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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

The Invisible Man

by H.G. Wells

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The Invisible Man

Notes and Background

The Invisible Man was first published in 1897 at a time when literacy in England was growing, and a market for reading as entertainment was burgeoning. Originally, the book was published serially (three illustrated chapters weekly) in the English magazine, "Pearson's Weekly," from June 12 to August 7, 1897, and only later was it published in book form.

The Invisible Man could be said to be a young person's novel with appeal to grown-ups. Fantasy notwithstanding, the novel is mostly accurate in its scientific content.

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Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. understand science fiction as a literary genre.
2. explain the setting of the novel.
3. recognize that the point of view from which this novel is written is third person, which allows the story to be presented through the eyes of many characters and that a brief portion of the novel is written entirely in the first person point of view (that of the Invisible Man).
4. summarize the plot of the novel sequentially.
5. define the following themes:
 - how power corrupts
 - the fate of those who are different in society
 - theoretical versus experimental science
6. discuss the interweaving of humor, monstrousness, and violence in this novel.
7. discuss the role of dialect and how it adds to the tone of *The Invisible Man*.
8. discuss the use of formal language in the author's style.
9. define certain vocabulary words according to their context.
10. discuss the part-human, part-monster makeup of the character of the Invisible Man.
11. understand the symbolism of doors, windows, fences, blinds, and curtains in the novel.
12. infer meanings about characters and events when those meanings are not explicitly stated.
13. summarize the types of conflict in this novel.
14. define and cite examples from the text of the following literary terms:

alliteration

dialect

foreshadowing

simile

personification

protagonist

sarcasm

slapstick

conflict

metaphor

setting

point of view

theme

dialect

tone

symbol

flashback

pun

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Terms and Definitions

Alliteration - the repetition of sounds at the beginning of words. **Example:** More Mischief and Merriment.

Conflict - the struggle that moves the action forward in a work of literature. There are three types of conflict, and most books include all three: *man versus man* (**Example:** a typical Western, in which the sheriff confronts the outlaw); *man versus nature* (**Example:** a story about someone surviving in a small boat on the ocean); *man versus himself* (**Example:** a character in a story fighting his or her own drug abuse). Some authorities consider *man versus society* a fourth category of conflict (**Example:** a character in a book fighting against the Nazis).

Dialect - a particular kind of speech used by members of one specific group because of its geographical location or class. **Example:** Jim, in *Huckleberry Finn* says, "Shet de do." ["Shut the door".]

Flashback - a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happened earlier. **Example:** The movie, *Citizen Kane*, tells its story almost exclusively through the memories of its characters, who all knew Kane before his death.

Foreshadowing - the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. **Example:** Two small and seemingly inconsequential car accidents predict and hint at the upcoming, important wreck in *The Great Gatsby*.

Metaphor - a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar in which one is described in terms of the other. **Example:** The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

Personification - a figure of speech in which an object, abstract idea, or animal is given human characteristics. **Examples:** The wall did its best to keep out the invaders.
"Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me."
-Emily Dickinson

Plot - the pattern of events in a literary work; what happens.

Point of View - the position or vantage point, determined by the author, from which the story seems to come to the reader. The two most common points of view are First-person and Third-person. **Examples:** First-person point of view occurs in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; the reader receives all information through Huck's eyes. An example of third-person point of view is Dickens' *Hard Times*, in which the narrator is not a character in the book.

Protagonist - the central or main character in a story around whom the plot centers.
Examples: Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*; David Copperfield in *David Copperfield*.

Pun - an expression that achieves emphasis or humor by utilizing:

- two distinctly different meanings for the same word. **Example:** "play" meaning "fun" and "play" meaning a performance on stage.

or

- two similar sounding words. **Example:** close/clothes.

Example: In *Romeo and Juliet*, one character, Mercutio, says after being fatally stabbed, "Ask for me tomorrow and you will find me a grave man."

Sarcasm - the use of harsh words to deride and criticize. Sometimes, sarcasm is apparent only by the way something is said rather than the actual words that are used; other times the sarcasm is obvious. **Example:** In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden says about a taxi driver he dislikes that, "he certainly was good company. Terrific personality."

Science Fiction - a genre of literature that deals with the combination of scientific knowledge and imagination. **Examples:** *War of the Worlds*; *Star Wars*.

Setting - when and where the short story, play, or novel takes place. **Examples:** *Macbeth* takes place in the eleventh century in Scotland. *The Old Man and the Sea* has its main setting on the ocean outside Havana, Cuba, in an unspecified time in the middle-to-late 20th-century.

Simile - a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. **Examples:** I am as hungry as a horse. The huge trees broke like twigs during the hurricane.

Slapstick - crude comedy in which the humor comes from horseplay or violent activity such as slapping or fighting. **Example:** The Three Stooges movies.

Style - the way an author chooses and uses words, phrases, and sentences to tell the story. For example, in an action/adventure story, the author may use simple words and short, choppy sentences, because this style moves the story along quickly. In a story about a college professor, the same author may choose to use polysyllabic, unfamiliar words, and long, convoluted sentences.

Symbol - an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction. **Example:** The sea could be symbolic for “the unknown.” Since the sea is something that is physical and can be seen by the reader, and also has elements that cannot be understood, it can be used symbolically to stand for the abstraction of “mystery,” “obscurity,” or “the unknown.”

Theme - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different methods: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them. **Example:** In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: “Real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance.” In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: “Youth fades, and death comes to all.”

Tone - the atmosphere in a literary work or the attitude the author puts in a literary work. **Examples:** The gloom and representation of decay is the main tone of Poe’s *The Fall of the House of Usher*; the tone of *Catch-22* is one of *sarcasm* and absurdity.

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Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Why is science fiction is a very popular literary genre?
2. There are many humorous, even slapstick, sequences in *The Invisible Man*. Discuss which one you feel is the most humorous and explain why.
3. Write a short essay about the character of Thomas Marvel, which discusses how much better he is able to function in society than is Griffin, even though Marvel is a tramp.
4. Write a short essay about the differences between the material conveniences of the 1800's as seen in this novel and the material conveniences we have today.
5. Discuss whether the murder of Griffin by the townspeople is an act of perceived self-defense, an act of revenge by them, or an example of mob hysteria.
6. Discuss the themes Wells deals with in the novel.
7. Describe the style Wells uses. How does it contribute to or detract from the story?
8. Find an example of literary terms in the novel and explain how they are used.
9. Analyze the motivation of the Invisible Man throughout the book.

The Invisible Man

Test

Matching

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. exempt from punishment | A. subtle |
| 2. lacking control | B. attenuated |
| 3. not immediately obvious | C. incontinently |
| 4. reduced in strength | D. impunity |

Multiple Choice

- The setting for this novel is
 - Scotland in the late 1800's.
 - England in the 1700's.
 - England in the early twentieth century.
 - England in the late 1800's.
- The sentence, "I'm rare sorry the darg-" is an example of
 - a metaphor.
 - personification.
 - dialect.
 - a simile.
 - none of the above
- Doors, windows, curtains, and blinds in this novel sometimes symbolize
 - English furnishings.
 - keeping out a dangerous world.
 - their use for slapstick effect.
 - keeping oneself safe within.
 - Both B and D.
- The Invisible Man is killed by
 - Colonel Adye.
 - Dr. Kemp.
 - a group of townspeople.
 - Mr. Marvel.
 - None of the above.

9. Science fiction
 - A. always has to do with the past.
 - B. always deals with imaginary future worlds.
 - C. is not a popular literary genre.
 - D. appeals only to young people.
 - E. mixes science and imagination.

10. The story of the Invisible Man is told through
 - A. the first person only.
 - B. mostly through the third person.
 - C. equally between the first and third person.
 - D. none of the above.
 - E. second person.

11. One of the themes dealt with in this novel is
 - A. that power never corrupts.
 - B. that cats can be made completely Invisible Man.
 - C. that albino men are good scientists.
 - D. that unregulated scientific experimentation is dangerous.

12. Thomas Marvel is
 - A. drunk all the time.
 - B. an old friend of the invisible man.
 - C. the innkeeper at the end of the book.
 - D. Kemp's secretary.
 - E. none of the above.

13. What best describes Wells' style of writing?
 - A. elaborate, formal, wordy
 - B. dialogue driven, concentrating on plot
 - C. short sentences focusing on character
 - D. poetic, but plot-driven and humorous

14. One of the reasons that the Invisible Man is seen as monstrous is because
 - A. he feels justified in killing anyone who gets in his way.
 - B. he is an albino.
 - C. he is not comfortable in society.
 - D. he wants to become invisible to show up his professors.

15. Which is the best description of the plot sequence of this novel?
- A. The Invisible Man becomes invisible, gets a college friend to help him kill people, and eventually is killed himself.
 - B. The Invisible Man wanders around in the English countryside, takes up with a tramp, and is eventually killed in an riding accident.
 - C. The Invisible Man wants power, has a great deal of opposition, becomes a killer, is hunted down and killed.
 - D. The Invisible Man tells his story to Kemp, is betrayed, and dies.
16. The phrase “pricked like the ears of a watchful dog” is known as
- A. alliteration.
 - B. irony.
 - C. simile.
 - D. personification.
17. The phrase, “I’m out of frocks” in the context of the novel is an example of
- A. black humor.
 - B. foreshadowing.
 - C. sarcasm.
 - D. metaphor.
18. The protagonist in this novel is
- A. The Invisible Man.
 - B. Dr. Kemp.
 - C. Mr. Marvel.
 - D. Colonel Adye.
19. The phrase “heard him go headlong” is an example of
- A. personification.
 - B. simile.
 - C. sarcasm.
 - D. alliteration.
20. Themes in the book is/are
- A. Man’s inhumanity is often enormous.
 - B. A man with power becomes abusive.
 - C. Too much knowledge is dangerous.
 - D. All of the above.

