



NOVEL
THE INVISIBLE MAN
BY H.G. WELLS

About the Author

Herbert George Wells (21 September 1866-13 August 1946)- known as H.G. Wells- was Born in England in 1866, H.G. Wells's parents were shopkeepers in Kent, England. His first novel, The Time Machine was an instant success and Wells produced a series of science fiction novels which pioneered our ideas of the future. His later work focused on satire and social criticism. Wells laid out his socialist views of human history in his Outline of History. He died in 1946.

Setting

England in the 1890's. Iping and the surrounding area Much of the action initially occurs around or in a couple of pubs and an inn, thus taking advantage of the natural opportunity for people to spread rumors, speculate on mysterious issues, and expand on each other's stories.

About The Novel

The invisible Man is a science fiction novella by H.G. Wells published in 1897. Originally serialized in Pearsons Weekly in 1897, It was published as a novel the same year. The invisible Man of the title is Griffin, a scientist who has devoted him self to research in to optics and invents a way to change a bodys refractive index to that of air so that it absorbs and reflects no light and thus becomes invisibles. He successfully carries out this procedure on himself, but fails in his attempt to reverse the procedure.

While its predecessors, The Time Machine and The Island of Doctor Moreau, were written using first person narrators, wells adopt a third person plot summary objective point of view in The Invisible man.

Plot Summary

A mysterious stranger, Griffin, arrives at the local inn of the English village of Iping, West Sussex, thick coat and gloves, his face hidden entirely by bandages except for a fake pink nose and a wide- brimmed hat. He is excessively reclusive, irascible and unfriendly. He demands to be left alone and spend most of his time in his rooms working with a set of chemicals and laboratory apparatus, only venturing out at night. While staying at the inn, hundreds of strange glass bottles arrive that Griffin calls his luggage. Many local townspeople believe this to be very strange.

He become the talk of the village (one of the novels most charming aspects is its portrayal of small town life in Southern England, which the author knew from first hand experience).

Meanwhile, a mysterious burglary occurs in the village. Griffin has run out of money and is trying to find a way to pay for his lodging. When his landlady demands he pay his bill and accuses him burglary, he reveals part of his invisibility to her in a fit of pique. An attempt to apprehend the stranger is frustrated when he undresses to take advantage of his invisibility; fights off his would be captors and flees to the downs.



There Griffin coerces a tramp, Thomas Marvel, into becoming his assistant. With Marvel, he returns to the village to recover three notebooks that contain records of his experiments. When Marvel attempts to betray the Invisible Man and run away with his most prized possessions, Griffin chases him to the seaside town of Port Burdock, threatening to kill him. Marvel escapes to a local inn and is saved by the people at the inn, but Griffin escapes. Marvel later goes to the police and tells them of this invisible Man, then requests to be locked up in a high security jail.

Griffins' furious attempt to avenge his betrayal leads to his being shot. He takes shelter in a nearby house that turns out to belong to Dr Kemp a former acquaintance from medical school. To Kemp, he reveals his true identity; the Invisible Man is Griffin, a former medical student who left medicine to devote himself to optics. Griffin recounts how he invented procedure capable of rendering bodies invisible and on impulse, performed the procedure on himself.

Griffin tells Kemp of the story of how he became invisible. He explains how he tried the invisibility on a cat, then himself. Griffin burns down the boarding house he is staying in along with all his equipment he used to turn invisible to cover his tracks, but soon realizes he is ill-equipped to survive in the open. He attempts to steal food and clothes to survive in the open. He attempts to steal food and clothes from a large department store and eventually steals some clothing from a theatrical supply shop and heads to Iping to attempt to reverse the invisibility. But now he imagines that he can make Kemp his secret confederate, describing his plan to begin a "Reign of Terror" by using his invisibility to terrorise the nation.

