

# 05

## Footprints Without Feet

—H.G. Wells

### Chapter Summary

#### Boys See Footprints on a Street

Two boys on a street in London were surprised to see fresh muddy footprints of bare feet on the steps of a house. As they were still gazing (looking carefully), fresh footprint appeared. This fascinated the boys as they couldn't find the person making them and they followed the footprints. However, the footprints soon disappeared.

#### Griffin : A Lawless Scientist

The footprints had been made by Griffin, an eccentric (strange) scientist who had discovered how to make his body invisible or transparent.

Griffin was a great scientist, but a lawless person. His landlord did not like him and tried to evict (throw out) him from the house. So, Griffin set fire to his landlord's house.

To escape from this situation, Griffin removed his clothes and became invisible. Later, he became a homeless wanderer in London without any clothes and money.

#### Hidden in a Big London Store

Griffin managed to escape from the observation of the two keen boys. As the weather was bitterly cold in London, Griffin decided to slip into a big London store for warmth. The store was closed at night, Griffin wore some warm clothes, shoes, an overcoat and a hat.

He ate cold meat and drank some coffee from the kitchen of the restaurant and then went to sleep on a pile of quilts (blankets).

#### Griffin is Invisible Again

When Griffin woke up next morning, the shop assistants had already started to arrive at the shop. On being seen, Griffin panicked and started running. As he was being chased, he again took off his newly found clothes. Consequently, he found himself invisible and naked in the chill again.

#### Griffin at a Theatrical Company

Griffin decided to try the goods of a theatrical company. So, he reached Drury Lane and entered into a shop that sold theatrical items.

A little later, he came out wearing bandages, dark glasses, a false nose, big bushy whiskers and a large hat. Then, he attacked the shopkeeper and also robbed his money.

#### Griffin Arrives at Iping Village

After robbing the shopkeeper, Griffin left London and took a train to the village of Iping. Here, he booked two rooms in an inn belonging to Mr. Hall. Soon the money that Griffin had stolen from theatrical company was finished. So he robbed a clergyman's house.

#### Furniture Shows Strange Behaviour

On the same day, when Mrs Hall found Griffin's room open, with his bandages and clothes lying around, she and her husband entered the room. Suddenly, Mrs Hall heard a sniff and the hat near the bedpost was thrown on her face.

Then, the bedroom chair was thrown at her legs. Both the landlord and his wife were pushed out of the room. Mrs Hall felt that the furniture was haunted by spirits (ghosts), as she could not see Griffin.

### **Griffin is Suspected**

Mrs Hall blamed Griffin for the strange events while the neighbours blamed witchcraft (black magic). Soon, the news of burglary at clergyman's house was spread. Most people in the village felt that the strange scientist was involved in it, because he paid his due rent, whereas earlier he was not able to do so. As a result, the village police constable Mr Jaffers was called.

### **Griffin Becomes Invisible**

Mrs Hall went to Griffin and enquired what he had been doing with her chair in the room. She also

enquired about how he came out of an empty room and entered a locked room.

Griffin lost his temper and decided to show her everything. He threw off his bandages, spectacles, whiskers and his nose. People who had gathered were horrified to see the headless man.

### **Griffin Escapes from Iping**

When constable Jaffers had arrived, he was surprised to know that he had to arrest a man without a head. Yet, he tried to catch him. Griffin removed all that he was wearing to become invisible.

The constable was trying to catch a man he couldn't see. Some people tried to help Jaffers but were hit by a blow they could not see. Soon Jaffers was knocked unconscious and Griffin ran away.

## **Objective Questions**

### **Extract Based MCQs**

**01.** Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

As she and her husband turned away in terror, the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture. 'My poor mother used to sit in that chair,' she moaned! To think it should rise up against me now! The feeling among the neighbours was that the trouble was caused by witchcraft."

*(CBSE Question Bank 2021)*

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

- (a) Stunned and furious
- (b) Shocked and outraged

- (c) Outraged and nervous
- (d) Stunned and agitated

(ii) Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of 'hysterics' as used in the extract.