Essays (Answer any two)

1. There are two predominant types of conflict in this novel: “man against nature” and “man against man.” Summarize how both of these types of conflict are handled in *The Invisible Man*.
2. Two types of scientific endeavor are described in *The Invisible Man*: theoretical science and experimental science. In your essay, describe these two types of science and tell how they apply in this novel.
3. Consider this quotation: “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Griffin believes he would achieve absolute power through becoming invisible. In your essay discuss whether you believe Griffin was corrupted “absolutely” by the power of invisibility.
4. *The Invisible Man* can be seen partially as a novel of social mores, which considers the concept of how persons who are “different” are isolated in society. In your essay, discuss the things about Griffin which made him different in his society.
5. Dialect is used frequently as dialogue in this novel. List some ways that you feel the use of dialect adds to the tone of the novel.

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Test Answer Key

1. D	6. C	11. D	16. C
2. C	7. E	12. C	17. C
3. A	8. C	13. A	18. A
4. B	9. E	14. A	19. D
5. D	10. B	15. C	20. D

The Invisible Man

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

I. The Strange Man's Arrival

Vocabulary

animation – adding life to

audible – able to be heard

brevity – shortness, conciseness

brooked – tolerated

concisely – quickly

contempt – hatred, dislike

deftly – quickly and skillfully

eloquent – vividly expressive

haggler – an argumentative person; bickerer

hitherto – until that time

impenetrable – unable to be seen through

inscrutable – mysterious

lymphatic – here meaning sluggish

muslin – cotton material

obscured – made unnoticeable

perplexity – confusion

portmanteau – a suitcase, briefcase

resolutely – firmly, with perseverance

scythe – a long, curved, sharp blade attached to a pole and used for cutting down tall grass or plants

sidelights – sidepieces for glasses to block peripheral vision

side-whisker – sideburns

staccato – in an abrupt way, quick

stateliness – dignity

swathed – wrapped

tangent – a thought or action unrelated to the current though process or situation

1. Describe some of the actions and appearance of the stranger upon arrival at the Coach and Horses.

The stranger is snow-covered, has on thick gloves, and is completely wrapped up so that none of his face shows but the tip of his nose. He shouts for a fire to warm him, throws coins down, and then goes to his rented room.

2. How would you describe Mrs. Hall's reaction to the stranger after she has served his meal?

She is not frightened of him, even though she finds him strange; "her face was eloquent of her surprise and perplexity." (Pg. 13)

3. Give some examples of the stranger's rudeness to Mrs. Hall.

The stranger laughs at hearing of her nephew's accident; he is demanding of what he wants, and he turns away from her and stares out of the window.

4. How can you tell this novel takes place in the 1800's?

It is apparent from the use of candles for lighting, fireplaces for heat, and horses for transportation. The story obviously occurs before the time of electricity and automobiles.

II. Mr. Teddy Henfrey's First Impressions

Vocabulary

apprehension – nervousness

ascertain – to figure out, determine

computations – calculations

constitutionally – naturally

conveyance – a carriage, transportation

excruciating – agonizing

germinated – took root and grew; sprouted

grotesque – extremely misshapen, distorted or unnatural-looking; bizarre, unusual

humbugging – faking, pretending

interminable – seemingly endless, continual

rated – a shortened form of *berated*; scolded

ruddy – reddish in color

scanty – meager, inadequate

scrutinised – looked over very closely

subdued – overcame, conquered

suppressed – held back, held down, repressed

unassuming – not showy, modest; simple

uncanny – weird, eerie, unusual

vestiges – small traces, remains

wim' – [dialect] women

wropped – [dialect] wrapped

1. Who is Mr. Teddy Henfrey, and how did he get along with the stranger?

Mr. Henfrey is a clock-jobber, a man who fixes clocks. The stranger is full of anger and rude to him.

2. Describe the differences in the dialects of Mr. Henfrey and the stranger.

The speech of the stranger shows no use of dialect, whereas Mr. Henfrey's is in dialect, as seen in the quotation, "You got a rum un up home!" (Pg. 20)

3. Quote the sentence in which the stranger gives information as to what his work is. Does this answer seem odd?

The stranger says, "I am an experimental investigator." (Pg. 18)

Answers may vary. Example: In the 1800's there was a great deal of curiosity about science, and anyone could pursue any of the fields of science without formal training. Therefore, the stranger's occupation would not seem out of the ordinary and might even provoke some interest.

4. Find a metaphor on page 20.

The metaphor would be the comparison between the idea of the stranger being untrustworthy growing in Hall's consciousness and a plant: "But the seed of suspicion Teddy had sown germinated in the mind of Mr. Hall..."

III. The Thousand and One Bottles

Vocabulary

athwart – from side to side, across

balance – a scale used to weigh things

bristle – to stand on end (referring to hair)

bungs – seals or corks, used for bottles

cauterised – sterilized through heat or burning

chiffonier – a tall chest of drawers

concave – curved inwardly

concussion – the noise of a crash

crepitation – a squeaking or crackling sound

dilettante – superficial

exasperation – an extreme state of frustration

fatuities – absurdities, silliness

flanking – sideways

fluted – grooved, outspread

forge – a blacksmith's workshop

hobnails – flat-headed nails used to shoe horses' hooves

incomprehensible – unable to be understood

indecipherable – unclear

indeterminate – unclear

infinity – endless time and space

interrogative – questioning

piebald – spotted; splotchy

soliloquy – a speech spoken aloud, but also to one's self; inner thoughts

stror – [dialect] straw

1. What is unusual about the arrival of the stranger's luggage?

There is a great deal of it, including many bottles packed in straw.

2. Describe what happens when Fearenside brings the stranger's luggage to his room.

The stranger is rude to him, and Fearenside's dog bites the stranger, who then runs from the room.

3. What does Hall see in the room?

He sees an arm with no hand and a head with three spots but no face.

4. What theories about the stranger do Teddy Henfrey and Fearenside hold?

Mr. Henfrey thinks the stranger is a black man because he did not see any pink skin through the tear in the stranger's trousers when the dog bit him. Fearenside thinks he is "piebald," a person who has some black and some white skin.

IV. Mr. Cuss Interviews the Stranger

Vocabulary

assertion – a statement

averse – unwilling; reluctant

belated – delayed, late

bludgeoning – beating, intimidating

bogies – evil or frightening spirits; bogeymen

chronic – continuing, lasting

comprehensible – able to be understood

conscientiously – faithfully; knowingly

coveted – desired

cursorily – briefly, with depth

draught – [*draft*] a slight, cool puff of air; breeze

expedient – a means to an end; suitability

fitfully – nervously

gesticulations – gestures; hand movements

imprecation – a curse

infernal – cruel; hellish

jauntily – stylishly

magnitude – size; importance

ostentatiously – in a showy fashion, arrogantly

penury – extreme poverty

sagely – wisely

skirmishes – short, minor disputes

spasmodic – happening in sudden outbursts

tentative – hesitant

theologian – one who studies religion

tremulously – nervously; timidly

unendurable – unbearable, intolerable

unfounded – unproven, speculative

venomously – hatefully; poisonously

vicar – a priest

1. Why does the narrator intrude into the story?

He wants the reader to understand exactly how odd the impression the stranger created actually was.

2. What are some of the theories about the stranger that are discussed among the village inhabitants?

Mrs. Hall says he must have had an accident that disfigured him, and he was hiding that under a bandage wrap. Mr. Gould thinks he is an Anarchist. Another sees the stranger as a harmless lunatic, and a few others in the village believe he is an escaped criminal.

3. Who is Cuss, and what plan did he devise to learn more about the stranger?

Cuss is a medical doctor in the village. He comes to the stranger's room and pretends to be trying to raise money for a village nurse.

4. How much of the stranger does Mr. Cuss see?

Mr. Cuss cannot see an arm in the stranger's sleeve though he feels the stranger's arm, which makes him feel frightened and he leaves the room quickly.

5. What happens in the room that causes some laughter when it is explained?

The stranger pinches Cuss' nose with invisible fingers.

V. The Burglary at the Vicarage

Vocabulary

conviction – a strong belief

guttering – burning out

kindred – similar

tread – a footstep

vicarage – a priest's residence

1. How does the author build suspense about what is wrong with the stranger? This stranger is invisible, so there is no wondering on the reader's part.

Answers may vary. Example: The author tries to put the reader into the curious and questioning minds of the uneducated villagers by relating much of the story through their eyes and observations.

2. During the burglary, the Buntings could hear things indicating someone was in the Vicarage, that a candle had been lit, and money in a drawer was gone. What conclusion can be drawn from this chapter?

It can be assumed that the stranger, who is invisible, is responsible for the burglary, even though the Buntings do not reach that conclusion.