Kemp has already denounced Griffin to the local authorities and is watching for help to arrive as he listens to this wild proposal. When the authorities arrive at Kemp's house, Griffin fights his way out and the next day leaves a note announcing that Kemp himself will be the first man to be killed in the "Reign of Terror". Kemp, a cool-headed character, tries to organize a plan to use himself as bait to trap The Invisible Man, but a note he sends is stolen from his servant by Griffin.

Griffin shoots and injures a local policeman who comes to Kemp's aid, then breaks into Kemp's house. Kemp bolts for the town, where the local citizenry comes to his aid. Griffin is seized, assaulted and killed by a mob. The Invisible Man naked, battered body gradually becomes visible as he dies. A local policeman shouts to cover his face with a sheet, then the book concludes.

In the epilogue, it is revealed that Marvel has secretly kept Griffin notes. He hopes of deciphering their mystery some day and gain godly powers.

Main Characters

1. Griffin

The Invisible Man. He is an albino college student who had changed his area of study from medicine to physics and had become interested in refractive indexes of tissue. During his studies he stumbled across formulas that would render tissue invisible. Eventually he tries the formula on himself, thinking of all the things he could do if he were invisible. Unfortunately, the conveniences are far outweighed by the disadvantages; Griffin turns to crime as a means of survival.

2. Mr. Marvel



The first character whom Griffin tries to use as an accomplice. Mr. Marvel is short, fat, and a loner. He is the area tramp. Griffin perhaps also thinks that he is a little stupid and will thus not be able to resist and will not be believed if he tries to tell anyone about his predicament.

3. Dr. Kemp

A former associate of Griffin's in his college days. Griffin had been a student and knew Kemp to be interested in bizarre, and idiosyncratic aspects of science. It is to Kemp's house that Griffin goes in his final attempt to find an accomplice and live a more normal life. Kemp, however, has no particular sense of loyalty to a former student and is not prepared to participate in Griffin's grand schemes. He is also more deceitful than Griffin knows and betrays the invisible man even while pretending to accept his confidences.

Minor Characters

1. The Halls

Proprietors of the Coach & Horses. Mrs. Hall is the one who is primarily in charge. She is happy enough to leave Griffin alone so long as her money is coming in on time. Her husband is more suspicious but does not interfere until Griffin's behavior starts to become obvious.

2. Teddy Henfrey

A clock repairman who happens to visit the inn for a cup of tea. Mrs. Hall takes advantage of him to try to find out about her strange guest. Because the stranger will not talk, Teddy convinces himself that the man is someone of a "suspicious" nature. Teddy begins the rumors about the man being wanted by the police and merely wrapping himself up to conceal his identity.

3. Fearenside

A cartman who delivers luggage from the station whenever he is needed. He notices darkness through a torn pant leg where there should be pink flesh and starts the stories of Griffin being either a black man or a piebald.

4. Cuss

A general practitioner who attempts to get an interview with Griffin. He is the first to realize he actually see emptiness where there should be flesh and bone. He also tells an outrageous story to his companion in town after Griffin terrifies him by pinching his nose with an invisible hand.

5. Mr. And Mrs. Bunting

Bunting is the vicar. Cuss takes his story to Bunting. The next evening Bunting and his wife hear noise in their house after they have gone to bed. They are able to hear someone sneeze, and their money disappears right before their eyes.

Other people in the town who appear briefly in the story but have no particular characterization:

1. Huxter; Wadgers

The blacksmith

2. Jaffers

The village constable

**3. The mariner; Colonel Adye**

Chief of Burdock Police

Question Based on the Plot/Theme/Event**Note:-** Marks distribution

Content 3

Expression 3

Q-1 The author has been able to build up suspense about the protagonist in the opening chapter.

Ans-1 "The Invisible Man" is a science fiction novel and tells the story of a young scientist who experiments with invisibility and succeeds to an extent. However, this causes lot of problems for him and finally he loses his life in terrible circumstances.

