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The Invisible Man

18 Chapters

Day 1-18

W07-W12

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The Stranger at the Inn

On a cold February afternoon, a stranger walked through the snow into the English village of Iping. Nobody had ever seen him before. His head was wrapped in white bandages, big dark glasses hid his eyes, and a broad hat shadowed the rest of his face. He carried a small bag and wore gloves, even indoors. He went straight to the inn called the Coach and Horses and asked the owner's wife, Mrs. Hall, for a room with a fire. He paid in advance and told her he must not be disturbed. Mrs. Hall nodded, but she felt uneasy. The visitor locked the door of his room and sat by the fire all day. In a village where everybody knew everybody, the news spread quickly. People whispered about his bandages at the shop, at the church, and in the street. Some thought he had been hurt in an accident. Others thought he was hiding from the law. The children found it all very exciting, and they watched the windows of the inn from a safe distance. Mrs. Hall's husband shook his head and said that a guest who pays on time is a good guest, no matter what he wears. Still, she could not stop herself from glancing at the closed door whenever she passed it. ★ A strange man came to the village. Nobody could guess yet that the stranger's bandages were hiding a secret far stranger than any of their guesses, and that the quiet village would soon arrive at the center of the biggest mystery of its history.

THINK What was the stranger's head wrapped in?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 2: A Room with Closed Curtains

Over the next few days, the stranger's habits only made the village more curious. He stayed in his room almost all day and worked at the table with bottles, glass tubes, and heavy books. He told Mrs. Hall that he was doing important experiments and that she must never come in without knocking. When she brought his meals, he turned his back, and she could see only the edge of his bandages. He was polite but short with her, and he paid his bills with coins from his pocket. Sometimes the clinking of glass could be heard from the hall. Sometimes the stranger walked the lanes at dusk, but only when no one was around. Whenever somebody greeted him, he lowered his head and hurried away. A dog barked at him, and he waved it off with a gloved hand. The village women said he must be a poor, wounded man and deserved kindness. The men at the inn said an honest man has nothing to hide. Curious children dared each other to peek through his window, but the curtains were always shut. In the evenings, the other guests heard odd sounds from above: a low muttering, a chair scraping, a sudden sharp sneeze. Mrs. Hall told them it was none of their business, though she was as curious as anyone. ★ A strange man came to a small village. For a while, the villagers argued about him over their evening meals, completely sure of their own theories, and completely wrong about every one.

THINK What did the stranger tell Mrs. Hall he was doing?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: The Village Wonders

By the end of the first week, the stranger was the only topic of conversation in Iping. At the baker's, people said he must be a famous artist or an escaped prisoner. At the blacksmith's, they argued about whether he was a spy. Mrs. Hall, who saw him most, kept her opinion to herself. She noticed that he wanted no visitors and that his money was beginning to run short. Once, when she opened the door by mistake, he jumped up, pulled his hat low, and told her very sharply to leave. She saw a pair of bare, empty sleeves on the chair and thought she must be tired. That night, she wondered if she had made a mistake by letting him stay. She told her husband, who only laughed. The villagers decided to wait and see. They did not like secrets, but they were not unkind people. The vicar, a gentle man, said that a stranger should be judged by his actions and not by his bandages. The shopkeeper counted the packages that arrived for him: bottles, tubes, and boxes marked with the names of chemists. Surely, she said, no ordinary man needed so many things. The whole village kept an eye on the post cart. ★ A strange man came to a small village with his face completely covered. And as the snow melted and spring crept in, the villagers of Iping learned an old lesson about fear and judgment, long before they learned the truth.

