

SIMPLIFIED READERS

B1⁺
LEVEL 5

The Invisible Man

HERBERT GEORGE WELLS



WORKSHEETS

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ABOUT THE NOVEL

The Invisible Man is a science fiction novel by English novelist, sociologist and historian H. G. Wells. It was serialised in a literary magazine in 1897 and published as a novel in the same year. The book is about Griffin, a scientist who discovers the way to become invisible and begins to use his invisibility for evil purposes. With his random and irresponsible acts of violence, Griffin has become an iconic character in horror fiction. The novel is considered one of the influential works of science fiction and has helped establish Wells as the father of science fiction.

The novel was written at the end of the 19th century, at a time when important scientific discoveries and inventions were changing the way people saw the world. The book explores the dangers of unchecked scientific developments. Another theme is isolation and loneliness, reflected in Griffin's struggles.

The Invisible Man has been adapted for film, television, theatre and audio drama. It was first adapted into comic book form in the 1950s. There are also several popular songs referring to the well-known character, including the song "The Invisible Man" released by the British rock band Queen.

SUMMARY

On a cold winter's morning, a stranger arrives at the local inn in the village of Iping. He is covered from head to foot, with big glasses and a wide-brimmed hat. The landlady of the inn, Mrs Hall, shows him in and is shocked to find out that his head is covered in bandages. The man is very rude and unfriendly and demands to be left alone. He spends the next few months at the inn, doing scientific work in the inn's guest parlour. He stays in and works on his experiments all day and only goes out when it is dark, always fully covered in clothes. Soon people grow suspicious. When the vicar's house is robbed one night, they are certain that the stranger is responsible. After Mrs Hall confronts him in front of some others, the stranger loses his temper. He removes his glasses and bandages, revealing that he has no head. Everyone panics, and during the chaos, many are hurt. The village policeman Jaffers arrives to arrest the stranger, but he removes his clothes and becomes invisible. He attacks Jaffers and runs away.

The Invisible Man meets a tramp called Marvel and forces him to become his assistant. They go back to the inn to get the three journals in which the Invisible Man has kept all his notes. Marvel goes into the inn and opens the door to the parlour, where Bunting and Cuss are looking through the stranger's belongings. The Invisible Man comes in and threatens the two men. He gets them to undress and takes their clothes and the three journals, later handing them to Mr Marvel. After causing more chaos in the village, the Invisible Man and Marvel get away. Marvel then speaks to an old sailor in front of an inn. The sailor tells him about the stories about the Invisible Man that he has read in the paper.

Marvel runs away and escapes to an inn in the town of Burdock. The Invisible Man comes after him. The men at the inn try to protect Marvel, but the Invisible Man finds a way to get in. After a brief fight, one of the men shoots the Invisible Man and he runs away injured. Outside the town is the house of Dr Kemp, who hears the gunshots. Later that night, the Invisible Man breaks into Kemp's house and reveals his identity. He tells him that his name is Griffin and they used to know each other. He tells Kemp the story of how he discovered the formula to become invisible, how he tried it on a white cat and then on himself, how he set his house on fire, how he broke into a costume shop, hurting the owner, and how he went to Iping. He says that if they work together, they can do many wonderful things. Kemp does not reply but secretly writes to the police.