- (a) My friend and I were in splits when we saw the clown's antics.
- (b) I don't know why I suddenly felt worried about flying home.
- (c) The sight of blood put the old man in a frenzy.
- (d) The people who had witnessed the accident were spell bound.

(iii) Look at the different meanings of 'haunt'. Pick the option that does not correspond to its meaning.

- (a) To be conscious of a strange phenomenon.
- (b) be persistently and disturbingly present in (the mind).
- (c) (Of something unpleasant) continue to affect or cause problems for.
- (d) A place frequented by a specified person.

(iv) Pick the option that displays a cause -> effect relationship.

- (a) Pushed and locked out -> hysterical
- (b) Rising of the chair -> moaning
- (c) Troubled neighbours -> witchcraft
- (d) Stranger -> haunted spirits

(v) The neighbours thought it was 'witchcraft'. This tells us that neighbours were

- (a) suspicious
- (b) superstitious
- (c) nervous wrecks
- (d) gossip-mongers

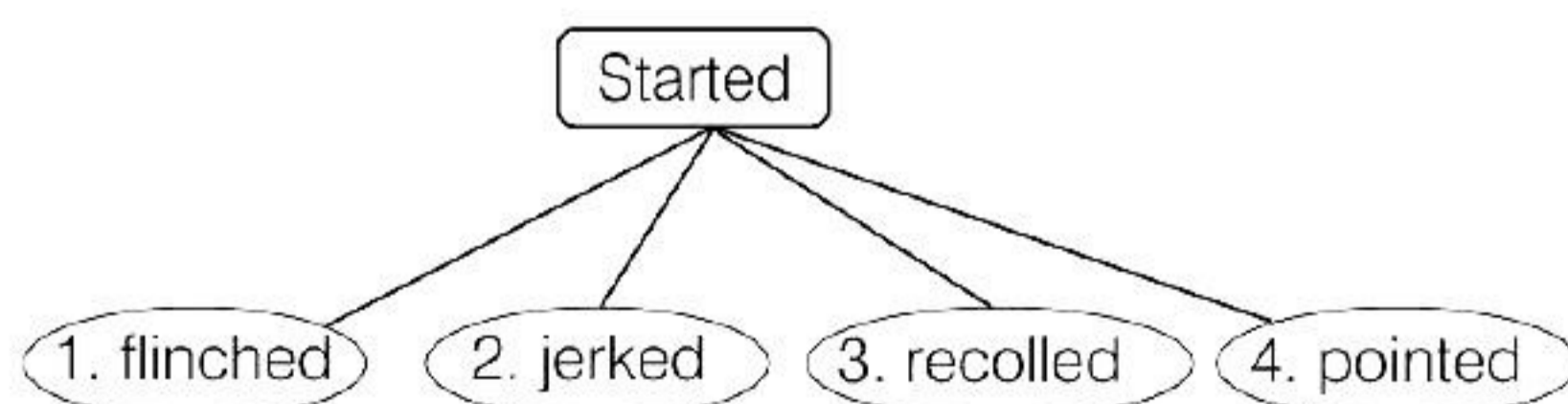
**02.** The two boys started in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet. What was a barefooted man doing on the steps of a house in the middle of London? And where was the man? As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere! Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street. The boys followed, fascinated, until the muddy impressions became fainter and fainter and at last disappeared altogether.

(CBSE Questions Bank 2021)

(i) Why were the boys surprised to see a barefooted man in London? The boys were surprised as

- (a) it was an unusual sight to see someone this way.
- (b) everybody in London moved around in shoes.
- (c) it was pretty cold to move around bare feet.
- (d) only a person who is homeless and wandering does so.

(ii) Pick out the option that is not related to 'started' as used in the extract.