THINK Whom did people think he might be?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: A Student of Light

Years before he came to Iping, the stranger had been a young student named Griffin. He was tall, clever, and impatient, with pale skin and white hair. Griffin loved science more than anything, and he especially loved the study of light. He wanted to know why glass is clear and why paper is white. His teachers admired him, but his friends found him strange, because he always worked late and often forgot to eat. After he finished university, he moved to a cheap room in London and began a long course of research. He told no one what he was doing. He bought books and instruments with the little money he had, and he worked day and night. One thought drove him on: if a body could be made to bend light, just as clear glass does, it could not be seen. At first the idea sounded like a joke, even to him. But slowly, as the numbers and tests added up, he began to believe it. Griffin knew he was on the edge of a great discovery. Late at night, when the street was quiet, he would stand at the window and watch the lamps being lit in other people's homes. He felt the strange distance between himself and everyone else, but he told himself that discovery always asks for a little loneliness. ★ **He was a scientist with a secret.** Alone in his little room, he felt both joy and fear, because he understood that his research might change the world, and that he must keep it hidden until he was ready.

THINK What was Griffin's hair like?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: The Dangerous Project

Griffin worked on his project for three long years. At the beginning, he tested his idea on small things. First he made a piece of wool cloth disappear. Then he made a white cat vanish, except for its bright eyes, which he could not change. Nobody noticed, because the landlord had no idea what went on in the upstairs room. His neighbors complained about strange smells, but he paid no attention. As the project grew, the money ran out. He borrowed from his father, an old man who did not understand why his son looked so tired. The scientist did not tell his father or anyone else the truth. He was afraid that someone would steal his work, or that others would call it impossible. He also began to see how dangerous the discovery could be if it fell into the wrong hands. A man who could not be seen could go anywhere and take anything. Still, he could not stop. There was an urge in him stronger than caution. He wanted to be the first. Every night he wrote his results in three notebooks, in a private code. He told himself that one day the world would read them and understand. Until then, the notebooks were the only friends who knew everything he did. ★ He was a scientist with a big secret. And the more he kept it, the more it separated him from the people who might have helped him think about what he was doing.

THINK How long did Griffin work on the project?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 6: The Last Secret Discovery

After three years, only one problem remained. Griffin had found the chemicals and the machine that could change a living thing into something invisible, and he had tested them on small animals. But he had not yet tried them on a person. No one else knew he was on the edge of success. His father had passed away in the meantime, and Griffin had spent the little money that was left. He had no friends to ask, and no one to warn him. He stood in his room late one winter night and looked at the machine for a long time. He remembered the way he had loved science as a boy, and the way a discovery had once felt like a gift. Now the gift felt heavy. If he told the world, other people would copy his idea and call it theirs. If he kept it to himself, he would carry it alone, and no one would ever say that he had been right. He chose to keep the secret and go on. He remembered a teacher who once said that a great scientist must care about people as well as numbers. At the time, he had thought it was a silly remark. Tonight, in the quiet room, the words came back to him, but he pushed them away and turned down the lamp. ★ He was a scientist with a big secret that he could not share with anyone. He packed his notebooks into a bag, put out the lamp, and went to bed thinking of tomorrow, the day he would try the final experiment on himself.

THINK What had Griffin not yet tried it on?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: The Bold Experiment

On the night of the experiment, Griffin lit the lamps in his small London room and checked every machine twice. His hands were cold, and his heart beat fast. He drank a special mixture he had prepared and stood in front of the great glass. Slowly, he felt a tingling in his skin. He looked at his hands, and they grew pale, then clear, then gone. First his arms vanished, then his body, until only the room was left in the mirror. He laughed out loud, and his laugh sounded strange in the empty air. Everything he had dreamed about had come true. He was the first person in the world to disappear without moving an inch. For an hour, he walked through the room, touched the walls, and pushed open the door. He felt powerful and free. He was sure that every problem in his life was solved. Outside the window, a cart rattled by, and he saw a boy look straight through the glass at the place where he stood. The boy saw nothing. It was a small moment, but it left a chill on the back of Griffin's invisible neck. ★ He became invisible after an experiment. Yet there was one thing he had forgotten to think about, a little thing that seemed unimportant on the night of his great success: what he would do, and who he would be, when the excitement faded and morning came. That bold experiment, he would soon discover, was the beginning of a very lonely life, and it left him standing completely alone.

