

## Ch 5 - Footprints Without Feet

- H. G. Wells

### Summary

The story is about a scientist named Griffin. He discovers the rare chemicals which can make a man invisible but at the same time, the man can be touched and felt physically. After swallowing the potion, the scientist turns to various mischiefs. He steals clothes and then steals a lot of cash. To avoid getting noticed, the scientist moves from a London to a small village. He stays at a local inn in the village. When he is out of money, he steals from a clergyman's house. The local people suspect him and the police is called. He escapes the police because of his ability to become invisible.

### Extract Based Questions

1. Brilliant Scientist though he was, the Griffin was rather a lawless person. His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge Griffin set fire to the house. To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes. Thus, it was that he became homeless wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible - until he happened to step in some mud, and left footprints as he walked!

(a) How can you say that Griffin was a brilliant scientist?

A Griffin was a brilliant scientist as he carried on experiments for years to prove that human body could become invisible.

(b) How did he reach to that position?

A To reach to the position of invisibility, he swallowed certain drugs.

(c) Which word in the above extract means the same as 'a being who roams around aimlessly'?

A 'Wanderer'

(d) Who disliked Griffin?

A Griffin was disliked by his landlord.

2. Eager to get away from crowded London he took a train to the village of Iping, where he booked two rooms at a local inn. The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging, Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly.

(a) After escaping from London, where did Griffin go?

A After escaping from crowded London, he went to village of Iping.

(b) What did he experience there?

A His uncommon appearance attracted everybody's attention.

(c) Which phrase in the above extract means the same as 'everybody started talking about him'?

A 'set all tongues wagging'.

(d) How did the landlord's wife behave?

A The landlord's wife made every effort to be friendly?

3. Mrs. Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits, and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture.

(a) Why did Mrs. Hall think that room was haunted by spirits?

A Inside the empty room, Mrs. Hall heard a sniff close to her ear. Then the host in the room leapt up and dashed itself into her face.

(b) Who had caused this to happen?

A Griffin, the scientist had caused this to happen.

(c) Which word in the exact extract means the same as 'fits of crying'?

A 'hysterias'

(d) Who is the author of the story?

A H. G. Wells

### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What did Griffin, the scientist, do to escape after setting the fire to the house of his landlord?

A Griffin, the scientist removed his clothes, became invisible and got away without being seen. He became homeless wanderer without clothes, without money and quite invisible.



2. What did Griffin decide to try the second time? What did he hope to find?

A Griffin decided to try the stock of theatrical company. He hoped to find clothes that would hide the empty space above his shoulders.

3. Give a character sketch of Griffin the invisible scientist?

A The invisible scientist was a brilliant scientist who misused his scientific discovery and became a lawless person. He started enjoying harming people. When his landlord tried to catch him, in revenge, Griffin set fire to the house.

4. How did Griffin enjoy himself inside a big London store?

A Griffin slipped into a big London store to save himself from the ~~unbearable~~ unbearable cold. He drank and wore warm clothes. He found cold meat, coffee and sweets there. At last he slept on a pile of quilts.

5. What extraordinary things happened at the inn?

A The landlords and his wife found the scientist's door open. The scientist was missing. Suddenly, Mrs. Hall heard a snuffbox saw the hat on the bedpost leapt up. The chair in the room started moving automatically. These things made people furious.

6. Why did Mrs. Hall find the scientist eccentric?

A Mrs. Hall found the scientist eccentric because he arrived at the inn in ~~win~~ winter, which was an usual time for any visitor to arrive there. His appearance was stranger. He did not like to speak to Mrs. Hall and wanted to be left alone and ~~understanding~~ undisturbed.

7. What did the Halls see in the scientist's room?

A One day the Halls got up early and were ~~sur~~ surprised to see that, the door of the scientist's room, was open. Normally, it remained shut and locked. The Halls felt like making the use of the opportunity as they could not see anyone inside. They were inside to investigate. They saw that the bed clothes were cold, his clothes and bandages were lying loose in room. Suddenly, they heard a sniffing sound although there were no one in the room. ~~The Halls~~ <sup>The ~~As~~ Halls</sup> got terrified and decided to leave the scientist's room.

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. What did Griffin finally do when people held him responsible for all the strange occurrences?

A Griffin became furious when he saw people holding him responsible for all the strange occurrences. He started taking off his bandages, whiskers, ~~spectacles~~ spectacles and even false nose. The people around him got horrified as they were looking at a headless man. The space above



his shoulders became empty. Then, he started to remove his clothes and became absolutely invisible. The situation became funny when the constable was struggling with someone whom no one could see at all. The man kept on throwing one garment after another and finally no one could see him. He was invisible.

2. Describe Jaffer's fight with Griffin at the village of Iping.

A Griffin entered the clergymen's house with an intention to steal money. He opened the desk and stole the money. When people came to know about the burglary, they suspected the stranger. They sent the village constable. The scientist became furious and threw off his bandages, whiskers, spectacles and false nose. Mr Jaffers was surprised that he had to arrest a headless man. He tried to get hold of the man who was becoming more and more ~~visible~~ invisible. The constable was struggling with someone ~~who~~ who could not be seen at all. Some people tried to assist him but received blows. The constable was knocked unconscious and Griffin escaped.

3. Name three extraordinary things that took place in the room where Griffin was staying.

A Griffin was a scientist. He carried out an experiment which made the human body invisible. He tried it on himself and became invisible. Then he started doing things which were extraordinary. The first extraordinary thing that took place was that there was no one in the room yet Mrs. Halls heard a sniff close to her ear. The hat was kept on the hallpost, went up and

dashed into her face. After that, suddenly the chair rose up in the air and pushed both Mrs. Halls and her husband out of the room.

4. Why were the landlord and his wife surprised to see the scientist's door wide open? What did they decide?

A One day the Landlord and his wife found the scientist's door wide open. The scientist's door usually remained shut and locked. They became furious if anyone entered his room. The couple got an opportunity to enquire the matter. So, they decided to investigate. They went inside and found that the bed clothes were cold and the clothes and the bandages that he always wore were lying in the room. Suddenly, Mrs. Halls heard a sniff close to her ear. After a moment, the hat in the room. Suddenly, Mrs. Hall heard a sniff close to her ear. After a moment, the hat in the room leapt up and dashed itself into her face. They thought the room was haunted by spirits so they decided to leave it.

5. Griffin is a talented scientist but he misused his inventions. The lesson we learn from his example is that the misuse of a scientific discovery can play havoc with humanity. Explain.

A A true scientist works for the good of humanity. He wants to make man's life easier, more comfortable

and enjoyable. He doesn't misuse his discoveries for personal gains or selfish ends. But Griffin, though a brilliant scientist, misuses his discovery. By his experiments, he has been able to make his body transparent and invisible. He uses his discovery to puzzle people, enter stores and shops unseen, rob people of their money or things and escapes. He sets fire to the house of his landlord. He steals food, sweets, wine. It shows that the misuse of a scientific discovery can disturb the people of society. Such a scientist will use his invention for self-interest and for taking revenge upon the people around him, he won't honour the law and thus will become a lawless person.