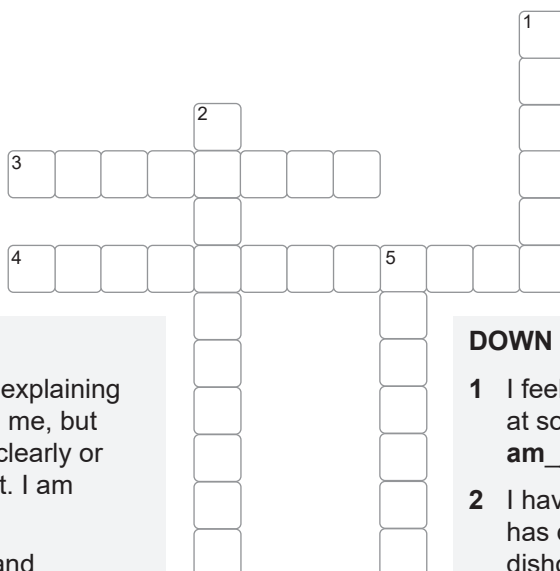
The next morning, Kemp tries to stall Griffin as he waits for the police. Griffin notices that the police have arrived and quickly takes off his clothes, attacks Kemp and the police chief Colonel Adye and runs away. Adye and Kemp make a plan to organise the people of the town against the Invisible Man. The town is in a state of alarm, and everyone is on the lookout for the Invisible Man. Griffin is so angry that he kills an innocent man. He then sends a letter to Kemp announcing the beginning of the Age of the Invisible Man, in which he will spread terror among people and vowing to kill Kemp. Kemp writes a letter to Adye and sends his maid to the police station, but she is attacked on the way. Adye comes to Kemp's house, and after a brief talk, he leaves to get help, taking Kemp's gun with him. The Invisible Man attacks Adye in front of the house and shoots him. He then breaks into Kemp's house. The maid returns with two policemen. Kemp and the others go to the dining room, and the Invisible Man comes in with the gun and an axe. The policemen fight back with pokers and injure him. He runs away. Kemp leaves the house and runs into town, followed by the Invisible Man. The Invisible Man finally catches up and attacks Kemp, but the crowd in the street beat him to death. Kemp asks the people to keep back and checks the body. The man slowly becomes visible.

Discuss before you begin reading:

- 1 If you had a superpower, what would it be? How would you use your power?
- 2 In your opinion, what should be the main function of scientific research? How would you describe a scientist who uses science for the good of humanity? How would you describe a scientist who uses science for their own benefit?

A Word Search

Crossword Puzzle. Find six adjectives that describe the people below. The first two letters are given.



ACROSS

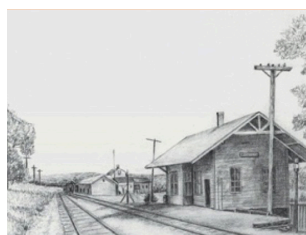
- 3 Someone is explaining a problem to me, but I can't think clearly or understand it. I am **co**_____.
- 4 I feel upset and depressed because I was expecting something to happen but it didn't. I am **di**_____.

DOWN

- 1 I feel or show great surprise or wonder at something that I just heard. I am **am**_____.
- 2 I have a strong feeling that someone has done something wrong or is dishonest, but I can't really prove it. I am **su**_____.
- 5 I feel uneasy and anxious about a test I'm going to take. I am **ne**_____.

B Use the words/phrases to write the beginning of a story titled "The Invisible Man".

cold winter day railway station inn coat, hat, gloves big dark glasses
stranger landlady accident shocked curious



A Who is who: After reading **Chapters 1 and 2**, match the names in column I with their descriptions in columns II and III. The first one is given as an example.

| I | II | III |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Mrs Hall <u>9, K</u> | 1 the village policeman | A The Invisible Man breaks into his home. |
| Mr Henfrey ____ | 2 the landlady's husband | B opens the door to the guest parlour to let the Invisible Man in. |
| Millie ____ | 3 the blacksmith | C tries to arrest the Invisible Man but fails. |
| Mr Hall ____ | 4 the stranger who has to help the Invisible Man | D hears someone break into the house and wakes her husband up. |
| Mr Huxter ____ | 5 the local doctor | E witnesses the fight between the policemen and the Invisible Man. |
| Mr Wadgers ____ | 6 the shopkeeper | F is a clever man who lives across the street from the inn. |
| Dr Cuss ____ | 7 the vicar's wife | G witnesses Mr Marvel going into the inn and stealing books and clothes. |
| Mr Bunting ____ | 8 the vicar | H mends the clock in the guest parlour and tries to talk to the strange guest. |
| Mrs Bunting ____ | 9 the landlady of the Coach and Horses | I goes into the stranger's room after he is attacked by a dog but is kicked out. |
| Mr Jaffers ____ | 10 the clock mender | J looks around the guest parlour and discovers the three journals with Mr Bunting. |
| Mr Marvel ____ | 11 the maid at the Coach and Horses | K is the first person to see the stranger's bandaged head. |

B Read Chapters 3 and 4 and number the events in the order that they happen. The first and last ones are given.