THINK What did Griffin drink?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 8: Invisible in London

The next morning, Griffin woke up cold. He had no clothes on his body, because clothes would have been seen floating in the air, and so he had to walk through the winter city with nothing on and nothing to hide in. The first problem was the cold. The second was hunger. He could not buy bread, because a coin would appear to float in the air. He tried to sit on a bench, but a policeman stopped to look at the strange dent in the snow. In the busy street, people bumped into him without knowing why. A dog barked and followed him, a cat stared straight at the spot where he stood, and a small child pointed and cried. He dodged horse carts and ran from the noise. At night he slept on a doorstep, where a storm of rain made his body shiver. The freedom that had made him laugh the night before now made him afraid. He found a pile of old rags behind a shop and wrapped them around his feet. They helped a little with the cold, but a woman screamed when she saw the rags moving along by themselves. He ran, and his heart beat like a drum. ★

He became invisible after a bold experiment. He found that no one could help him, because no one could see that he needed help. He felt completely alone in the world, and he began to wish that he had told someone his secret before he drank the mixture.

THINK *Why was the first problem the cold?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: The Hunt for a Cure

Griffin decided that he could not stay in London. He stole a coat, a scarf, a hat, gloves, and a pair of dark glasses from a theater shop, and for the first time in days he looked like a real person. He tore strips of cloth and wrapped them around his face, so that he seemed to be an injured man in bandages. He carried his notebooks in a bag. He traveled by train to the country village of Iping, a quiet place where he hoped to work alone. His plan was to find the cure and make himself visible again. He rented a room, spread out his bottles, and began his tests. But his money was running low, and the bandages made him a curiosity to everyone. He tried new mixtures, and each time the results were no good. He spent whole days staring at the wall. At times, he walked at dusk in the woods and talked to himself. He had wanted to be free from the rules of the world, but he could not escape from himself. Whenever he looked at his empty reflection in a shop window, he felt a pang. He remembered his own face, his own smile, even the way his hair always fell across his forehead. Those small things now seemed like the most precious treasures he had ever owned. ★ He became invisible after a bold experiment, but soon he felt completely alone. He wanted his normal life back, and he did not know how to find it.

THINK What did Griffin wrap around his face?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 10: Lonely in a Crowd

In Iping, Griffin sat alone at his window and watched the villagers go by. He heard laughter in the street, and the voices of children, and the calls of the market. He saw friends greet each other and families walk to church. None of it was for him. In the old days, when he was still a student, he had pretended not to need people. Now he longed for a simple greeting or a hand on his shoulder. But even when he stepped into a crowd, he felt invisible in a way that he had not known before. In London, thousands of people had pushed past him and never looked. In Iping, the villagers looked, but only at the bandages. The cleverness he was so proud of could not buy him one true friend. He sometimes wished he could tell the innkeeper's wife everything. But he knew that she would be afraid. Once, a little girl waved at the bandaged man from across the street. He wanted to wave back, but his gloved hand shook, and he turned away. That night, he thought about her wave for a long time. ★ **He felt alone even in a crowd.** He sat down at the table and wrote a long letter to no one. Then he tore it up, and the scraps floated down like snow, and he said to himself that he was a man who had chosen this road and must walk it to the end.

THINK What did Griffin hear from his window?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: No One Sees Him

Winter turned into spring, and Griffin's money grew less and less. His landlady began to ask when he would pay. Meanwhile, the villagers talked louder about the bandaged man. A stranger who was always indoors and always secret was a mystery they could not stand. They watched his window. They followed him. Some people dared to knock and ask questions. Griffin lost his patience. He had never been a patient man. He wanted his project to be left in peace, and the more the villagers pressed, the more his temper rose. One evening, he stood in the middle of the market, surrounded by the crowd, and he felt that no one in that whole noisy place saw the real person. All they saw was a mask. He wanted to cry out, but he stayed silent. He thought of the boy he had once been, who loved science because it felt like wonder. That boy would have wept at what he had become. He thought of the old days at school, where he had at least been known as the clever student with white hair. Here, in the middle of a living village, he was only a rumor. The idea made him tremble with a sadness he could not name. ★ He felt alone even in a big crowd. He went back to his room with a heavy heart and began to pack his bag, because he knew that he could not stay in Iping much longer.