VI. The Furniture That Went Mad

Vocabulary

cocking – raising

pitch – a level, degree

resolved – made up one's mind

restoratives – remedies like smelling salts, brandy, or other medicinal substances

sarsaparilla – a carbonated soda similar to root beer

singularly – uniquely; unusually

slouch hat – a hat that has not been steamed into any particular shape

telescoping – compressing, shortening

1. Slapstick is crude comedy in which the humor comes from violent activity. Which sentences on page 38 would qualify as slapstick?

Two sentences which can be seen as slapstick would be, "...the bed-clothes gathered themselves together, leapt up suddenly into a sort of peak, and then jumped headlong over the bottom rail" and "...the stranger's hat hopped off the bedpost...and then dashed straight at Mrs. Hall's face." These are actions for which the Invisible Man was responsible.

2. Personification is a figure of speech in which an object is given human characteristics. What on page 39 is an example of personification?

The sentences which use personification are, 'Twas in that very chair my poor dear mother used to sit when I was a little girl. To think it should rise up against me now!' Even though the reader knows the cause of the chair's movement, Mrs. Hall does not. The use of "rise up" is also a pun.

3. What is another way of saying, "A door onbust is always open to bustin, but ye can't onbust a door once you've busted en." (Pg. 39)

Answers may vary. Examples: "Look before you leap"; "You can't put the genie back in the bottle."

VII. The Unveiling of the Stranger

Vocabulary

aerial – from out of thin air

akimbo – standing with hands on hips, elbows out

apex – the highest point

bumpkin – an uneducated or awkward country person

conjuring – bringing about by magical powers

dandies – fashionably dressed men

decapitated – headless

deliberated – thought carefully about

endeavouring – trying

ensigns – flags or banners

expostulation – an objection, protest

forthwith – immediately

gipsies – day workers who travel from town to town

hobbledehoy – an adolescent boy

incongruity – inconsistency

incontinently – without control

intervened – interfered

mêlée – a chaotic and confused brawl

metamorphosed – completely changed

plumes – feathers

proprietor – an owner

pungent – a strong, biting odor

remittance – a sum of money sent through the mail

repulse – a rejection

resplendent – bright and flashy

rout – an overpowering defeat

sexton – a church employee

smote – hit with force

tangible – something that is real; able to be touched or seen

thrice – three times

truncheon – a club

tumult – a noisy commotion

vociferous – loud-mouthed, boisterous

waistcoat – the top portion of a suit; a jacket

wenches – young women or female servants

whisk – to make a light, sweeping motion

1. What is Mrs. Hall trying to do in her conversation with the stranger?

At first, Mrs. Hall is trying to collect the rent from the stranger. Then, she wants him to tell her what went on in the room when the furniture flew around.

2. What can you infer the people suspect is the reason the stranger now has money?

They must believe he stole it from the vicarage.

3. What is the result of Mrs. Hall's badgering of the stranger?

The stranger is angered, throws off his clothes in the bar, and then is invisible.

4. There is a good deal of humor in the description of the melee going on as the entire village tries to subdue the Invisible Man. Despite this, a frightening thing happens. Describe it.

The Invisible Man becomes violent and injures the village constable, Bobby Jaffers, who falls into unconsciousness.

VIII. In Transit

Vocabulary

beheld – saw

cultivated – cultured, educated

downs – rolling plains, valleys

indisputable – unable to be questioned

phenomenon – a peculiar or unexplainable occurrence

1. What happens in this brief chapter?

In this chapter, a naturalist from the village, Gibbins, while dozing on the downs outside the village, hears coughing, sneezing, and swearing, and this frightens him.

IX. Mr. Thomas Marvel

Vocabulary

agrimony – a group of small flowering plants

assimilated – absorbed

bristling – rising and falling irregularly

cadging – begging

copious – plentiful

desolate – empty

eccentricity – oddness

embonpoint – [French] plumpness

flabbergasted – surprised, awestruck

flints – types of stones

fluctuating – changing from one side to the other

furze – a type of shrub

impotent – without power

inclination – a tendency

interlocutor – a person with whom one has a conversation

irradiated – projected, shed, thrown

owdacious – [dialect: *bodacious*] extremely

peewit – a small bird

promiscuous – casual, without standards

visage – a face, facial features, appearance

1. The first sentence of this chapter describes the tramp, Thomas Marvel, in very elaborate language. What could be a simpler way to describe Mr. Marvel?

“copious, flexible visage...” could be changed to “large, animated face”; “a nose of cylindrical protrusion...” could be changed to “a wide, full nose”; “a liquorish, ample, fluctuating mouth...” could be changed to “a drunken, wide, talkative mouth.” (Pg. 57)

2. Find a simile on page 57.

The simile on page 57 is his toes were “pricked like the ears of a watchful dog.” It seems to mean that Marvel’s toes stand up at attention and are spread apart.

3. Why is the voice without a body not startling to Mr. Marvel at the beginning?

It does not seem to bother him at all, probably because he is slightly drunk. When he turns around, Marvel does not see anyone and blames the vision on drinking.

4. How does the stranger convince Marvel to help?

He throws pieces of rocks at Mr. Marvel, hits him on the bare toe, and threatens him.

5. What can Marvel see of the Invisible Man?

He sees the stranger's last meal of bread and cheese.

6. What does the Invisible Man want Mr. Marvel to do? Does Mr. Marvel finally agree to do it?

He wants him to get clothes, find him some shelter, and collect the three books holding his scientific data. Mr. Marvel agrees to help him.

X. Mr. Marvel's Visit to Iping

Vocabulary

agitation – nervousness

alacrity – eagerness

apprising – advising

askew – crooked

belied – contradicted, opposed

bowler hats – round, black hats with narrow brims

bunting – colorful cloth or draping material used as decoration

braces – suspenders

curate – a clergyman in charge of a parish

furtive – sneaky

impregnable – unable to be attacked or overcome

inadvertently – accidentally

inconceivable – unable to be fully understood

induce – to persuade

jasmine – a very aromatic flowering shrub

languid – weak, without energy

mottled – blotched, spotted

perceptions – judgments; ideas

promenading – walking; dancing

qualms – misgivings, doubts

roundabout – a carousel, merry-go-round

scepticism – [*skepticism*] doubtfulness

subsequent – later, succeeding

supposition – a guess

transcending – exceeding, surpassing

1. What is going on in the village on the afternoon of Whit-Monday?

Constable Jaffers remains unconscious in the parlor of the Coach and Horses. The villagers are getting ready to go to the village fair. Mr. Marvel comes into the village and acquires the stranger's books.

2. What happens to Mr. Huxter, the tobacconist?

The Invisible Man attacks him to prevent him catching Mr. Marvel, and Mr. Huxter is left unconscious.

XI. In the Coach and Horses

Vocabulary

cypher – mathematical symbols; numbers

fastidiously – with great attention to detail

flushed – turned red, blushed

fly-leaf – the blank piece of paper at the beginning or end of a book

memoranda – written notes

sporadically – irregularly, without a pattern

thrashed – fought, beaten

wont – used to, formerly

1. As the Doctor and the Vicar are inspecting the Invisible Man's books with the record of his scientific experiments, they discover the notes are in secret writing. What else happens when they are looking over the books?

The angry Invisible Man slips into the room, assaults them, and threatens them with a poker.

2. Has the personality of the Invisible Man changed from the early chapters of the novel?

The Invisible Man always manifested a solitary, angry, desperate personality with a potential for violence, but his violent acts are now beginning to intensify.

XII. The Invisible Man Loses His Temper

Vocabulary

burly – muscular, strong-looking

cataclysmal – disastrous

clambered – crawled

conceiving – judging

crestfallen – disappointed, rejected

felled – cut down

gauds – showy ornaments

grimaces – facial expressions similar to frowns

indecorous – not in good taste; improper

indistinct – not clear

intonation – a tone of voice

kilt – a skirt-like garment typically worn by Scottish men

obdurate – stubborn, hard-headed

obliquely – diagonally

passed muster – deemed acceptable

pell-mell – confusedly; quickly in all directions

smiting – hitting

till – a primitive cash register; cash drawer

1. What do Mr. Hall and Teddy hear?

They listen to the comments of the Vicar and Doctor describing how they were victimized by the Invisible Man.

2. Mr. Cuss says that “He’s fighting mad!” (Pg. 68) Is the Invisible Man really insane?

Though the Invisible Man has set himself apart from all the people he deals with, he is in touch with reality and has not become insane.

3. Describe the Invisible Man’s escalating anger and its effect on the village.

He seems to have lost all control, and “he set to smiting and overthrowing, for the mere satisfaction of hurting.” (Pg. 68)

4. What is learned at the end of this chapter about Iping and the Invisible Man?

The reader learns that the Invisible man has gone away, never to be “heard, seen, nor felt in Iping any more.” (Pg. 69)

XIII. Mr. Marvel Discusses His Resignation

Vocabulary

consternation – frustration; puzzling dismay

floundering – clumsy; confused

funk – cowardliness

gloaming – twilight, dusk

ineffectual – having no result

ligature – a binding material such as string

obsolete – out of fashion, no longer used

rubicund – reddish-colored

timorously – with fear or tension

yokels – rural, unsophisticated people

1. How would you describe the Invisible Man's relationship with Mr. Marvel as they walk along the road to Bramblehurst?

Like all other of his relationships, The Invisible Man has a poor relationship with Mr. Marvel. He threatens him with bodily harm, and is verbally abusive. Mr. Marvel cringes, is self-pitying, and is afraid of the Invisible Man.

