

The Invisible Man by H.G.Wells

Question no. 12 & 13 will be based on plot / incidents and character of the novel (6 marks each)

Questions based on Plot / Incidents

Q. "The Invisible Man" is the story of the downfall of man after he 'cuts himself off from his kind' and becomes inhuman. Comment

Or

"The Invisible Man" deals with the theme of over ambition and man's lust for power and money. Do you agree? Support your answer.

Q. While talking to Dr.Kemp, what was referred to as the 'first stroke of luck' by the Invisible Man? Was 'it' really a stroke of luck?

Q. Why did the stranger lock himself in his room from half past five till midday on Whit Monday? What made him reveal the secret of his invisibility?

Q. How far do you find the title of the chapter 'The Hunter Hunted' appropriate?

Q. Why did Marvel name his inn 'The Invisible Man'?

Q. Describe the robbery episode at dawn in Bunting's house?

Q. What did Mr. & Mrs. Hall experience when they entered the room of the stranger?

Q. Describe the episode of the unveiling of the stranger at Hall's Inn.

Q. How did the invisible man, Mr Griffin, meet his end?

Q. Describe the episode of Mr. Thomas Marvel's first meeting with the invisible man.

Q. Give a brief account of the investigation made by Dr. Cuss and Mr. Bunting in the room of the invisible man at Coach & Horses.

Q. Describe the meeting of the invisible man with Dr. Kemp in Kemp's bedroom.

Q. Which subject fascinated the invisible man and why?

Q. "The secret in out, I gather it was a secret". What did Mr. Kemp mean by this statement and what was the object behind this?

Q. Describe the scene at the Departmental Complex at closing time?

Q. What were the plans of Griffin before meeting Dr. Kemp? How did they change after they both met?

Q. What inhuman things did Dr. Kemp advice Adye to do in order to catch the invisible man in any case?

Questions based on Characters

Q. Do you consider Marvel to be a smart turncoat? Why/ Why not?

Q. Dr. Kemp comes out as a man of grit and determination. Attempt a brief character sketch of Dr Kemp to elucidate this observation.

Q. Griffin was a brilliant scientist but a depraved human. In the light of this statement, draw a pen portrait of Griffin.

Q. Describe the character of Mrs Hall.

Theme Analysis:

Corruption of Morals in the Absence of Social Restriction - The narrator uses the Invisible Man to experiment with the depth to which a person can sink when there are no social restrictions to suppress his behaviour. When Griffin first kills his father, he excuses it away by saying that the man was a "sentimental fool." When he takes the potion himself, he endures such pain that he "understands" why the cat howled so much in the process of becoming invisible. Nevertheless he has no compassion for the cat, for his father or for any of the people he takes advantage of in the course of trying to survive invisibility. On the contrary, he descends from committing atrocities because they are necessary to his survival to committing them simply because he enjoys doing so.

Characters

Major characters:

Griffin
Dr Kemp
Thomas Marvel
Mrs Hall

Minor characters:

Dr Cuss
Bobby Jaffers
Mr Hall
Vicar Bunting
Colonel Adye
Mr. Oliver
Mr. Heelas

Introduction

The Invisible Man is a science fiction, novel by H. G. Wells published in 1897. The Invisible Man of the title is Griffin, a scientist who has devoted himself to research into optics and invents a way to change a body's refractive index to that of air so that it absorbs and reflects no light and thus becomes invisible. He successfully carries out this procedure on himself, but fails in his attempt to reverse the procedure.

Plot (The Invisible Man)

The plot is simple and straightforward. Griffin, having rendered himself invisible with an earlier experiment, enters a town (Iping) and sets up a lab in an inn (Coach & Horses) where he works night and day to come up with a formula that will reverse his invisibility. When he slips up and accidentally reveals himself, he engages in immature and violent actions until he is forced to run and find a new hiding place. He finds Marvel, a local tramp, vulnerable and poor and coerces him to be his accomplice in bringing back his belongings from Iping. As more people become aware of his existence, his situation becomes more perilous. Finally, he stumbles into the home of a former college professor whom he assumes will be interested in his experiments and willing to help him. The doctor, Mr. Kemp, however, reads newspaper accounts of Griffin's insane actions against people in the town and betrays his trust. Griffin is hunted down, caught and killed, whereupon he becomes visible again. The poor, inconspicuous victim (Marvel) of some of Griffin's behaviour is left with the stolen money and the documents that explain Griffin's experiments. The story closes with the suggestion that Marvel himself might try the experiments if only he could figure them out.