THINK What did the villagers do?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 12: Nobody Could See Him Anymore

One windy morning, the situation in Iping reached its breaking point. The innkeeper, Mrs. Hall, had lost patience because her guest still owed money. She told him that he must pay or leave the room. Griffin, who could take no more, took off his bandages and gloves in front of the whole room. The people in the inn saw a coat with no head, and a pair of empty sleeves. A cry of shock rose from the crowd. Some ran into the street, and others fell back against the wall. The constable was called, and children stood on the road, pointing. Griffin laughed, but there was no joy in his voice. For a moment, the crowd could not move. It was the first time in his life that so many people were all looking straight at him, and still they could not see him. The constable stepped forward, but he did not know what to do. Mrs. Hall dropped her tray, and the cups rolled across the floor. In the confusion, Griffin pulled off his hat, then his glasses, and threw them on the table like a challenge. ★ He felt alone even in a big crowd because nobody could see him anymore. He ran out of the village, through the fields, and into the woods. He left behind his books, his trunk, and the little room where he had hoped to find peace, and set off along the road with only the project in his head.

THINK What did the people see in the inn?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: The Tramp and the Notebooks

Out in the fields, Griffin met a poor traveler named Mr. Marvel, who was sleeping beside a ditch. Marvel was a ragged man with a battered hat and a worn pair of boots. Griffin spoke to him from the empty air, and the tramp jumped to his feet with a cry. The Invisible Man told him not to be afraid and said he needed help. He would give him money, if Marvel would carry his books and notes. Marvel had no choice, because he was too afraid to say no. He picked up the bags and followed the voice. Griffin explained how he had made himself invisible, and how he wanted to rule the world. The idea of such power thrilled him. He spoke of laws that people must obey and of rewards for those who served him. Marvel stared at the empty air and nodded, while shaking all over. Griffin stopped and spoke again, more quietly. He said that he was tired and hungry and could not get warm. He spoke with such certainty that for a moment Marvel half believed him. But the tramp was no fool. He saw the hunger in the voice, and the fear behind the words, and he understood that the man who wanted to rule the world could not even keep himself warm. **★ Too much power can change people.** Griffin had always been a polite young man, but being alone with a secret had made him proud and harsh, and he especially disliked being told what to do.

THINK Who was Mr. Marvel?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 14: Power Changes a Person

Soon, Marvel tried to run away with the notebooks. Griffin was furious. He found Marvel at a village inn and shouted at him from the air, in front of surprised guests. In the confusion, the guests cried out and ran, and a small fight broke out. Griffin struck a few blows to protect himself and escape. He grew more reckless. He frightened the village, broke a window, and left the inn without paying. He had once been honest with everyone, even when he was a poor student, but now he told himself that the rules were not for him. He thought, "A man who cannot be seen cannot be punished." That idea made him bolder each day. People started to lock their doors and keep their children indoors. He was no longer a mystery but a danger. In quiet moments, a small part of him remembered the boy who once shared his lunch. That boy would have been ashamed. Griffin brushed the thought away like a leaf from his coat and walked faster. ★ Too much power can change even good

people. Griffin had never been cruel at heart. He had been lonely, and the loneliness, together with his power, made him believe that kindness was weakness. He especially forgot that the honest world around him was the only one in which his discovery could have meant anything. He ran on through the dark fields, hungry and angry, with nowhere left to go.

THINK What did Griffin say about being unseen?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: Nobody Is Watching

One cold night, Griffin reached the house of Dr. Kemp, an old schoolmate and now a respected doctor. Wet, hungry, and hurt, he knocked at the back door and was let in. Kemp, a kind man, was astonished by what he heard. Griffin told him the entire story of his research, his success, and his troubles. Kemp listened with growing worry. He believed in the science, but he could not accept what Griffin planned next. Griffin said they could rule the country together, and that people would call it the "Reign of Terror." He would give orders, and they would have to obey. He said that nobody could stop a man they could not catch. Kemp stared at him, shocked. He saw that his old friend had lost his way. Griffin did not seem to hear that he was frightening everyone. Kemp said nothing for a long while. He poured Griffin a cup of tea and watched it disappear into the air as the invisible man drank. It seemed funny and sad at the same time, and neither man laughed. ★ Too much

power can change even good people, especially when nobody is watching.

