the only reason why I can see him in the darkness. His amber eyes blaze like twin bonfires.

It's a vampire alright. I stagger backwards in fear.

As well as my constant dreams about Zara, I also keep dreaming about fighting vampires and defeating them. But this is real life, not a dream. I can practically feel his power. I would be no match for him.

He steps forward. "Come with me. I won't hurt you."

I'm terrified, but I remind myself that I have to go with him. For Zara. "Y-you're really not going to hurt me?" My voice is shaky with fear.

He nods, making his golden hair flutter. I think he's lying. Still, when he holds out his hand, I place my hand in his.

His hand is icy cold. It makes a strange numbness freeze my mind. I think he's using magic on me.

"Don't pass out," I yell at myself as I feel myself about to faint.

There's a soft *whoosh* then a portal opens beside us. It's circular with a glowing blue rim. Through the portal I see acres of wasteland. A gloomy castle crouches in the distance. Its jagged towers point toward a cloudy grey sky.

"The vampire land," I whisper. Then my mind switches off, and the world goes black.

Quiz

Literal comprehension

Page 8 – Why does Avery begin her search in the forest?

Inferential comprehension

Page 9 – Avery had an argument with her sister on the day she disappeared. How do you think this argument makes Avery feel?

Reflection

What would you have done in Avery's situation? Would you have taken the hand of the hooded figure in the forest?