Chapter 3

- ____ a Kemp reads about the Invisible Man in the papers.
- 9 b The Invisible Man tells the story of how he became invisible.
- ____ c Mr Marvel rushes into the "Jolly Cricketers" and begs for help.
- ____ d The Invisible Man goes to Kemp's house.
- ____ e The Invisible Man enters the inn.
- ____ f The Invisible Man tells Kemp who he really is.
- 1 g Kemp sees Mr Marvel running towards the town.
- ____ h Kemp writes a letter to the police.
- ____ i The American shoots the Invisible Man.

Chapter 4

- ____ a The town is organised against the Invisible Man.
- 10 b The people of the town kill the Invisible Man.
- ____ c Kemp receives a letter from the Invisible Man.
- ____ d The police arrive at the house, and the Invisible Man escapes.
- 1 e The Invisible Man tells Kemp about his plans.
- ____ f The Invisible Man kills an innocent man.
- ____ g The Invisible Man attacks Adye as he leaves Kemp's house.
- ____ h The policemen fight the Invisible Man and injure him.
- ____ i The Invisible Man follows Kemp into town.
- ____ j Kemp and Adye make plans to catch the Invisible Man.

A Match the personality characteristics with the names. Put a tick (✓) in the relevant box.

| | calm and sensible | cowardly and weak | rude and unfriendly | brave and selfless | violent and has a temper | enthusiastic about his work | does not believe in unscientific things |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| The Invisible Man | | | | | | | |
| Mr Marvel | | | | | | | |
| Dr Kemp | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Adye | | | | | | | |

B Word Search. Find ten words from the book. Then use the words to complete the summary of H. G. Wells's story *The New Accelerator*. The first two letters of each word are given.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | S | S | E | C | I | H | V | Y | C | R | E |
| N | S | I | V | V | Y | N | R | N | E | U | T |
| T | E | H | F | R | I | E | F | A | U | Y | O |
| E | N | N | P | D | V | R | L | O | A | H | V |
| N | T | N | R | O | J | I | R | A | R | I | E |
| D | I | Q | C | A | S | Y | T | A | Y | M | D |
| T | W | S | A | E | W | D | Y | W | P | O | G |
| A | I | E | N | T | H | U | S | I | A | S | M |
| D | G | F | I | H | Z | R | F | O | V | X | T |
| E | L | B | I | S | I | V | Z | O | Z | U | E |
| G | W | T | N | U | E | Z | A | J | C | W | P |
| Y | A | A | T | Q | C | V | Z | O | J | E | P |

Professor Gibberne is a chemist and physiologist who tells his friend about the work he is doing. He is about to make an important **1 di** _____. He **2 in** _____s to create a new drug that increases the speed of movement and thinking. He **3 de** _____s all of his time to his work. Every time they meet, he tells his friend about his progress. Some days he feels happy and full of **4 en** _____ about his work; some days he is depressed. His friend is also excited. He believes that the drug could be used to help people but could also be very harmful in many ways. Finally, one day, Gibberne **5 in** _____s his friend that his work is done and invites him to his home to try the drug. He

pours a small amount in a glass, and he **6 wa** _____s his friend not to move and to keep the glass in his hand. They drink the portion. Later, his friend wakes up and sees Gibberne letting go of his glass, but it stays in mid-air. He **7 re** _____s that his movement and thinking are so fast that everything else seems too slow to him. The two men go out for a walk around town. Everything is frozen in time. They try to run, but they are so fast that the friction burns their clothes, so they stop. Suddenly everything goes back to normal, and they become **8 vi** _____ to the other people. There is only one **9 wi** _____ who sees them **10 ar** _____—an old man in a wheelchair.

Later, Gibberne and his friend talk about the positive and negative sides of the drug. Finally, they decide to manufacture and sell the drug.