Kemp quietly decided that this was a danger to everyone, including Griffin, and that he must find help, because honest kindness alone could no longer solve the problem.

THINK Who was Dr. Kemp?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 16: The Wise Doctor's Choice

Kemp spent a sleepless night in his study. He admired Griffin's mind. The experiment itself was brilliant. But he knew that a wild plan to control a country could hurt hundreds of people. In the morning, he made up his mind. He wrote a short note to the police chief and sent it with his servant, asking them to come to the house quietly. He did this not out of hatred but out of care, hoping that Griffin would be stopped before he did something worse. When Griffin discovered that his friend had called the police, he felt betrayed. He had trusted Kemp as the only person in the world who understood. He rushed out of the house and went into the street. The police and the townspeople were already looking for him. Another experiment, a new test, a better plan: nothing seemed possible now. At the window, he watched the sun rise and the street fill with market carts, and he thought how quickly a peaceful town could be turned upside down by one man's choices. He felt very tired, and very sure of himself at the same time. ★ **Science always needs wisdom and care.** Kemp had shown wisdom, because he put people's safety above his own friendship. Griffin, for all his brilliance, had learned the opposite: that the cleverest idea in the world is dangerous when it is held by someone who thinks only of himself, and the experiment he began for wonder had become a fear for everyone.

THINK What did Kemp send?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: The Chase

The chase began on a bright morning. Word of the invisible man spread through the town like fire. People stood at windows, and shopkeepers locked their doors. A group of men with sticks and nets lined the main street. Children were told to stay inside. Griffin moved from yard to yard, hiding behind walls and barrels. But he was tired, hungry, and very cold. For the first time since the experiment, he understood how a powerful discovery can leave one person with nothing. The footprints in the soft snow and mud told the searchers where he went. Kemp, standing at his gate, watched the crowd and called out to the men to be careful. He did not want anyone hurt, not even Griffin. The Invisible Man, panting, turned a corner and found the street blocked. A baker brought out a net, a farmer brought a rope, and an old woman stood at her gate with a broom. They were frightened, but they stood together, and that was something Griffin had never had. ★ **Science always needs wisdom and great care.** He now saw what he had thrown away. If he had asked Kemp, or a teacher, or any friend, he might have found a safe way to use his gift. Instead, there was only a crowd, a street, and a lonely man with no more places to hide. He did not know whether to fight or to give up.

THINK *Where did the searchers see him go?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 18: A Lesson in the End

At last, the crowd closed in. Griffin, exhausted, stumbled and fell in the mud. Strong hands held him down, and a doctor gave him medicine to calm him. As he lay still, his body slowly began to appear, first pale hands, then a white face, then a thin young man with tired eyes. The crowd went silent. The terrible Invisible Man was only a hurt, frightened person, not much older than a student. Kemp knelt beside him and spoke quietly. He promised that he would be treated with care. The police carried him away on a stretcher. In the village, the people shook their heads and slowly went home. Mr. Marvel, who had hidden the notebooks in a safe place, decided never to open them again. He bought an inn and kept the books under a lock, and sometimes he looked at them, though he could not understand the writing. The next day, the newspapers in London printed the whole strange story. Some people laughed, and others shook their heads. But in the quiet classrooms of the university, a few teachers read it twice and spoke to their students about what it means to use knowledge well. **★ Science always needs wisdom and great care, or it can hurt the very people who use it.** Griffin had built the most amazing machine of his time, but he had forgotten that the best discoveries are the ones shared with friends, and that a powerful tool in lonely hands may do more harm than good.

THINK What happened to Griffin's body?