- (a) Option(1)
- (b) Option(2)
- (c) Option(3)
- (d) Option(4)

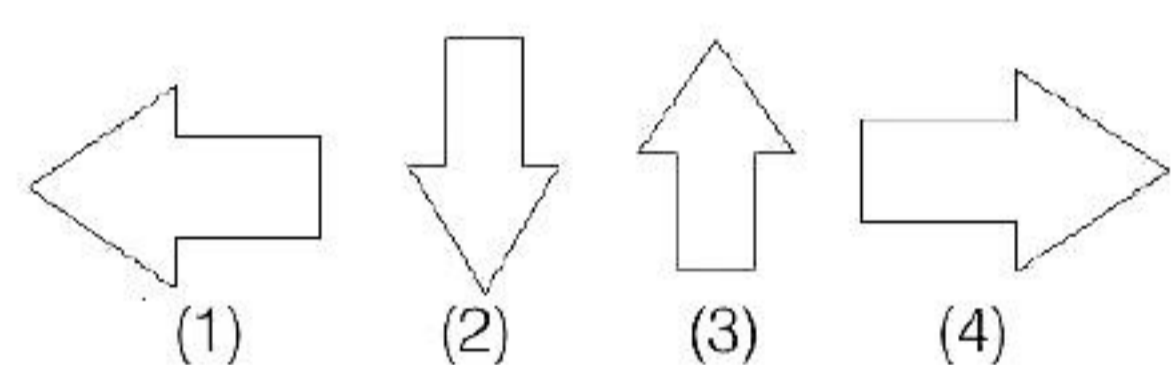
(iii) Pick the option that best describes how the boys are feeling based on the extract.

- (a) Enchanted, curious, puzzled
- (b) captivated, curious, puzzled
- (c) Repulsed, curious, captivated
- (d) Enchanted, repulsed, curious

(iv) Pick the option that best matches synonyms of the word 'gazed'.

- (a) (i) gaped (ii) gawked
- (b) (i) admired (ii) disbelieved
- (c) (i) overlooked (ii) stared
- (d) (i) surveyed (ii) overlooked

(v) Pick the option that lists the correct direction of the footprints on the stairs, as noticed by the boys.



- (a) Option(1)
- (b) Option(2)
- (c) Option(3)
- (d) Option(4)

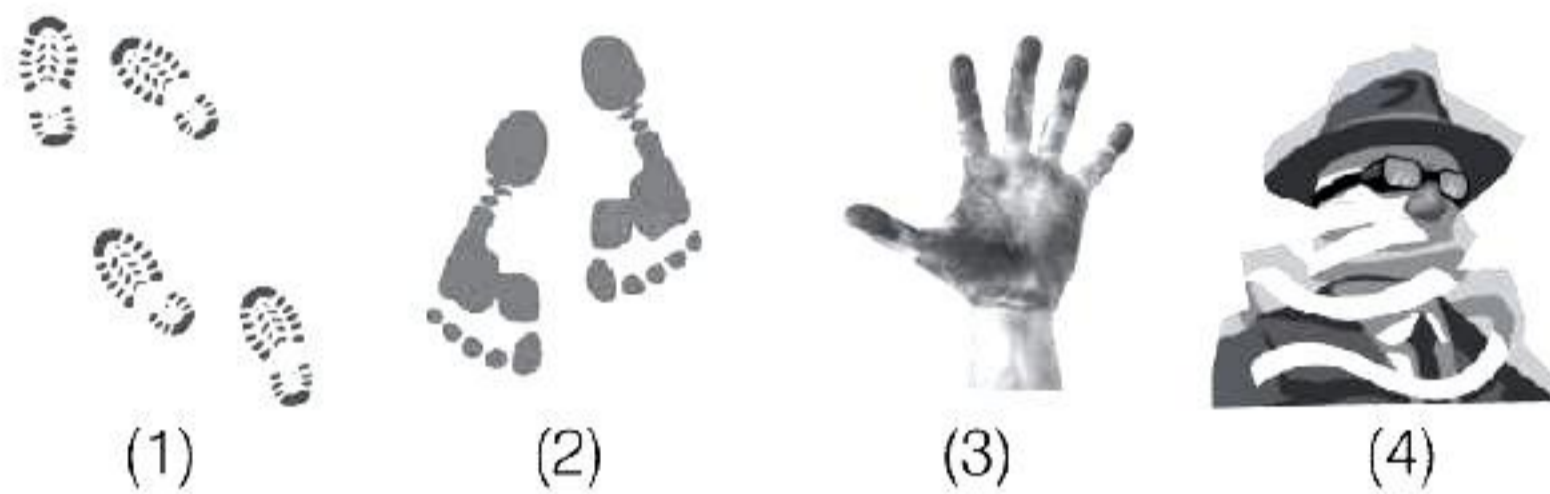
**03.** Brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin was rather a lawless person. His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge Griffin set fire to the house. To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes. Thus, it was that he became a homeless wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible – until he happened to step in some mud and left footprints as he walked!