C Write the different forms of the words below.

| VERB | NOUN |
|-------------------|------|
| 1 betray | |
| 2 examine | |
| 3 expect | |
| 4 hesitate | |
| 5 inform | |
| 6 protect | |

| VERB | NOUN |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 7 refuse | |
| 8 | appearance |
| 9 | discovery |
| 10 | imagination |
| 11 | terror |

| VERB | ADJECTIVE |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 12 cruelty | |
| 13 enthusiasm | |
| 14 legend | |
| 15 | confident |
| 16 | disappointed |
| 17 | suspicious |
| 18 | visible |

A Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F). (8x2=16 pts)

- ___1 When Mrs Hall noticed that the stranger did not have a mouth, she told her husband about it.
- ___2 Mrs Hall had nightmares because the stranger refused to pay his bill.
- ___3 The stranger's boxes contained money and stolen goods.
- ___4 When the stranger broke things in the guest lounge, he offered to pay for the damage.
- ___5 The stranger often ran into the villagers during his long walks in Iping.
- ___6 The people of Iping did not like the stranger.
- ___7 When the stranger showed the people at the inn that he was headless, they were not surprised.
- ___8 Mr Jaffers wanted to arrest the stranger because of the burglary.

B Who said the following? Write the names. (8x2=16 pts)

- 1 "We must be sure that breaking the door open is the right thing to do." _____
- 2 "Why isn't my bill paid? That's what I want to know." _____
- 3 "If you try to run away again, I will kill you." _____
- 4 "There are some extraordinary things in books." _____
- 5 "I know the man that started the lie. There is no Invisible Man." _____
- 6 "Don't you remember me, Kemp?" _____
- 7 "You lose your temper easily." _____
- 8 "It is cruel. I don't know. But I'll have broken glass ready." _____

C Match the sentences (1-5) with the reasons (a-e). (5x4=20 pts)

- ___1 Griffin stole money from his father.
 - ___2 Griffin answered when the landlord and his son kept knocking his door.
 - ___3 Griffin set his room on fire.
 - ___4 Griffin had to avoid the snow.
 - ___5 Griffin hurt the owner of the costume shop.
- a He needed to gain time.
 - b He lost his temper.
 - c Someone could find his papers and equipment.
 - d He needed it to continue his research.
 - e People could see him easily.

D Use the words/phrases in the box (a-e) to complete the summary. (5x2=10 pts)

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| a betrayed | b warned | c informed |
| d arrived | e intended | |

At first, Griffin was happy that he found Kemp. He 1 ___ to do great things with him. However, Kemp 2 ___ the police. The police 3 ___, so the Invisible Man had to run away. Colonel Adye and Kemp made plans to stop him. They 4 ___ everyone in town and made sure the Invisible Man could not go anywhere. The Invisible Man felt 5 ___ and promised to kill Kemp.

E Match the two halves of the villagers' theories about the stranger (1-4 with a-d). (4x2=8 pts)

- 1 He is mad, but ...
 - 2 He has had an accident, and ...
 - 3 He is a magician, or ...
 - 4 He is a criminal, and ...
- a he is a spirit.
 - b he is running away from the police.
 - c he is harmless.
 - d he is hiding the marks on his body.

F Mark the correct answers. (10x3=30 pts)

- 1 How did Henfrey the clock mender feel about the way the stranger treated him?
a disappointed b calm c angry
- 2 Why did Mr Hall go into the stranger's room?
a to help him carry the boxes into the room
b to see if he was all right after the dog bit him
c to ask him if he wanted his lunch brought in
- 3 On the night of the burglary, what did Mr and Mrs Bunting see when they entered the study?
a a burning candle and the desk's open drawer
b the burglar holding some money
c the stranger looking at some papers
- 4 Marvel thought the voice that was talking to him was ----.
a the spirit of a dead man
b the sound of the wind
c the product of his imagination
- 5 The Invisible Man needed Marvel's help to ----.
a find clothes and shelter
b protect him from the police
c spread his message to everyone
- 6 Dr Cuss said that the Invisible Man's journals contained ----.
a some kind of code
b writing in a made-up language
c complex pictures and diagrams
- 7 Where did the clothes that Mr Marvel ran away with come from?
a They were the Invisible Man's own clothes.
b They belonged to Bunting and Cuss.
c They were the clothes Marvel had found.
- 8 The first time Kemp saw Marvel he ----.
a asked him about the Invisible Man
b followed him into Burdock town
c thought he was coming to tell him about the Invisible Man
- 9 The night he arrived in Kemp's house, the Invisible Man acted ----.
a cautiously b trustfully c calmly
- 10 When the white cat made too much noise, the Invisible Man ----.
a killed her b let her go c petted her

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