Major Episodes of Novel

The Strange Man's Arrival(Chapter 1)- A sinister stranger arrives in the small village of Iping, where he hires a room at the local inn. The innkeepers, Mr and Mrs Hall, are immediately unnerved by their guest's appearance, for his head is completely wrapped up in bandages, his eyes concealed by large dark goggles, and his body wrapped in a thick black coat... (for more details refer page no. 200 of bbc companion, novel)

Invisible Man, talk of town (Ch 2,3,4)- As the locals become suspicious and curious of the strange man, who seems to be conducting some kind of scientific experiment in the inn's parlour. Local people started making different opinions and stories..Mr Teddy Henfrey's first Impression...Mr Cuss Interviews the Stranger (for more details refer page no. 222)

The Burglary at the Vicarage(Ch 5)- As days went by, the stranger began to run short of money. Hence to carry on research and settle the bills, Griffin shed all his clothes and broke into Vicar Bunting's house in the wee hours of Whit Monday..... (for more details refer page no. 229)

The Furniture that went Mad(Ch 6)- Early hours of Whit Monday...Mr &Mrs Hall go down....ready the stocks for festival...Mr Hall goes up again...bolt of front door shot back....knocks at the stranger's door.... the room is empty.... Mrs Hall comes to see... bed clothes jump together ... couple is pushed out... Millie goes to call the blacksmith... stranger appears from the room

The Unveiling of the Stranger (Ch 7)- the door is shut on Mr Hall... the stranger is in his room... rings his bell three times... rumour of burglary spreads... the stranger opens door....calls Mrs Hall... asks for meals... Mrs Hall wants the bill paid..the stranger reveals himself to Mrs Hall...Mr Hall and Mr Bobby Jaffers come... Jaffers faces headless figure... Jaffer faces headless wrist and throat ... the strangers surrenders...Jaffers grips the handless wrist and throat... the stranger surrenders... Jaffers produces hand cuffs....the figure sits down...flungs off his coat (for more details refer page no. 243)

Mr Thomas Marvel (Ch 9)- Mr Thomas Marvel..a local tramp sitting by the roadside...trying on pair of boots hears a voice behind him...tries to look for the voice... Marvel talks with the invisible man

Mr Marvel's visit to Iping(Ch 10)- Marvel finds hard to believe this strange phenomenon. The Invisible Man convinces him about the immense power of invisibility. Out of fear, Marvel agrees to assist him... stop at Coach And Horses... Huxter sets off after Mr Marvel (for more details refer page no. 254)

In the Coach and Horses (Ch 11)- Mr Marvel comes to Coach and Horses... Mrs Cuss and Mr Bunting in the parlour...Cuss finds three big books..he glances through the books....the door opens suddenly...a rosy face with hat appears..the intruder vanishes... Cuss has strange feeling..the stranger is gripping his neck

Mr Marvel Discusses his Resignation (Ch 13)- Mr Marvel going on the road to Bramblehurst... accompanied by the invisible man...both have long conversation... suddenly Mr Marvel becomes silent... again resumes conversation... a light appears through the trees... Mr Marvel passes through the village and vanishes (for more details refer page no. 267)

At Port Stowe (Ch 14)- Mr Marvel, dirty and tired...sitting with the books tied...looks nervous and uncomfortable...a mariner with a newspaper sits beside him...talks to Mr Marvel.... story of the invisible man in the newspaper... suddenly Mr Marvel rises and decides to go...the mariner is angry with Mr Marvel....Mr Marvel recedes obliquely with some violent jerks forward (for more details refer page no. 271)

The Man who was Running (Ch 15)- It is early evening...Dr Kemp sits in his villa... a tall and slender young man...views sunset...notices a little man...running fast... suddenly the invisible man appears..people start shouting.. get into their houses

Jolly Cricketers (Ch 16) – Marvel seems to be desperate to escape from the trap of the Invisible Man. The men at the “Jolly Cricketers” (name of inn) take on challenge posed by the Invisible Man with grit. The failure to catch Marvel upsets the Invisible Man.