XIV. At Port Stowe

Vocabulary

august – honorable, dignified

bandying – exchanging

cordons – an area or line of protection by policemen

dexterously – skillfully, cleverly

engrossed – deeply absorbed

gait – a manner of walking

imperceptible – unable to be seen or felt

incoherently – not making sense

monologue – a speech spoken by one person

opulence – wealth

receding – falling back

recriminations – criticisms

retorted – answered quickly and pointedly

rouleaux – [French] small rolls (usually referring to rolled coins)

thence – from that time on

1. What has the mariner read?

He has seen the newspaper account of the Invisible Man's doings in Iping

2. What happens to Mr. Marvel when he brags about his knowledge of the Invisible Man to the mariner? What excuse does Marvel give when the Invisible Man intrudes?

He is struck in the face by the Invisible Man. Mr. Marvel says he has a tooth-ache and must leave.

3. What does Mr. Marvel's willingness to tell a stranger about the Invisible Man show about his trustworthiness, even in the face of the threats of the Invisible Man? Does this hold any implications for their future relationship?

That behavior shows that Mr. Marvel is concerned only about himself, and that he hopes to profit somehow from his dealings with the Invisible Man. This may foreshadow his later behavior in their relationship.

4. What has been happening throughout the area?

Money has been disappearing and ending up in Marvel's pockets.

XV. The Man Who Was Running

Vocabulary

abject – the most miserable

albeit – even though, although

cultures – various microorganisms, cells, etc., prepared specifically for scientific investigation

dilated – expanded

flaxen – golden yellow in color

glairy – glazed

glass slips – slides for a microscope

occulted – hidden

reagents – substances used to study action by other chemicals or substances

1. What impression do you have of Dr. Kemp?

Dr. Kemp is a research scientist, is in his mid-thirties, and has a rational, scientific mind. He thinks that those who believe that there is such a thing as an invisible man are fools.

2. What is happening to Mr. Marvel as seen by Dr. Kemp? Find the simile to describe how Marvel sounds.

Mr. Marvel seems to be running in terror. He runs with a sound of coins: "he chinked like a well-filled purse." (Pg. 82)

XVI. The Jolly Cricketers

Vocabulary

collared – seized

diaphragm – the muscular formation between the lungs and the stomach

flails – sticks used to knock seeds of grain off stalks

irresolutely – hesitantly, timidly

obstinately – stubbornly

settee – a piece of furniture resembling a small couch or loveseat; a bench

1. What is “The Jolly Cricketers”?

“The Jolly Cricketers” is a bar.

2. What is meant by the phrase “conversed in American”? (Pg. 83)

It means that the person spoke with an American accent or used American phrases, in contrast to having an English accent and using uniquely English speech.

3. What is the meaning of the sentence, “I’m out of frocks,” (Pg. 85)

The quotation is an example of sarcasm. The barman is asked if he has locked the door to keep out the Invisible Man and his answer is that he is “out of frocks,” meaning that he is grown up, not wearing a child’s clothing, and knows what to do without being told.

XVII. Dr. Kemp's Visitor

Vocabulary

balustrade – a banister, railing

bawled – shouted

coagulates – becomes solid; clots

confederate – an ally; accomplice

counterpane – a bedspread

cur – a cowardly person

curtly – rudely, sharply

decorous – beautiful; proper

facetted – angled

interstices – narrow spaces between objects

larder – a pantry; cupboard shelves

methodical – logical

nares – nostrils

pharynx – a part of the breathing anatomy of a living creature

quill – a pen made from a feather

reiterated – repeated

rustic – an uneducated, simple person

shrillness – a sharp, grating sound

slackly – slowly, without great purpose

speculation – a guess, hint

1. Describe the sequence of Dr. Kemp's reactions to his first meeting with the Invisible Man.

Dr. Kemp did not quite believe he has heard a voice; he gets an "eerie" feeling; he jumps when he sees the bloody bandages and rag in mid-air; he is not frightened or greatly surprised; he is shocked at touching the Invisible Man's fingers.

2. What is learned about the background of the Invisible Man in this chapter?

We learn that his name is Griffin, that he and Dr. Kemp were college classmates, and that Griffin is a six-foot tall, albino chemist.

3. What emotions does the Invisible Man display toward Dr. Kemp?

The Invisible Man shows violent anger in his attack on Dr. Kemp, irritability while making his demands for food and clothing, suspicion of Dr. Kemp, and murderous feelings toward Mr. Marvel.

XVIII. The Invisible Man Sleeps

Vocabulary

baldly – bluntly; unadorned

breach – to break a contract or promise

diffused – spread out

ejaculating – expressing

fabrication – a lie

flagrant – very bad

hamper – to stand in the way of; hinder

hearth – the stone area in front of a fireplace

homicidal – capable of murder

incredulous – hard to believe, skeptical

mania – insanity

meditation – deep thought

pallor – having low color; dimness

preconceptions – opinions formed before having complete knowledge

profound – very deep

rent – tore; opened hastily

shoal – a crowd

1. Dr. Kemp weighs all the happenings of the night and what he learns from newspaper reports while the Invisible Man sleeps. Discuss Dr. Kemp's thinking about the conflict between the scientific certainties he holds and what his actual experiences of the night have shown him.

Though Dr. Kemp has believed invisibility is an impossibility, his eyes and ears now tell him something different. He is afraid of the danger in the Invisible Man. He recognizes the grave consequences which can occur when the pursuit of scientific theory is followed by reckless scientific experimentation.

2. What makes Dr. Kemp decide to seek the help of Colonel Adye in Port Burdock?

Dr. Kemp fears from the newspaper reports that the Invisible Man's rage is growing into mania and there is no telling what dangerous things Griffin may do.

XIX. Certain First Principles

Vocabulary

bounder – a man without principles

elusively – mysteriously

hemmed-in – restrained; surrounded

knavish – crafty, sly

opaque – not allowing light to pass through

physiology – the study of living organisms and their functions

pigment – coloring

provincial – not particularly sophisticated

suffices – meets the present need

translucencies – objects allowing light to pass through, but preventing clear images

transparent – able to be seen through clearly

1. Dr. Kemp tells the Invisible Man that his (the invisible Man's) secret is known throughout the country. What does Dr. Kemp also tell him, which is a lie?

Dr. Kemp adds that "...I'm anxious to help you." (Pg. 99) This seems to be a lie because it is known from the previous chapter that he has written to Colonel Adye about the Invisible Man.

2. State a generalization about life expressed by the Invisible Man.

He asks, "You know what fools we are at two and twenty?" (Pg. 100)

3. Even though this is a science fiction novel, discuss your opinion of whether the Invisible Man's explanation of the scientific principles of optical density and light reflection and refraction are sound.

Some of the principles of physics and chemistry in this chapter are scientifically accepted as true and can be found in any encyclopedia; their use for the purposes of invisibility, however, is incorrect.

4. What shocking confession did the Invisible Man make about something which happened during his research studies after college.

The Invisible Man confesses that because he wanted money to finish his research, he robbed his father. The money he stole, though, did not belong to his father, who later shot himself, presumably in shame.

XX. At the House in Great Portland Street

Vocabulary

acute – sharp-minded
apathetic – without feeling
attainment – achievement
attenuated – weakened
barracks – temporary housing, especially for soldiers
cant – a custom
cistern – a vat for holding water
commercialism – profit-making
compass – to comprehend
costermonger – a person who sells vegetables, fruits, and other food articles from a wagon or cart
countenance – a face
desecrated – spoiled, misused
disreputable – having a bad reputation
drink-sodden –drunken
dynamos – generators; machines that create energy
elation – joy
ethereal – delicate
feverishly – intensely emotional or nervous
garbled – mumbled
gaunt – thin, lanky
ghastly – horrible
impunity – freedom, exemption from
inanity – foolishness, senselessness
inarticulate – incomprehensible, not understandable; not expressed in words
inconclusive – without a proper ending
insensible – not feeling anything
invigorated – filled with energy
iridescent – having many colors
jerry builders – people who build cheaply or poorly
liable – held responsible for, accountable
opium – a narcotic painkiller
pallid – pale, gray
racking – deep, intense
radiating – going out from one central point
rank – foul-smelling
seethe – the act of boiling; an outburst
snivelling – having a runny nose
sordid – unclean, immoral
squalid – offensive to the senses

Vocabulary (Cont.)

strychnine – a poison

summit – the top

tapetum – a layer of membranes located in the eye

teeming – filled with

thicket – an overgrowth of shrubbery or plants

tonic – a drink that makes one feel better

transient – fleeting

truckle-bed – a single bed, usually on wheels and very low to the; also called a trundle bed

vivisecting – dissecting live animals

whence – from where

writ – a legal document

1. Name two things in this chapter which show a lack of human feeling in the Invisible Man.

The first would be the recounting of his lack of feeling of sympathy for his father or sorrow for his death. The second would be his lack of feeling for the cat, which may have suffered from his experiment to make it invisible.

2. Describe the process by which the Invisible Man became invisible.

One evening the Invisible Man took a drug he had made to decolorize his blood. This caused him a great deal of pain, sickness, and fainting. His body felt like it was on fire. In the morning, his body gradually began to become more and more glassy, and parts of it began to disappear. Finally, after a nap, he became completely invisible.