(i) How can you say that Griffin was a brilliant scientist?

- (a) As he carried on various experiments.
- (b) As his experiments were used for common people.
- (c) As he carried on various experiments to prove that human body could become invisible.
- (d) All of the above

- (ii) How did he reach to the position of invisibility?
- (a) He swallowed certain drugs.
  - (b) As a mistake during one of his experiment.
  - (c) He drank chemicals.
  - (d) None of the above

- (iii) Choose the option that lists the correct option about Griffin's discovery.



- (a) Option (1)
- (b) Option (2)
- (c) Option (3)
- (d) Option (4)

- (iv) Griffin was disliked by .....

- (a) his Landlord
- (b) Mr Hall
- (c) constable Jaffers
- (d) clergyman

- (v) Why was he wandering on the streets?

- (a) Because he had set fire to his landlord's house.
- (b) Because he was shifting to another place.
- (c) Because he was poor.
- (d) Because he was travelling.

### MCQs Based on Complete Chapter

01. 'As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. Who is referred to 'they' in given sentence in context with 'Footprints Without Feet'?

- (a) Staff of the big London store
- (b) Two boys
- (c) Clergyman and his wife
- (d) Griffin and his friends

02. What is the main theme of the story 'Footprints Without Feet'?

- (a) One should not misuse science.
- (b) Its great discoveries can turn even a brilliant scientist into a threatening lawless person.
- (c) One can do anything after becoming invisible.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

03. Why was it a bad time for Griffin to wander about London?

- (a) It was mid-winter
- (b) He did not have clothes
- (c) The air was bitterly cold
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

04. What can you infer from the following image regarding the story 'Footprints Without Feet'?



1. The man in the image is Griffin.
  2. He is stealing clothes from big London store to warm himself.
  3. He threatened the staff of the store to give him clothes.
  4. He spent the whole day in the store.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
  - (b) 1, 2 and 4
  - (c) Only 3 and 4
  - (d) All of these

05. What was the centre of the theatrical world as mentioned in the story 'Footprints Without Feet'?

- (a) Big London store
- (b) Iping Inn
- (c) Drury Lane
- (d) None of these

06. Griffin wore bandages to outline his .....

- (a) Face
- (b) Nose
- (c) Mouth
- (d) Hairs

07. How do you think Griffin was looking when he came out of the theatrical company? Choose the correct image.



- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

**08. Why did Griffin pretend that he would get money soon?**

- (a) Because he did not know how to arrange money.
- (b) Because he wanted to avoid suspicion.
- (c) Because he did not want to give them his money.
- (d) Because he was planning a theft to arrange money.

**09. 'The curious episode' referred to in 'Footprints Without Feet' is**

- (a) a ghostly appearance at Mrs Hall's guest house.
- (b) an invisible face of Griffin.
- (c) a theft by an unknown force.
- (d) All of the above

**10. Why did clergyman and his wife creep downstairs?**

- (a) To drink water.
- (b) As they were awakened by Mrs Hall.
- (c) As they received a call from Mrs. Hall.
- (d) As they heard some noise coming for their study.

**11. Mrs. Hall felt the room was haunted by spirits because .....**

- (a) she could see evil spirits.
- (b) she heard strange noise.
- (c) uncanny things happened there.
- (d) the door slammed shut.

