Chapter 5.

Footprints Without Feet

-HG Wells

NCERT Solutions:

Q1. How did the invisible main first become visible?

Ans- The invisible man first become visible after he slipped into a big London store to keep warm and overslept there while wearing some clothes taken from the store. The clothes made him visible to the shop assistants. To escape from them, he had to shed all his clothes to become invisible again.

Q2. Why was he wandering the streets?

Ans- Undoubtedly Griffin was a brilliant scientist but he was a lawless person as well. His landlord disliked him and wanted to evict him. He set fire to the house to take revenge. To escape, he removed his clothes, becoming invisible. Thus he became homeless and was wandering the streets of London.

Q3. Why does Mrs. Hall find the scientist eccentric?

Ans- Mrs. Hall finds the scientist eccentric because she wants to be friendly with him. She desires to talk to him. But he does not show any interest in that. He tells her that he desires solitude. He wants no one to talk to him.

Q4. What curious episode occurs in the study?

Ans- One early morning a clergyman and his wife awakened by noises coming from their study. Then they heard the sound of coins being taken from the desk there. But they did not find anybody there, which was curious .

Q5. What other extraordinary things happen at the inn?

Ans- At the inn, the landlord and his wife found the scientist's door open, but there was no one in the room. Then Mrs. Hall heard a sniff and the hat on the bedpost leapt up and dashed into her face. The chair began moving automatically. Suddenly it sprang

into the air and pushed them both out of the room.

Q6. How would you assess Griffin as a scientist?

Ans- Griffin was a scientist because he became invisible due to his inventions. But he was not a real scientist because he misused his inventions. A true scientist uses his inventions for the benefits of humanity. But Griffin uses his inventions to trouble the people.

Short Answer Questions:-

Q1. Why were the two boys in London surprised and fascinated?

Ans- The two boys in London were surprised and fascinated to see fresh muddy footmarks of a man on the steps of a house, although nobody was there.

Q2. What experiment did Griffin carry out? What was the final result of these experiments?

Ans- Griffin carried out experiment after experiment to prove the body could become invisible. Finally, he swallowed certain rare drugs and his body became as transparent as a sheet of glass. However, it remained as solid as glass.

Q3. Who was Griffin and what type of a man was he?

Ans- Griffin was a brilliant scientist. He could make himself invisible. But he was a lawless scientist. He was a selfish and short tempered person and didn't bother about the law. He set the house of his landlord on fire without any fault.

Q4. Why did Griffin set fire to the house of his landlord? How did he escape?

Ans- Griffin's landlord disliked Griffin because of his activities. So he wanted to eject him out of his house. But Griffin set his house on fire in revenge. Then he became invisible by swallowing certain rare drugs and escaped from there.

Q5. Why did Griffin go to the store? What did he do there?

Ans- Griffin was feeling cold without clothes. So he went to the store for warm clothes, shoes and an overcoat. He was also hungry so he took cold meat, coffee, sweets and wine from there. Then he slept on a pile of quilts.

Q6. Why did Griffin go to Drury Lane? What did he do there?

Ans- Griffin went to Drury lane. He entered a shop to try the stock of a theatrical company. He came out wearing bandages around his forehead. He wore dark glasses, a false nose etc. He attacked a shopkeeper and stole money from him.

Q7. What happened when Griffin didn't wake up in time?

Ans- Griffin did not wake up in time. The shop assistants opened the store. He got scared and began to run. They ran after him to capture him. So he panicked and tried to escape.

Q8. What did Griffin do in the shop of a theatrical company?

Ans- When he entered the shop of a theatrical company, he wore bandages around his forehead, dark glasses, false nose, bushy side-whiskers and a large hat. Then he attacked the shopkeeper from behind, robbed him of his money and escaped from the shop.

Q9. What happened to Jaffers when he tried to catch the invisible scientist?

Ans- Griffin had become invisible by removing his clothes. Constable Jaffers had found himself struggling with someone who was invisible. He was being hit with the blows from unseen directions. These seemed to be coming from nowhere. Soon Jaffers fell down unconscious.

Long Answer questions :-

Q1. Write the character sketch of Griffin?