3. What crime does the Invisible Man commit in this chapter?

The Invisible Man commits the crime of arson by setting fire to the house in Great Portland Street in order to escape.

XXI. In Oxford Street

Vocabulary

amenable – agreeable to
convulsive – unnatural twisting body movement
eddy – a flow of water or other liquid)
exaltation – a state of ecstasy
folly – a mistake
fore – toward the front
hansom – a covered carriage
host – a group
impeded – got in the way of; hindered
impulse – an uncontrolled desire
intimations – hints
passably – acceptably
perambulator – a baby carriage
portico – a porch
resonance – a sound
revel – to bask, take pleasure
sallied– walked
scoffing – sneering
subtle – slight, not obvious
throng – a large group of people; crowd
trodden – walked upon, trampled
unaccountable – not able to be categorized
unnerved – bothered; confused
urchins – small street children

1. A cursory look at this entire chapter, much of the previous, and many of the remaining ones shows that they are written from Griffin's memory. What point of view is used, the first or the third person? Why do you think the author uses this particular point of view? What literary term is represented in this revealing of how Griffin became invisible?

This chapter is written in the first person. It may be that first person in this case served to speed up the recounting of previous events, making present events more intelligible. It also serves to maintain Griffin's intensity in portraying the dangerous character which the Invisible Man is becoming. Had the narration remained in third person, the immediacy of the story would have been lost. The literary term is flashback.

2. What does Griffin discover has not changed, despite his invisibility?

He still gets cold.

3. What nearly gets the Invisible Man caught?

He leaves footprints in the mud, and when the mud cakes on his feet, they are nearly visible.

4. What possessions did the Invisible Man save before he set his rooming house on fire?

He saved his checkbook and the three books having to do with his scientific experiments.

XXII. In the Emporium

Vocabulary

accost – to attack

ample – plentiful

burgundy – a type of wine

contrived – planned

depredations – damages

diminished – grew smaller

droning – talking on and on

elaborated – created; expanded upon

evoke – to bring out

festoons – decorations

flock – cotton or wool used to stuff mattresses

full tilt – at full speed

gnarled – misshapen

insurmountable – unable to overcome

ironmongery – objects made of iron

lair – a den; a hiding place

lanky – tall and skinny

meandering – winding, weaving

plunder – stolen items

procure – to obtain, acquire

ransack – to search for and take

receptacles – containers

refuge – a place to feel safe and secure

sacking – a heavy material

serenity – calmness, tranquility

stonily – without emotion

vaguest – the most unclear

vista – a view

vociferating – crying out loudly against something

wretched – miserable, awful

1. An emporium is a large store which sells a wide variety of merchandise. Why would the Invisible Man choose to hide in a store?

He reasons that he could rob it for everything he needed. It would also provide him a warm, safe place to sleep that night.

2. Find an instance of humor in the description of the shop clerks.

Griffin says that after each clerk had straightened up the area, “he or she made promptly for the door with such an expression of animation as I have rarely observed in a shop assistant before.” (Pg. 118) The comment is a swipe at the attitude of many people who work in department stores and is as relevant today as it was then.

3. What does the Invisible Man say was his major difficulty in his disguise previously?

His false nose was the problem.

XXIII. In Drury Lane

Vocabulary

absurdity – ridiculousness

ado – bother, fuss

aglare – wide-eyed

bandy – bow-legged

beetle-browed – thick, dark eyebrows that are close together

benzoline – a chemical often used as a dissolving agent

byway – a side street

calico – a type of fabric

caricature – a cartoon drawing exaggerating the features of a person

cashmere – fine wool

checked – stopped

chink – an opening, crack

circuitously – in a roundabout fashion

conventions – habits, norms, ways

credible – believable, acceptable

diabolically – devilishly, evilly

disillusionment – a great disappointment

dismal – lonely looking, unfriendly

dominoes – hooded robes with facemasks that were worn by actors

edged – squeezed by

forego – to lose

impromptu – quickly set up, spur-of-the-moment, spontaneous

lout – a foolish or stupid person

novel – new

plank – a floorboard

pugnaciously – combatively; ready to fight

purblind – dull; slow to understand

reckons – considers

render – to present

rouge – makeup for the cheeks

Vocabulary (Cont.)

routing – searching

save – except

scullery – a room off the kitchen where meals are prepared or dishes washed

sham – fake, not real

sinister – threatening

smuts – sooty dirt

sovereigns – coins

spitefully – hatefully, revengefully

stealthy – sneaky

subsequently – later

sumptuous – magnificent, extravagant

tomfoolery – nonsense actions, tricks, or objects

turnings – corners

undertone – a low voice, almost unable to be heard

1. The Invisible Man has a plan of action for when he is in Drury Lane. What is it?

In the second paragraph on page 124, the reader learns that the Invisible Man plans to get into a shop in the lane, hide, and later steal a wig, mask, glasses, and clothes, and then rob the place of money.

2. Kemp interrupts Griffin's explanation of hitting the shopkeeper. What is Kemp's reasoning, and what is Griffin's response?

Kemp condemns the violence Griffin uses, but the Invisible Man claims that what is prohibited for the "common people" does not apply to him. (Pg. 126)

3. Describe the power the Invisible Man says he thought being invisible would bring him.

In the middle of page 128, the Invisible Man says he thinks being invisible would mean that his troubles were over, that he could do whatever he wished with impunity, that no one any longer could tell him what to do, and that he could take all the money he wanted anytime, anywhere.

XXIV. The Plan That Failed

Vocabulary

aghast – shocked with disbelief

disheveled – unkempt, messy

hitherto – up to this point

intolerable – unable to be patient with

judicious – wise and sound

pitched – thrown

publicity – public knowledge as reported in the newspapers

thrust – thrown

wanton – without purpose

1. Has the Invisible Man, thus far in the novel, had any successful human relationships, or has he been a man alone and outside of society? Discuss how that situation may have entered into his decision to try to find the key to becoming invisible and have power over others.

The author does not write of any successful relationships. The Invisible Man seems to have been angry with everyone since his college days. He also did not have a good relationship with his father. The Invisible Man may feel the need to have power over those who have treated him as an “outsider” or “different.”

2. Why do you suppose Dr. Kemp keeps prodding Griffin to keep talking?

Kemp is probably waiting for the police to arrive. The only way to keep Griffin in the room is to keep his story on track.

3. In the discussion on pages 132-133, how does the Invisible Man seem to be changing?

He now is interested in beginning a “Reign of Terror,” including domination and indiscriminate killing of anyone who opposes him.

4. What plea does Dr. Kemp make to the Invisible Man as the police arrive?

On page 133, Dr. Kemp pleads with Griffin not to be “a lone wolf,” to publish the formula, and to think of the good work that might be done with the tool of invisibility.

5. Who enters Kemp’s office looking for the Invisible Man?

It is Colonel Adye, the chief of police, and two officers.

XXV. The Hunting of the Invisible Man

Vocabulary

assimilated – turned into body tissue; digested

astir – moving around, wide awake

garrison – a fort of soldiers

implements – tools

maiming – disabling by injury

1. What words does Dr. Kemp use to describe the Invisible Man to Dr. Adye, which show that Kemp sees the Invisible Man as a monster?

On page 135, Dr. Kemp says that the Invisible Man “is mad” and “inhuman” and accuses him of “brutal self-seeking.”

2. What is the significance of “powdered glass”?

It is not revealed, but students should figure out that if glass is spread on the roads, since Griffin wears no shoes, his feet will get ripped to shreds.

3. In the last paragraph of this chapter, Dr. Kemp says that the Invisible Man “has cut himself off from his kind.” What does he mean by this?

It could mean that he has cut himself off from other human beings.

XXVI. The Wicksteed Murder

Vocabulary

antagonist – an opponent

bludgeons – clubs

campaign – a planned attack

confidences – secrets

downland – large areas of open field

drift – a small area, bank

ecstatically – excitedly

egotistical – self-oriented; self-serving; arrogant

feeble – weak

grimly – savagely

hypothesis – an educated guess

incessant – constant

inexplicably – without explanation

inoffensive – not harmful

Vocabulary (Cont.)

irascibility – easily aroused anger

ken – knowledge; vision

locomotive – having motion

malignant – evil, life-threatening

nettles – thorny bushes

pantomime – a silent performance using gestures and expressions

parallelogram – a four-sided geometrical figure

pent – held in; repressed

perceptions – views

quarry – prey

re-asserted – confirmed

remorselessly – heartlessly, pitilessly

siege – to attack

steward – a manager of a house and grounds

stringent – strict, tight

stunned – stopped; shocked

treachery – betrayal

unaccountably – without basis or reason

undeniable – not able to be called false

1. What overexaggeration does Wells use at the beginning of this chapter? Why do you think he uses it?

Wells states that humanity in general is saved by Griffin's inaction. It would seem to be overstated for the sake of suspense or terror, but simply because someone is invisible does not make that person invincible.

2. The plot of this novel is filled with conflict. Would you say it is a novel of a man against nature, man against himself, or man against man? Give a reason for your answer.

This is mainly a novel of man against man because the Invisible Man is in conflict with all of society. He seems to have no conflict within himself about his behavior, though. There are a few instances when the weather does cause him problems.

