

Footprints without Feet

Summary:

The story "Footprints Without Feet" describes the story of a brilliant scientist, Griffin, having learned how to make himself invisible, begins to use this invisibility for nefarious purposes. ~~Griffin, having learned how to make himself invisible, begins to use his invisibility for nefarious purposes.~~ Griffin discovered that the human body could become transparent & invisible (Griffin remained invisible or unseen only when he was without clothes). If he put on clothes, he lost his invisibility & could be seen by the people around him. But he misused his great discovery. He did not use the power of invisibility for welfare of society & humanity at large. He misused it to threaten, trouble & harass innocent people & rob them. He made unlawful entries into stores & shops & stole things from there. He committed a burglary at a doctor's house in June. The lesson gives a message that misuse of science & its great discoveries can make even a brilliant scientist like Griffin a monster & a threatening lawless person.

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Message :

⇒ A man of science can have immense potential, but it depends on how he chooses to use it.

⇒ Every achievement should be accompanied by a deep sense of responsibility & commitment.

Theme :

⇒ Power without responsibility is disastrous.

Character sketch of Griffin :

Trait	Evidence
(i) Brilliant Scientist	He discovered how to make the human body transparent.
(ii) Revengeful	He wanted to take revenge on his landlord (who disliked him and tried to eject him) by setting fire to the house.
(iii) Helpless & desperate	He did not know how to reverse his invisibility. He did not have money either. Need clothes to survive in harsh weather.

(iv) Short-tempered/
irritable

- He would get furious if anyone entered his room.

- He set his house on fire to get revenge

- Threatened ~~the~~ Mrs. Hall

- He caused harm and attacked ~~the~~ others.

(v) Selfish

- He did not care about others, or how his acts would affect others (stealing and eating food)

(vi) Callous/
insensitive

- He attacked the ~~shop~~ shopkeeper.

- ~~He was~~ He was

frustrated before he revealed his identity.

MCQs

(i) ~~(a) Mrs Hall felt that the room was haunted because~~

~~(b)~~ (c) uncanny things happened there.

(ii) Pick the option that best describes how Mrs. Hall must be feeling at the moment described in the extract

(d) Stunned and agitated

(iii) Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of "hysteresis" as used in the extract

(c) The sight of blood put the old man in a frenzy

(iv) The neighbours thought it was "witchcraft". This tells us that the neighbours were

(b) superstitious

(v) Look at the different meanings of "haunt". Pick the option that does NOT correspond to its meaning

(d) a place frequently visited by a specified person.

(I) re-arrange the following chronologically

(1) → (6)	(24) → (25)
(2) → (8)	(25) → (26)
(3) → (14)	(26) → (24)
(4) → (11)	(27) → (28)
(5) → (13)	(28) → (27)
(6) → (12)	(29) → (30)
(7) → (10)	(30) → (31)
(8) → (2)	(31) → (29)
(9) → (3)	
(10) → (5)	
(11) → (4)	
(12) → (9)	
(13) → (7)	
(14) → (1)	
(15) → (15)	
(16) → (17)	
(17) → (18)	
(18) → (16)	
(19) → (23)	
(20) → (19)	
(21) → (21)	
(22) → (22)	
(23) → (20)	