Ans. Griffinwasabrilliantscientistwhodiscovered how to become invisible. But he misused his discovery for criminal purposes. His landlord disliked him and tried to remove him from his house. As Griffin was a short-

tempered person, he set fire to the house. In order to get away without being seen, he had to remove his clothes. His invisibility made him a homeless wanderer without clothes and without money. Griffin was a lawless person. He indulged in criminal activities in order to support himself. He stole clothes from a London store and robbed a shopkeeper of all his money. His appearance was uncommon and his behaviour was eccentric. His irritable temper and strange habits often landed him in trouble but his invisibility enabled him to get away.

Q2. Griffin was not a true scientist as he misused scientific discovery. Discuss.

Ans-Griffin was not a true scientist and he misused his scientific discovery. Once he had a quarrel with his landlord. Who tried to eject him so he set fire to his house. To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes. Thus it was that he became a wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible. Then he rented two rooms at the village of Iping. He decided to steal money from the Clergyman's home. One night he made himself invisible and entered his study. The Clergyman and his wife woke up when they heard a noise in their study. They went downstairs and heard the chink of money being stolen from the desk. They opened the door with a poker but there was no trace of the burglar. In this way Griffin misused his scientific inventions.

Q3. What are the adventures made by Griffin in the Village Iping? Give examples in support of your answer.

Ans- There are many adventures made by Griffin in the village of Iping. The stolen money did not last long. Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, demanded rent from Griffin. He told her that he was expecting some money but he entered the clergyman's house and stole money in an invisible state. Secondly the village constable was secretly called by Mrs. Hall to arrest Griffin but he took the advantage of his invisibility. All this made Griffin aggressive so he threw off his cloth in order to horrify the people. When Mr. Jaffers arrived to arrest a headless person. Soon there was a fight between Griffin

and Mr. Jaffers. This shows that Griffin has done some heinous adventurous work that created chaos and trouble to the Iping villagers.

Comprehension Questions:-

Read the given passage and answers the questions that follow:

Griffin, the scientist, had carried out experiment after experiment to prove that the human body could become invisible. Finally he swallowed certain rare drugs and his body became as transparent as a sheet of glass though it also remained as solid as glass.

- Q1. From which lesson this passage has been taken?
- Ans- 'Footprints Without Feet'
- Q2. Who is the author of this story?
- Ans- H.G. Wells .
- Q3. Who is Griffin?
- Ans- Griffin is a scientist...
- Q4. How did Griffin become invisible?
- **Ans-** Griffin became invisible by swallowing certain rare drugs and became as transparent as a sheet of glass.
- Q5. Pick out the word from the passage which means 'not found easily'.
- Ans- rare

MCQ

- Q1. Where was the theatrical Company shop situated?
 - a. Drury Lane
- b. Durgapur
- c. London
- d. New York
- Q.2 "The scientist was always___, now he became furious".
 - a. patience
- b. calm
- c. quick-tempered d. cool
- Q3. Who called the incident "an extraordinary affair "?
 - a. clergyman
- b. Mrs Hall
- c. clergyman's wife d. Griffin

- Q4. Where did Griffin find comfort in London?
 - a. at the Inn
- b. a big store
- c. theatre store
- d. none of the above
- Q5. What suggest that Griffin was a homeless wanderer?
 - a. no clothes
- b. no home
- c. no money
- d. all of the above
- Q6. What did he do for revenge?
 - a. burned himself.
 - b. burned the landlord
 - b. builled the landloid
 - c. burned the house.
 - d. he didn't do anything for revenge
- Q7. What was he working on?
 - a. making fake footprints
 - b. making human bodies invisible
 - c. making invisible clothes,
 - d. making a house
- Q8. Where did he go next?
 - a. Piping
- b. Iping
- c. house
- d. snowland
- Q9. What did he take from there?
 - a. wine
- b. bandages
- c. food
- d. all of the above
- Q10. Griffin was rather a____person.
 - a. kind
- b. lawless
- c. lawfull
- d. greedy

Answer Key

- 1 (a). Drury Lane
- 2 (c). quick-tempered
- 3 (c). clergyman's wife
- 4 (b). a big store
- 5 (d), all of the above
- 6 (c). burned the house
- 7 (b). making human bodies invisible
- 8 (b). Iping
- 9 (b). bandages
- 10 (b). lawless