3. The Invisible Man uses part of a fence to murder Wicksteed. What symbolism can be read into a broken fence and the consequent murder?

If a fence is thought of as a barrier or a way of marking a boundary, the murder of Wicksteed by the Invisible Man indicates that Griffin has crossed the human boundary of civilized man, and when he committed this murder, he could not re-enter into society.

4. What bit of humanity does Wells allow Griffin?

When Wells speculates about the Invisible Man's throwing away the murder weapon, the author allows for the possibility that "the sight of his victim...bloody and pitiful at his feet, may have released some long pent fountain of remorse..." (Pg. 139)

5. What words are used at the end of this chapter to describe the Invisible Man as one who has crossed the boundary of a civilized man?

He is called "hunted," "active, powerful, angry and malignant." The implication of these words is that he is more an animal, or a monster, than a man.

XXVII. The Siege of Kemp's House

Vocabulary

confound – a mild curse

countered –opposed

crossbar – a metal bar placed across a door for security

desisted – stopped

epoch – a long period of time

explicit – very detailed and easy to understand

hard by – close by

missive – a letter

multitudinous – made up of many parts

parleying – discussing

penultimate – next to last

pillar box – a type of mailbox

prosaic – straightforward

pursuant – relating to

receded – went back into

reservation – a qualification

resounding – echoing loudly

sullenly – unhappily, glumly

terse – short and to the point

vain – without result

vivid – clear

wrested – taken roughly

1. How would you describe the letter the Invisible Man wrote to Dr. Kemp?

The threats of the Invisible Man to commit mass terrorist killings shows how megalomaniacal he has become. He sees himself and his imagined rule over Britain as the "Epoch of the Invisible Man." (Pg. 141) He feels he is invincible. He seems now to be completely without scruples and is losing touch with reality. A sane man would not announce where or whom he would attack next; it can be argued that Griffin has now lost touch with reality completely.

2. Dr. Kemp orders his housekeeper to lock all the doors and windows. When the Invisible Man lived at the Coach and Horses, he locked all the doors and windows. What does each of these events symbolize?

The symbolism is that of shutting out something that is feared. In Dr. Kemp's case, it is shutting out one dangerous man, and in the case of the Invisible Man, it is shutting out all other persons in the world because he finds all human beings dangerous to him.

3. Even though the Invisible Man wrested Adye's gun from him and promised not to shoot him, he actually did so. Why?

When Adye attempts to retake his gun, the Invisible Man sees that Adye has not done as ordered, and he shoots him.

4. There have been violent scenes in the early chapters of this novel, as well as violence in this chapter. Is there any difference between how the author chose to present the earlier violence and how he presents it in this chapter?

In the earlier chapters, violence was presented in rather a slapstick, humorous manner, especially when many of the villagers were involved in scenes with the Invisible Man. The violence in this chapter not only has no slapstick, humorous quality about it, but it is also invested with a very real sense of menace. Two men have, after all, been murdered.

5. With what elements of suspense does the chapter end?

We are left to wonder where Kemp is, and what has happened to him.

XXVIII. The Hunter Hunted

Vocabulary

abutted – next to

accordance – an agreement

albinism – a condition in which an individual lacks normal skin color resulting in very light, white skin, and reddish eyes

apparition – a ghost, spirit

assailant – an attacker

distinguished – seen clearly

evades – gets away from

excavation – a large hole

garnets – semi-precious red stones

greengrocer – a man who sells fruits and vegetables

indescribably – unable to be defined

indicative – pointing toward or at

Vocabulary (Cont.)

instantaneously – immediately
intricate – elaborate, complicated, detailed
laburnum – a kind of flowering shrub
navvies – rough, tough men of hard labor; construction workers
pelting – running vigorously
pitched – fell as if thrown
ploughed – [*plowed*] moved with speed and force
precipitately – prematurely
prone – lying face down
purview – a range of sight
raw flints – sharp stones
reeling – spinning around
scurrying – running quickly
shamming – faking, pretending
shrieked – screamed
stalwart – strong, husky
transitory – temporary; short-lived
vaulted – jumped over
vehemently – with great vocal force
veranda – a porch or patio

1. Discuss the manner of the Invisible Man's death considering what moral the author may have wished to present to the reader.

The Invisible Man was beaten to death by various members of the town below Dr. Kemp's home. Men, women, and children witnessed the brutal killing, and no one raised a voice against it. This type of death resonates with ancient ritual deaths. The author may wish to call attention to his view that a price is to be paid by those who stray too far from the boundaries set by society, as well as by those who interfere with the laws of Nature.

2. How and why has Wells changed the point of view of this chapter?

The point of view has returned to the third person. This, obviously, is the only method Wells could have used to show the Invisible Man's death.

3. What happens to Griffin after his death?

He reappears. The villagers can now see him.

The Epilogue

Vocabulary

algal – related to algae

asseverations – serious claims

corpulent – fat

decorum – politeness

eminent – of high quality

enterprise – a system of activity

parsimony – stinginess, frugality

pensive – thoughtful

protrusion – a bulge; extension

reminiscences – fond memories

sojourned – stayed briefly, visited

solemnly – with great respect and seriousness

subsides – settles down

tinged – having a slight trace

1. Who is the owner-landlord of the inn near Port Stowe and what is his reputation?

Mr. Marvel, the tramp who retained the three books of the Invisible Man's scientific experiments, is the landlord. He has a reputation as a wise and thrifty man.

2. In what way does Mr. Marvel imitate the Invisible Man every Sunday morning?

He, too, locks the door, closes the blinds, and pores over the same three books of experiments that the Invisible Man did. He also cherishes the secret that is in those books. He would like to be able to figure out the formula to make himself invisible and from that invisibility gain great power, just as the Invisible Man did.

The Invisible Man

Study Guide Student Copy

I. The Strange Man's Arrival

Vocabulary

animation – adding life to

audible – able to be heard

brevity – shortness, conciseness

brooked – tolerated

concisely – quickly

contempt – hatred, dislike

deftly – quickly and skillfully

eloquent – vividly expressive

haggler – an argumentative person; bickerer

hitherto – until that time

impenetrable – unable to be seen through

inscrutable – mysterious

lymphatic – here meaning sluggish

muslin – cotton material

obscured – made unnoticeable

perplexity – confusion

portmanteau – a suitcase, briefcase

resolutely – firmly, with perseverance

scythe – a long, curved, sharp blade attached to a pole and used for cutting down tall grass or plants

sidelights – sidepieces for glasses to block peripheral vision

side-whisker – sideburns

staccato – in an abrupt way, quick

stateliness – dignity

swathed – wrapped

tangent – a thought or action unrelated to the current though process or situation

1. Describe some of the actions and appearance of the stranger upon arrival at the Coach and Horses.

II. Mr. Teddy Henfrey's First Impressions

Vocabulary

apprehension – nervousness

ascertain – to figure out, determine

computations – calculations

constitutionally – naturally

conveyance – a carriage, transportation

excruciating – agonizing

germinated – took root and grew; sprouted

grotesque – extremely misshapen, distorted or unnatural-looking; bizarre, unusual

humbugging – faking, pretending

interminable – seemingly endless, continual

rated – a shortened form of *berated*; scolded

ruddy – reddish in color

scanty – meager, inadequate

scrutinised – looked over very closely

subdued – overcame, conquered

suppressed – held back, held down, repressed

unassuming – not showy, modest; simple

uncanny – weird, eerie, unusual

vestiges – small traces, remains

wim' – [dialect] women

wropped – [dialect] wrapped

1. Who is Mr. Teddy Henfrey, and how did he get along with the stranger?
2. Describe the differences in the dialects of Mr. Henfrey and the stranger.
3. Quote the sentence in which the stranger gives information as to what his work is. Does this answer seem odd?
4. Find a metaphor on page 20.

III. The Thousand and One Bottles

Vocabulary

athwart – from side to side, across

balance – a scale used to weigh things

bristle – to stand on end (referring to hair)

bungs – seals or corks, used for bottles

cauterised – sterilized through heat or burning

chiffonier – a tall chest of drawers

concave – curved inwardly

concussion – the noise of a crash

crepitation – a squeaking or crackling sound

dilettante – superficial

exasperation – an extreme state of frustration

fatuities – absurdities, silliness

flanking – sideways

fluted – grooved, outspread

forge – a blacksmith's workshop

hobnails – flat-headed nails used to shoe horses' hooves

incomprehensible – unable to be understood

indecipherable – unclear

indeterminate – unclear

infinity – endless time and space

interrogative – questioning

piebald – spotted; splotchy

soliloquy – a speech spoken aloud, but also to one's self; inner thoughts

stror – [dialect] straw

1. What is unusual about the arrival of the stranger's luggage?
2. Describe what happens when Fearenside brings the stranger's luggage to his room.
3. What does Hall see in the room?
4. What theories about the stranger do Teddy Henfrey and Fearenside hold?