**12. What is Griffin doing in the following image?**



- A. Trying to scare the people away
- B. Becoming invisible
- C. Hitting the village constable

- (a) Only A
- (b) Only B
- (c) Both A and B
- (d) Both B and C

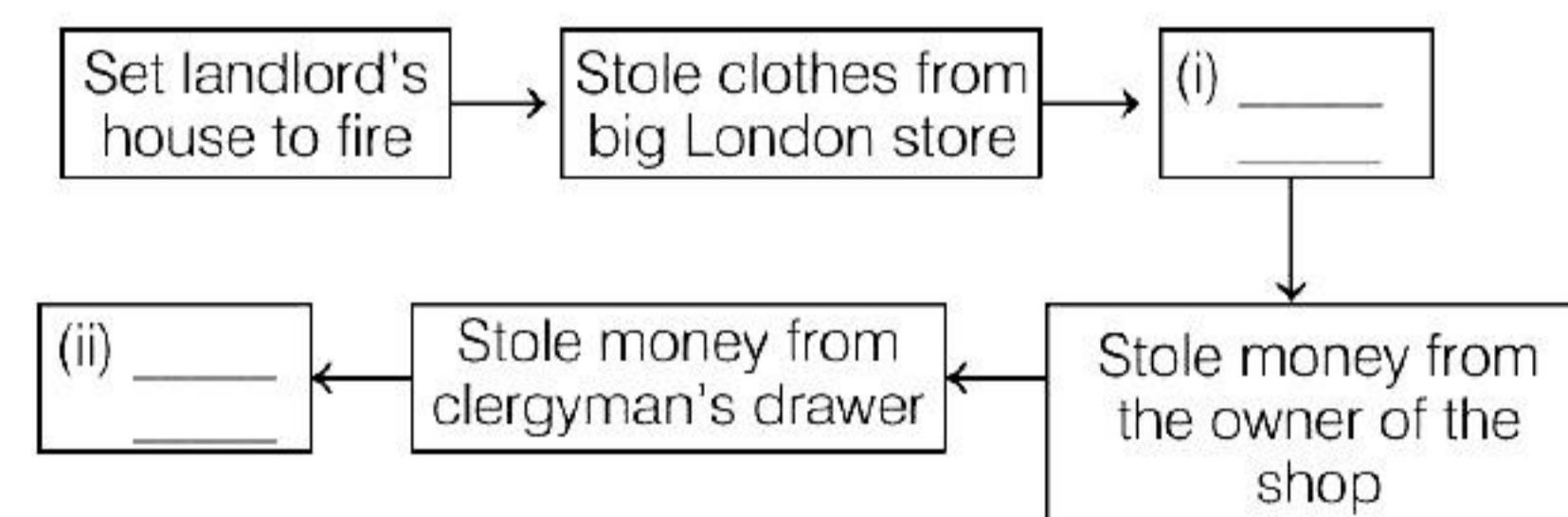
**13. Match the dialogues from the story 'Footprints Without Feet' with their speakers.**

List I (Dialogues)	List II (Speakers)
A. 'My poor mother used to sit in that chair.'	1. Griffin
B. 'Surrender!'	2. Mrs. Hall
C. 'You don't know who or what I am!'	3. Clergyman

**Codes**

- |     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
|     | A | B | C |
| (a) | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| (b) | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (c) | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| (d) | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**14. Complete the flowchart of Griffin's deeds after becoming invisible.**



- (i) (a) Hit the constable
- (b) Stole clothes from a theatrical company
- (c) Stole money from magistrate
- (d) Hit Mrs. Hall's mother
- (ii) (a) Hit Mrs. Hall and her husband
- (b) Went to Drury Lane
- (c) Went barefoot in the building
- (d) Had food and wine

- 15.** Pick the option that includes the correct matches of Column A with Column B in context with 'Footprints Without Feet.'

Column A	Column B
A. The stranger was	1. eccentric, lonely and callous
B. He had escaped	2. eccentric, callous and short-tempered
C. He had an uncommon appearance	3. from London and gone to Iping.
	4. as he wore bandages round his forehead

**Codes**

A	B	C	A	B	C
(a) 2	4	3	(b) 1	3	4
(c) 3	2	1	(d) 2	3	4

## ANSWERS

**Extract Based MCQs**

- (i) (d) (ii) (c) (iii) (a) (iv) (a) (v) (b)
- (i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (b) (iv) (a) (v) (b)
- (i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (a) (v) (a)

**MCQs Based on Complete Chapter**

- (b)
- (d)
- (d)
- (a)
- (c)
- (a)
- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (c)
- (c)
- (c)
- (i) (b) (ii) (a)
- (d)