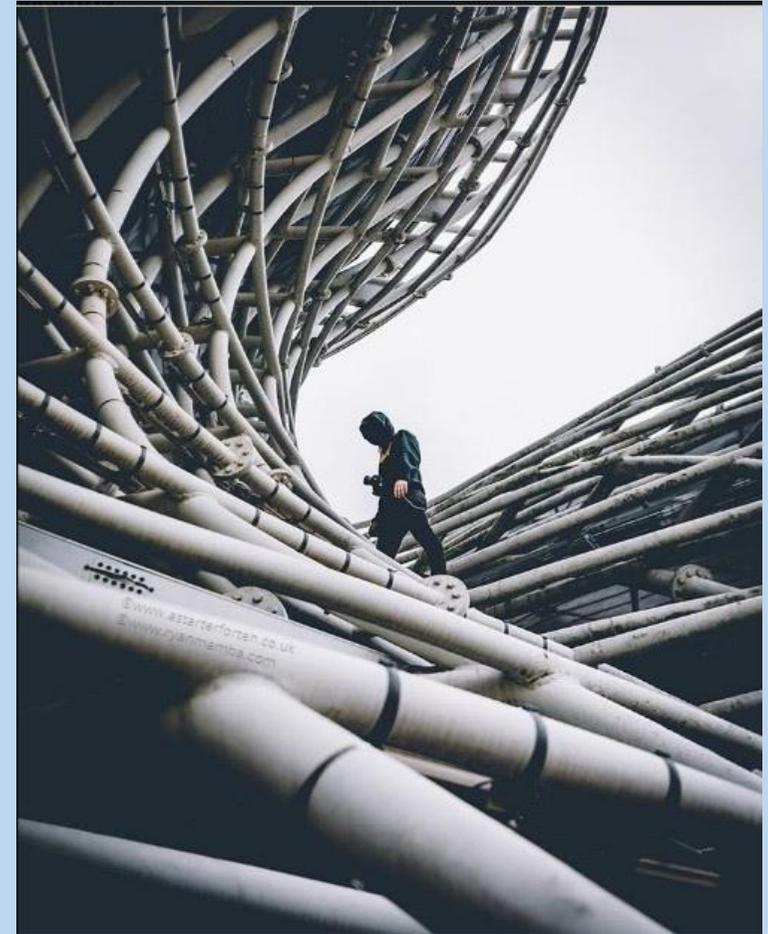


Lungs burning, they paused momentarily. Their bodies couldn't run any further. They gasped for every ounce of breath they could inhale. Surely they must be safe by now. Without warning, the air above them darkened and buzzed, a black dot appeared before growing insanely fast... moulding itself into a human shape...Mamba!

They squashed themselves against the walls of the building, trying to become invisible, it was pointless. No one crossed Mamba, now they knew why. A grinding, metallic sound filled the air. The actual building began to twist, what chance did they have? The time for running was over.



1. Why were their 'lungs burning' at the start of the story?
2. What do you think Mamba is? Give reasons for your idea.
3. Who do you think 'they' is?
4. What do you think 'they' have done?
5. Describe your feelings if you were 'they'?
6. Think of a time when you wanted to be invisible. What happened?
7. A mamba is a fast moving, venomous snake. Do you think this is a good name for the main character? Explain why.

Be a detective.



What are the most venomous snakes in the world? Where do they live? Can you find this on a map?
What is the longest snake in the world? How many times longer than you is it?
Find out a fact about snakes that you don't think anyone else will know.
What are the strongest metals in the world?
Which metals are liquid at room temperature?
Find out about an unusual building. Where is it? Why did you choose it?

A Starter for 10