IV. Mr. Cuss Interviews the Stranger

Vocabulary

assertion – a statement
averse – unwilling; reluctant
belated – delayed, late
bludgeoning – beating, intimidating
bogies – evil or frightening spirits; bogeymen
chronic – continuing, lasting
comprehensible – able to be understood
conscientiously – faithfully; knowingly
coveted – desired
cursorily – briefly, with depth
draught – [*draft*] a slight, cool puff of air; breeze
expedient – a means to an end; suitability
fitfully – nervously
gesticulations – gestures; hand movements
imprecation – a curse
infernal – cruel; hellish
jauntily – stylishly
magnitude – size; importance
ostentatiously – in a showy fashion, arrogantly
penury – extreme poverty
sagely – wisely
skirmishes – short, minor disputes
spasmodic – happening in sudden outbursts
tentative – hesitant
theologian – one who studies religion
tremulously – nervously; timidly
unendurable – unbearable, intolerable
unfounded – unproven, speculative
venomously – hatefully; poisonously
vicar – a priest

1. Why does the narrator intrude into the story?

VII. The Unveiling of the Stranger

Vocabulary

aerial – from out of thin air

akimbo – standing with hands on hips, elbows out

apex – the highest point

bumpkin – an uneducated or awkward country person

conjuring – bringing about by magical powers

dandies – fashionably dressed men

decapitated – headless

deliberated – thought carefully about

endeavouring – trying

ensigns – flags or banners

expostulation – an objection, protest

forthwith – immediately

gipsies – day workers who travel from town to town

hobbledehoy – an adolescent boy

incongruity – inconsistency

incontinently – without control

intervened – interfered

mêlée – a chaotic and confused brawl

metamorphosed – completely changed

plumes – feathers

proprietor – an owner

pungent – a strong, biting odor

remittance – a sum of money sent through the mail

repulse – a rejection

resplendent – bright and flashy

rout – an overpowering defeat

sexton – a church employee

smote – hit with force

tangible – something that is real; able to be touched or seen

thrice – three times

truncheon – a club

tumult – a noisy commotion

vociferous – loud-mouthed, boisterous

waistcoat – the top portion of a suit; a jacket

wenches – young women or female servants

whisk – to make a light, sweeping motion

1. What is Mrs. Hall trying to do in her conversation with the stranger?
2. What can you infer the people suspect is the reason the stranger now has money?
3. What is the result of Mrs. Hall's badgering of the stranger?
4. There is a good deal of humor in the description of the melee going on as the entire village tries to subdue the Invisible Man. Despite this, a frightening thing happens. Describe it.

VIII. In Transit

Vocabulary

beheld – saw

cultivated – cultured, educated

downs – rolling plains, valleys

indisputable – unable to be questioned

phenomenon – a peculiar or unexplainable occurrence

1. What happens in this brief chapter?

IX. Mr. Thomas Marvel

Vocabulary

agrimony – a group of small flowering plants

assimilated – absorbed

bristling – rising and falling irregularly

cadging – begging

copious – plentiful

desolate – empty

eccentricity – oddness

embonpoint – [French] plumpness

flabbergasted – surprised, awestruck

flints – types of stones

fluctuating – changing from one side to the other

furze – a type of shrub

impotent – without power

inclination – a tendency

interlocutor – a person with whom one has a conversation

irradiated – projected, shed, thrown

owdacious – [dialect: *bodacious*] extremely

peewit – a small bird

promiscuous – casual, without standards

visage – a face, facial features, appearance

1. The first sentence of this chapter describes the tramp, Thomas Marvel, in very elaborate language. What could be a simpler way to describe Mr. Marvel?

2. Find a simile on page 57.

X. Mr. Marvel's Visit to Iping

Vocabulary

agitation – nervousness

alacrity – eagerness

apprising – advising

askew – crooked

belied – contradicted, opposed

bowler hats – round, black hats with narrow brims

bunting – colorful cloth or draping material used as decoration

braces – suspenders

curate – a clergyman in charge of a parish

furtive – sneaky

impregnable – unable to be attacked or overcome

inadvertently – accidentally

inconceivable – unable to be fully understood

induce – to persuade

jasmine – a very aromatic flowering shrub

languid – weak, without energy

mottled – blotched, spotted

perceptions – judgments; ideas

promenading – walking; dancing

qualms – misgivings, doubts

roundabout – a carousel, merry-go-round

scepticism – [*skepticism*] doubtfulness

subsequent – later, succeeding

supposition – a guess

transcending – exceeding, surpassing

1. What is going on in the village on the afternoon of Whit-Monday?

2. What happens to Mr. Huxter, the tobacconist?

XII. The Invisible Man Loses His Temper

Vocabulary

burly – muscular, strong-looking

cataclysmal – disastrous

clambered – crawled

conceiving – judging

crestfallen – disappointed, rejected

felled – cut down

gauds – showy ornaments

grimaces – facial expressions similar to frowns

indecorous – not in good taste; improper

indistinct – not clear

intonation – a tone of voice

kilt – a skirt-like garment typically worn by Scottish men

obdurate – stubborn, hard-headed

obliquely – diagonally

passed muster – deemed acceptable

pell-mell – confusedly; quickly in all directions

smiting – hitting

till – a primitive cash register; cash drawer

1. What do Mr. Hall and Teddy hear?
2. Mr. Cuss says that “He’s fighting mad!” (Pg. 68) Is the Invisible Man really insane?
3. Describe the Invisible Man’s escalating anger and its effect on the village.
4. What is learned at the end of this chapter about Iping and the Invisible Man?

XIII. Mr. Marvel Discusses His Resignation

Vocabulary

consternation – frustration; puzzling dismay

floundering – clumsy; confused

funk – cowardliness

gloaming – twilight, dusk

ineffectual – having no result

ligature – a binding material such as string

obsolete – out of fashion, no longer used

rubicund – reddish-colored

timorously – with fear or tension

yokels – rural, unsophisticated people

1. How would you describe the Invisible Man's relationship with Mr. Marvel as they walk along the road to Bramblehurst?

XIV. At Port Stowe

Vocabulary

august – honorable, dignified

bandying – exchanging

cordon – an area or line of protection by policemen

dexterously – skillfully, cleverly

engrossed – deeply absorbed

gait – a manner of walking

imperceptible – unable to be seen or felt

incoherently – not making sense

monologue – a speech spoken by one person

opulence – wealth

receding – falling back

recriminations – criticisms

retorted – answered quickly and pointedly

rouleaux – [French] small rolls (usually referring to rolled coins)

thence – from that time on

1. What has the mariner read?
2. What happens to Mr. Marvel when he brags about his knowledge of the Invisible Man to the mariner? What excuse does Marvel give when the Invisible Man intrudes?
3. What does Mr. Marvel's willingness to tell a stranger about the Invisible Man show about his trustworthiness, even in the face of the threats of the Invisible Man? Does this hold any implications for their future relationship?
4. What has been happening throughout the area?

XVII. Dr. Kemp's Visitor

Vocabulary

balustrade – a banister, railing

bawled – shouted

coagulates – becomes solid; clots

confederate – an ally; accomplice

counterpane – a bedspread

cur – a cowardly person

curtly – rudely, sharply

decorous – beautiful; proper

facetted – angled

interstices – narrow spaces between objects

larder – a pantry; cupboard shelves

methodical – logical

nares – nostrils

pharynx – a part of the breathing anatomy of a living creature

quill – a pen made from a feather

reiterated – repeated

rustic – an uneducated, simple person

shrillness – a sharp, grating sound

slackly – slowly, without great purpose

speculation – a guess, hint

1. Describe the sequence of Dr. Kemp's reactions to his first meeting with the Invisible Man.
2. What is learned about the background of the Invisible Man in this chapter?
3. What emotions does the Invisible Man display toward Dr. Kemp?

XVIII. The Invisible Man Sleeps

Vocabulary

baldly – bluntly; unadorned

breach – to break a contract or promise

diffused – spread out

ejaculating – expressing

fabrication – a lie

flagrant – very bad

hamper – to stand in the way of; hinder

hearth – the stone area in front of a fireplace

homicidal – capable of murder

incredulous – hard to believe, skeptical

mania – insanity

meditation – deep thought

pallor – having low color; dimness

preconceptions – opinions formed before having complete knowledge

profound – very deep

rent – tore; opened hastily

shoal – a crowd

1. Dr. Kemp weighs all the happenings of the night and what he learns from newspaper reports while the Invisible Man sleeps. Discuss Dr. Kemp's thinking about the conflict between the scientific certainties he holds and what his actual experiences of the night have shown him.

2. What makes Dr. Kemp decide to seek the help of Colonel Adye in Port Burdock?

XIX. Certain First Principles

Vocabulary

bounder – a man without principles

elusively – mysteriously

hemmed-in – restrained; surrounded

knavish – crafty, sly

opaque – not allowing light to pass through

physiology – the study of living organisms and their functions

pigment – coloring

provincial – not particularly sophisticated

suffices – meets the present need

translucencies – objects allowing light to pass through, but preventing clear images

transparent – able to be seen through clearly

1. Dr. Kemp tells the Invisible Man that his (the invisible Man's) secret is known throughout the country. What does Dr. Kemp also tell him, which is a lie?
2. State a generalization about life expressed by the Invisible Man.
3. Even though this is a science fiction novel, discuss your opinion of whether the Invisible Man's explanation of the scientific principles of optical density and light reflection and refraction are sound.
4. What shocking confession did the Invisible Man make about something which happened during his research studies after college.

