Chapter 1: Soldiers

PURPOSE Establish Kate's fear and introduce the power of the word criminal before pupils know whether the accusation is justified.

ANSWERS **1 B | 2 C | 3 B | 4 D**

What to notice

- The repeated whisper sounds, full moon, masks and weapons create threat before any explanation is given.
- Kate's father protects her by sending her away, even though she experiences this as abandonment and danger.
- The soldiers claim authority, but the chapter gives no evidence that Kate's parents have done wrong.

Supporting access

- Locate the details two in the morning, four men, forest and criminal.
- Let pupils sequence: Kate hears - wakes parents - is sent out - hears the accusation - runs.

Extending thinking

- Why does Kate's father send her alone? Accept protection, urgency and lack of alternatives.
- Do we know whether the parents are criminals? Press for the answer: not yet.

Explore: discussion guidance

- Ask whether official language is evidence.
- Compare "criminal" as a legal label with "bad person" as a moral judgement.

Quick response

Three words are enough. Ask pupils to explain why one word best captures Kate's experience.

TEACHER NOTE Avoid confirming that the soldiers are lying at this stage. Preserve Kate's uncertainty.