Right from the time when a reader picks up the book, he enters in to the world of mystery and suspense. The book opens by relating how a mysterious strangers is strangely attired - completely covered from head to toe .Even his face is hidden .He is allowed to stay at the inn as a guest .When the landlady tries to help him by taking his outer clothes, she is brusquely shooed away. The stranger does not give his name. He is rude and does not want to talk to anyone. The only thing he wants is to be left alone in the parlour that he has booked for his exclusive use and not be disturbed .When Mrs.Hall gives him a meal and tries to take his hat, she gets to see by chance that the face of the guest is completely covered in bandages. No one knows who he is and from where he has come, or what his business is in lping

Q-2 Cuss's interview with the stranger ended on a dramatic note .Describe in detail what happened at the meeting.

Q-3 Describe the scene of burglary at the vicarage in detail. Who was the intruder and why did he steal the money?

Q-4 Describe the happenings at the inn (in Griffin's room) on whit Monday.

Q-5 Give an account of the scene when the stranger reveals himself before the crowd. Why do the people in the inn flee in horror?

Q-6 Narrate the episode of the first meeting of marvel with the invisible man.

Q-7 Mr.Cuss and Mr. Banting tried to play investigators, but Griffin humiliated them and still managed to escape with his three precious book .Elaborate.

Q-8 How did the people at the 'Jolly Cricketer' react when Mr. Marvel came running to them asking for refuge? What happened there later?

Q-9 What were Griffin's plans before meeting Dr. Kemp? How did they both met?

Q-10 Do you think that Griffin himself was responsible for his tragic end or the society forced him to turn against his own kind?

Q-11 What were the difficulties faced by Griffin to achieve his dream of invisibility? Were the ways adopted by him morally correct?

Q-12 Illustrate - is the ending of the novel "The invisible Man " happy and just? What is your reaction when Griffin gets to keep all the stolen money? Are you glad that the invisibility formula is hidden from Kemp, who could use it?

**Question based on character sketch**

Note:- Marks distribution

Content 3

Expression 3

- Q-1 What impression do you form about "The Invisible Man"? is he able to gain the reader's sympathy?
- Ans-1 The invisible man was given many names in the novel. At first, he was the stranger who arrived at Iping. Then, he was the voice that startled everybody. However, his real name was Griffin. Though he was the protagonist of the story, all his deeds were more like that of an antagonist. He was an eccentric scientist. Though he was a gifted scientist, he used his mind in a sinister way. He devised an experiment to become invisible and then started looting and murdering whoever came in his way. He was very irritable and impatient. He lost his temper over petty things and started hurting others. He had lost all sense of conscience and didn't feel sorry even after his burglary led to his father's death. Although he was lonely and seemed to have been misunderstood from time to time, he failed to gain sympathy due to his murderous rage and evil ways.
- Q-2 Mrs. Hall was a strong woman. However, we see some flaws in her character. In the light of this statement, attempt her character sketch.
- Q-3 'Curiosity killed that cat' How far is this statement correct in the case of Mr. Cuss?
- Q-4 Mr. Bunting was one of the educated members of the Iping village. What impression is he able to leave on the reader?
- Q-5 Mr. Marvel was supposed to be an ally of Griffin. However, he was an opportunist and was very much responsible for his ill-fate. In the light of this statement, attempt his character sketch.
- Q-6 What impression do you form about the owner of the costume shop (the hunchback), the shop that Griffin looted in Drury Lane?
- Q-7 Dr. Kemp was a confidant of Griffin, but upon realising that he was insane, he thought of the greater good and tried to turn him over. In the light of this statement, attempt his character sketch.
- Q-8 Why did Kemp turn out differently than Griffin? After all, they are both scientists. Is Kemp less isolated than Griffin? Is it simply because Kemp has more money?
- Q-9 Mr. Heelas ditched Dr. Kemp in his time of need. In the light of this statement, comment on his character.
- Q-10 What impressions do you form about Colonel Adye after reading the novel "The Invisible Man"?