XX. At the House in Great Portland Street

Vocabulary

acute – sharp-minded
apathetic – without feeling
attainment – achievement
attenuated – weakened
barracks – temporary housing, especially for soldiers
cant – a custom
cistern – a vat for holding water
commercialism – profit-making
compass – to comprehend
costermonger – a person who sells vegetables, fruits, and other food articles from a wagon or cart
countenance – a face
desecrated – spoiled, misused
disreputable – having a bad reputation
drink-sodden –drunken
dynamos – generators; machines that create energy
elation – joy
ethereal – delicate
feverishly – intensely emotional or nervous
garbled – mumbled
gaunt – thin, lanky
ghastly – horrible
impunity – freedom, exemption from
inanity – foolishness, senselessness
inarticulate – incomprehensible, not understandable; not expressed in words
inconclusive – without a proper ending
insensible – not feeling anything
invigorated – filled with energy
iridescent – having many colors
jerry builders – people who build cheaply or poorly
liable – held responsible for, accountable
opium – a narcotic painkiller
pallid – pale, gray
racking – deep, intense
radiating – going out from one central point
rank – foul-smelling
seethe – the act of boiling; an outburst
snivelling – having a runny nose
sordid – unclean, immoral
squalid – offensive to the senses
strychnine – a poison
summit – the top
tapetum – a layer of membranes located in the eye

Vocabulary (Cont.)

teeming – filled with

thicket – an overgrowth of shrubbery or plants

tonic – a drink that makes one feel better

transient – fleeting

truckle-bed – a single bed, usually on wheels and very low to the; also called a trundle bed

vivisecting – dissecting live animals

whence – from where

writ – a legal document

1. Name two things in this chapter which show a lack of human feeling in the Invisible Man.

2. Describe the process by which the Invisible Man became invisible.

3. What crime does the Invisible Man commit in this chapter?

XXI. In Oxford Street

Vocabulary

amenable – agreeable to
convulsive – unnatural twisting body movement
eddy – a flow of water or other liquid
exaltation – a state of ecstasy
folly – a mistake
fore – toward the front
hansom – a covered carriage
host – a group
impeded – got in the way of; hindered
impulse – an uncontrolled desire
intimations – hints
passably – acceptably
perambulator – a baby carriage
portico – a porch
resonance – a sound
revel – to bask, take pleasure
sallied– walked
scoffing – sneering
subtle – slight, not obvious
throng – a large group of people; crowd
trodden – walked upon, trampled
unaccountable – not able to be categorized
unnerved – bothered; confused
urchins – small street children

1. A cursory look at this entire chapter, much of the previous, and many of the remaining ones shows that they are written from Griffin's memory. What point of view is used, the first or the third person? Why do you think the author uses this particular point of view? What literary term is represented in this revealing of how Griffin became invisible?

XXII. In the Emporium

Vocabulary

accost – to attack

ample – plentiful

burgundy – a type of wine

contrived – planned

depredations – damages

diminished – grew smaller

droning – talking on and on

elaborated – created; expanded upon

evoke – to bring out

festoons – decorations

flock – cotton or wool used to stuff mattresses

full tilt – at full speed

gnarled – misshapen

insurmountable – unable to overcome

ironmongery – objects made of

lair – a den; a hiding place

lanky – tall and skinny

meandering – winding, weaving

plunder – stolen items

procure – to obtain, acquire

ransack – to search for and take

receptacles – containers

refuge – a place to feel safe and secure

sacking – a heavy material

serenity – calmness, tranquility

stonily – without emotion

vaguest – the most unclear

vista – a view

vociferating – crying out loudly against something

wretched – miserable, awful

1. An emporium is a large store which sells a wide variety of merchandise. Why would the Invisible Man choose to hide in a store?
2. Find an instance of humor in the description of the shop clerks.
3. What does the Invisible Man say was his major difficulty in his disguise previously?

XXIII. In Drury Lane

Vocabulary

absurdity – ridiculousness

ado – bother, fuss

aglare – wide-eyed

bandy – bow-legged

beetle-browed – thick, dark eyebrows that are close together

benzoline – a chemical often used as a dissolving agent

byway – a side street

calico – a type of fabric

caricature – a cartoon drawing exaggerating the features of a person

cashmere – fine wool

checked – stopped

chink – an opening, crack

circuitously – in a roundabout fashion

conventions – habits, norms, ways

credible – believable, acceptable

diabolically – devilishly, evilly

disillusionment – a great disappointment

dismal – lonely looking, unfriendly

dominoes – hooded robes with facemasks that were worn by actors

edged – squeezed by

forego – to lose

impromptu – quickly set up, spur-of-the-moment, spontaneous

lout – a foolish or stupid person

novel – new

plank – a floorboard

pugnaciously – combatively; ready to fight

purblind – dull; slow to understand

reckons – considers

render – to present

rouge – makeup for the cheeks

routing – searching

save – except

scullery – a room off the kitchen where meals are prepared or dishes washed

sham – fake, not real

sinister – threatening

smuts – sooty dirt

sovereigns – coins

spitefully – hatefully, revengefully

stealthy – sneaky

subsequently – later

sumptuous – magnificent, extravagant

tomfoolery – nonsense actions, tricks, or objects

turnings – corners

undertone – a low voice, almost unable to be heard

XXIV. The Plan That Failed

Vocabulary

aghast – shocked with disbelief

disheveled – unkempt, messy

hitherto – up to this point

intolerable – unable to be patient with

judicious – wise and sound

pitched – thrown

publicity – public knowledge as reported in the newspapers

thrust – thrown

wanton – without purpose

1. Has the Invisible Man, thus far in the novel, had any successful human relationships, or has he been a man alone and outside of society? Discuss how that situation may have entered into his decision to try to find the key to becoming invisible and have power over others.
2. Why do you suppose Dr. Kemp keeps prodding Griffin to keep talking?
3. In the discussion on pages 132-133, how does the Invisible Man seem to be changing?
4. What plea does Dr. Kemp make to the Invisible Man as the police arrive?
5. Who enters Kemp's office looking for the Invisible Man?

XXVI. The Wicksteed Murder

Vocabulary

antagonist – an opponent
bludgeons – clubs
campaign – a planned attack
confidences – secrets
downland – large areas of open field
drift – a small area, bank
ecstatically – excitedly
egotistical – self-oriented; self-serving; arrogant
feeble – weak
grimly – savagely
hypothesis – an educated guess
incessant – constant
inexplicably – without explanation
inoffensive – not harmful
irascibility – easily aroused anger
ken – knowledge; vision
locomotive – having motion
malignant – evil, life-threatening
nettles – thorny bushes
pantomime – a silent performance using gestures and expressions
parallelogram – a four-sided geometrical figure
pent – held in; repressed
perceptions – views
quarry – prey
re-asserted – confirmed
remorselessly – heartlessly, pitilessly
siege – to attack
steward – a manager of a house and grounds
stringent – strict, tight
stunned – stopped; shocked
treachery – betrayal
unaccountably – without basis or reason
undeniable – not able to be called false

1. What overexaggeration does Wells use at the beginning of this chapter? Why do you think he uses it?

XXVIII. The Hunter Hunted

Vocabulary

abutted – next to

accordance – an agreement

albinism – a condition in which an individual lacks normal skin color resulting in very light, white skin, and reddish eyes

apparition – a ghost, spirit

assailant – an attacker

distinguished – seen clearly

evades – gets away from

excavation – a large hole

garnets – semi-precious red stones

greengrocer – a man who sells fruits and vegetables

indescribably – unable to be defined

indicative – pointing toward or at

instantaneously – immediately

intricate – elaborate, complicated, detailed

laburnum – a kind of flowering shrub

navvies – rough, tough men of hard labor; construction workers

pelting – running vigorously

pitched – fell as if thrown

ploughed – [*plowed*] moved with speed and force

precipitately – prematurely

prone – lying face down

purview – a range of sight

raw flints – sharp stones

reeling – spinning around

scurrying – running quickly

shamming – faking, pretending

shrieked – screamed

stalwart – strong, husky

transitory – temporary; short-lived

vaulted – jumped over

vehemently – with great vocal force

veranda – a porch or patio

1. Discuss the manner of the Invisible Man's death considering what moral the author may have wished to present to the reader.
2. How and why has Wells changed the point of view of this chapter?
3. What happens to Griffin after his death?

The Epilogue

Vocabulary

algal – related to algae

asseverations – serious claims

corpulent – fat

decorum – politeness

eminent – of high quality

enterprise – a system of activity

parsimony – stinginess, frugality

pensive – thoughtful

protrusion – a bulge; extension

reminiscences – fond memories

sojourned – stayed briefly, visited

solemnly – with great respect and seriousness

subsides – settles down

tinged – having a slight trace

1. Who is the owner-landlord of the inn near Port Stowe and what is his reputation?

2. In what way does Mr. Marvel imitate the Invisible Man every Sunday morning?

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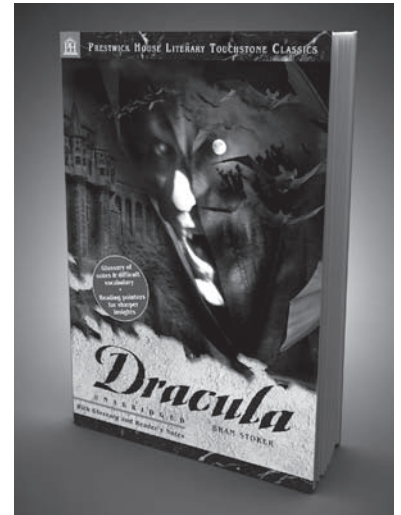
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