Dr Kemp's Visitor (Ch 17) - Dr Kemp hears the gunshot by the American at the Invisible Man when latter was trying to escape. He finds out that this man is Griffin, his fellow medical student from University College. The arrival of the Invisible man at Dr. Kemp's house untangles many threads of the mystery. Dr Kemp patiently listens to Griffin and gains his confidence by providing him food and shelter....(for more details refer page no. 285-286)

The Invisible man Sleeps (Ch 18) – The invisible man is wounded and exhausted...examines the window of the bedroom...bids good night... Kemp begins walking in the room...reads news about the events in Iping...orders servants to prepare breakfast for two persons...the invisible man wakes up.

Certain First Principles (Ch 19)- Griffin reveals to Dr Kemp the details of how he discovered invisibility. While carrying out experiments he ran out of money. To overcome financial crunch he stole his father's money. This theft led to his father's death because the money did not belong to him.

At the House in Great Portland Street (Ch 20)- Kemp stares at the headless figure at the window... offers his chair to him ...Griffin resumes again ...takes a room in London...bought the apparatus...a cat sitting outside the window...give some food...administered the drug... an old woman came to his room..cat walks out of the window....landlord comes to serve eviction notice...seeing Griffin's face, the man goes back..sets fire to the room ...(for more details refer page no. 301-302)

In Oxford Street (Ch 21) – Griffin recounts his experiences after having set ablaze his lodgings. A complete reversal of expected happenings awaits him. He struggles to adjust to situations created by his invisible status. ... (for more details refer page no. 308-310)

In the Emporium(Ch 22)- A snowstorm in winter...Griffin manages to enter a large departmental store (Omniums)..manages food and clothing...spends night inside the store..however, he was discovered ... he had to shed his clothes....run away(for more details refer page no. 314)

In the Drury Lane (Ch 23) – The invisible man realises disadvantages of his condition.. has no shelter..enters a customer shop... follows the shop owner upstairs...knocks the man unconscious... collects everything he needs...dresses himself and comes out..snowstorm outside... he realises bitter truth... invisibility has own limitations and problems...he decides to move to some countryside and experiment ways to regain visibility.

The Plan that Failed (Ch 24)- Kemp tries to keep Griffin talking..some people come to the hill to his house...Griffin says he has changed his plans to go a warm place..plans to establish the reign of terror with support of Dr Kemp....needs to get books from Marvel.... suddenly hears some people(Col Adye & two men) sneaking in the house...Griffin takes off his clothes....Kemp tries to capture him... but Griffin escapes(for more details refer page no.325-326)

The Hunting of the Invisible(Ch 25)- Kemp is unable to tell colonel Adye the things just happened...he tells Adye Griffin is going furious...Adye says that Griffin must be caught..he should not be allowed to eat or sleep...gets dogs to smell him...every corner should be searched....(for more details refer page no. 320)

The Wicksteed Murder(Ch 26)- Griffin proceeds to Hintondean where he murders Mr Wicksteed, Lord Burdock's steward. After this he lies low while the efforts to trace him are in full swing.

The Siege of Kemp's House (Ch 27)- Griffin announces, through a letter addressed to Kemp, his resolve to unleash an epoch of terror by killing Kemp. Realising the seriousness of the matter, Kemp sends his maid to Adye with a note about this letter offering to be bait for Griffin. Griffin snatches this note from a girl and as Kemp awaits the police party Griffin tries to enter the house by breaking windowpanes. A scuffle ensues and Adye is shot by Griffin. The policemen that are brought by the maid try their utmost to capture Griffin but he manages to escape once again. (for more details refer page no.343-344)

The Hunting of the Hunter , The Invisible Man (Ch 28) – Kemp reaches his neighbour, Mr Heelas to seek refuge from Griffin who is in hot pursuit behind him. The neighbour turns out to be a weak man and denies any help to Kemp. He then moves on the thorny paths so that invisible Griffin's bare feet injured and the blood trail is helpful in spotting him. Soon some people move out of their houses to help Kemp. Finally, Griffin meets his painful end at the hands of public after a brief struggle. The evil life of the

Invisible Man meets the end it deserved. The voluntary help from the common masses proves that united efforts always succeed. Kemp's exemplary courage and presence of mind finally relieves the society of the evil Griffin. ... (for more details refer page no. 348-349)