

# 5. Footprints Without Feet



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## Page no -26

#### Question 1. How did the invisible man first become visible?

The invisible man, Griffin, first became visible after he sneaked into a large London store to keep warm and fell asleep wearing some clothes taken from the shop. When the store opened, the staff saw him because the clothes made him visible. To escape, Griffin quickly shed the clothes and became invisible again.

### Question 2. Why was Griffin wandering the streets?

Though a brilliant scientist, Griffin was reckless and lawless. His landlord disliked him and tried to evict him, leading Griffin to set the house on fire in revenge. To escape the fire, Griffin removed his clothes, turning invisible, and became homeless, wandering the streets of London.

Page no -28



#### Question 1. Why does Mrs. Hall find the scientist eccentric?

Mrs. Hall finds him odd because of his strange appearance and his cold behavior. When she tried to be friendly, he told her he wanted solitude to work and did not want to be disturbed.

# Question 2. What strange event happens in the study?

One early morning, a clergyman and his wife hear noises in their study, including the sound of coins being taken. But upon entering, the room is empty—making it a very puzzling event.

### Question 3. What other strange things happen at the inn?

At the inn, Mrs. Hall and her husband discover the scientist's door open, but he is nowhere to be seen. Mrs. Hall hears a sniff and then a hat on a bedpost jumps up and hits her. A chair also flies through the air, pushing them out. Mrs. Hall suspects the furniture is haunted.

# Think About It (Page 31)

### Question 1. Griffin was a lawless person. What does this mean?

Griffin didn't care if his actions harmed others in getting what he wanted. He burned down his landlord's house and robbed shops and villages. When he







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encountered the landlady and her husband, he threw a chair at them. He only cared about himself, showing no concern for others' safety.

### Question 2. How would you judge Griffin as a scientist?

Griffin is brilliant for discovering invisibility. But he abuses this power for cruelty. A true scientist uses discoveries for society's good, not personal gain or harm.

### Talk About It (Page 31)

# Question 1. Would you want to become invisible? What benefits and drawbacks would it have?

Being invisible might seem exciting—like a child getting away with pranks or like a hero defeating villains unseen. But invisibility would also be lonely and isolating; you'd have no one to see or trust you. Like Griffin, you might become eccentric and disconnected.

# Question 2. Are there invisible forces around us, like magnetism, or things invisible to the eye? What if we could see them?

Forces like magnetism and electrostatics are invisible, and atoms are too tiny to see. Heat and sound are also invisible. Seeing these could be fascinating, but also overwhelming—for example, seeing all sounds around us would be very distracting.

# Question 3. Why are glass and water transparent? Could humans ever become invisible?

Glass and water let light pass through, making them transparent. We see objects because light reflects off them. If a device could stop light reflection from a human body, invisibility could be possible. Science fiction often imagines such possibilities before technology catches up.

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