

Footprints without Feet

Character Analysis

1. "Griffin is a brilliant scientist, but a lawless person." **Analyze** this statement. Was Griffin's lawlessness a pre-existing trait, or was it a direct consequence of the power his invisibility gave him?
 2. **To what extent** can Griffin be considered a tragic figure? Is he a victim of his own genius and circumstances, or is he purely a villain responsible for his own downfall?
 3. **Examine** Griffin's psychological state. How do his increasing impatience, paranoia, and violent temper contribute more to his problems than the challenge of being invisible itself?
 4. Griffin's primary struggle is often Man vs. Society. However, **argue** that his most significant conflict is Man vs. Self. Use textual evidence to support your claim.
 5. **Contrast** the reactions of the people in London with those in the village of Iping. What do these different reactions reveal about urban anonymity versus rural community suspicion?
-

Themes and Symbolism

6. **Discuss** "Footprints without Feet" as a cautionary tale about the pursuit of scientific knowledge without a moral compass or consideration for humanity.
 7. The bandages, false nose, and dark glasses are practical necessities for Griffin. What do these items **symbolize** on a deeper level in relation to themes of identity and deception?
 8. **Analyze** the theme of **power and corruption**. How does the absolute power of invisibility corrupt Griffin's character absolutely?
 9. The title is both literal and metaphorical. **Explain** the symbolic meaning of "Footprints without Feet." What invisible impact does Griffin leave on society?
 10. How does the story explore the idea that anonymity can lead to a loss of accountability and morality? **Connect** this to modern-day examples.
-

Plot and Literary Devices

11. **Trace** how Griffin's single-minded goal for solitude and privacy ironically leads him into increasingly public and chaotic confrontations.

12. **Analyze** the role of the setting. How does the biting cold of the English winter act as a significant antagonist in the story, constantly shaping Griffin's actions and decisions?
 13. **Explain** the irony in Griffin's situation: though he possesses a superhuman ability, he is constantly defeated by mundane problems like the common cold, hunger, and lack of money.
 14. How does H.G. Wells use suspense and pacing, particularly in the scene with the "haunted" furniture at the inn, to build a sense of terror and mystery?
 15. **Evaluate** the effectiveness of the story's ending. Does Griffin's escape feel like a victory for him or a temporary reprieve before an inevitable doom?
-

Hypothetical and Critical Thinking

16. **Imagine** Griffin had a strong moral compass. How could the invention of invisibility have been used for the betterment of society? Provide specific examples.
17. The village constable, Mr. Jaffers, is determined to do his duty, "magistrate's orders or no magistrate's orders." What does his character represent in the face of an incomprehensible threat?
18. If the story were written from the **perspective of Mrs. Hall**, how would the narrative change? Focus on the shift in tone from curiosity to outright fear.
19. Is society's violent reaction to Griffin justified? **Discuss** the ethics of how the villagers and police respond to someone they cannot understand.
20. **Critically assess** Griffin's planning abilities. While he succeeded in the science, where did he fail in planning for the practical, day-to-day realities of being an invisible man?