



FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET



Griffin's Invisible Experiment

Once upon a time, there was a scientist named Griffin. He figured out how to become invisible and touch things. Excited about his discovery, he decided to try it out.

Griffin drank a special potion and became invisible. But, oh no! He

Becoming Invisible: He accidentally stepped in the mud, leaving footprints that curious people followed until they suddenly disappeared.

Invisible Night Out:

To stay warm, Griffin went to a shopping center after it closed. He wore some clothes and ate from a café. At night, he made a bed out of quilts in a store.

London Adventures:

As People started noticing him, Griffin stole clothes and money. To escape, he took off all his clothes, becoming invisible again. Life in the busy street of London became a challenge.

Moving to Iping:

Griffin moved to a quiet village called Iping. Where people were puzzled by his strange appearance.

Invisible Troubles:

As his money ran out, Griffin resorted to stealing and even harmed some people. People in the village believed they were ghosts. When the constable tried to catch Griffin, he tricked them by making himself appear headless.

Conclusion:

This story teaches us that sometimes discovering new things can be tricky. Griffin's adventure teach us that we must be careful with discoveries and use them.

Extract Based Questions:

Q1. 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.

(a) Who are 'they' in the above extract?

Ans: 'They' in the above extract are two boys on a street in London.

b) Who is making these footprints appear?

Ans: The scientist Griffin, who has become invisible, is making these footprints.

(c) Find the word from the extract that means the same as 'continuing'.

Ans: The word is 'progressing'.

d) What is the opposite of 'remarkable'?

Ans: Its opposite is 'ordinary'.

Q2: The air was bitterly cold and he could not do without clothes. Instead of walking about the streets he decided to slip into a big London store for warmth.

(a) Who is 'he' in the above extract?

Ans: 'He' in the above extract is Griffin, the invisible scientist.

(b) Why was the air bitterly cold?

Ans: The air was bitterly cold because the season was mid-winter.

(c) Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'quietly enter'.

Ans: The word is 'slip'.

(d) What is the opposite of 'warmth'?

Ans: Its opposite is 'chill'.

Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

1. What did the Halls see in the scientist's room? [CBSE 2013]

Answer: Since the door of the room was open and no one appeared to be inside, the Halls entered the scientist's room. They saw that the bedclothes were cold, indicating that the scientist must have been up for some time. Stranger still, the clothes and bandages he always wore were scattered around the room.

2. What challenges did Griffin face after becoming invisible?

Answer: Griffin faced challenges such as surviving without shelter or clothes in the cold, evading suspicion, and stealing food and clothing. These struggles made his life increasingly difficult and lonely.

3. Griffin was not a true scientist as he misused his scientific discovery. Illustrate this point by giving two incidents from the story.

Answer: A true scientist is a law-abiding person. A scientist is also called a 'natural philosopher'. "Griffin was not a true scientist because he did not use his discovery of invisibility for good purposes." He lost control of himself and behaved like a criminal. First, he set fire to his landlord's house and ran away. Then, he stole food from a London store without paying. Additionally, he robbed the owner of a theatrical company and stole money from a clergyman's desk.

4. Describe the landlord's and his wife's experience with the strange scientist. [CBSE 2016]

Answer: Both Mrs Hall and her husband were surprised to find the scientist's room door open because normally it was always locked. So they peeped inside but found no one there. The clothes and bandages he always wore were scattered around the room. Suddenly Mrs Hall heard a sniff close to her ear and the hat on the bedpost leapt up and dashed itself into her face. Then the bedroom chair sprang into the air and pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs Hall became hysterical and nearly fell down the stairs, believing that her furniture was haunted. They decided to confront the scientist next time when they met him.

5. What impression do you form of Griffin after reading the lesson, "Footprint, without Feet"?

Answer: Griffin was a brilliant scientist who discovered a drug that made his body as transparent as glass after he swallowed it. This made him invisible. But he was a lawless person. Because of his misdeeds, he became a homeless wanderer, lacking both clothes and money. He was an introvert who desired solitude. He constantly sought adventure and was fascinated by mysterious things. However, he was unscrupulous, as he robbed various people to finance his work, he got angry very quickly, which caused him to become a fugitive.

6. If, somehow you discovered how to become invisible, how would you use that opportunity? [CBSE 2015]

Answer: If I discovered how to become invisible, I would use this opportunity to punish those people who trouble others for their selfish motives. I would catch them and hand them over to the police without letting them know that I was behind them. I would also help law-enforcing agencies when they conduct raids on criminal hideouts, as I will be able to move in the open without fear of being seen. This would help people become more law-abiding citizens.

7. 'Brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin was a lawless person. Does this statement approve the apprehension that science in wrong hands is Devil's Pandora Box?'

Answer: Griffin was a brilliant scientist. He had discovered a rare drug that could make himself invisible. This made Griffin arrogant lawless person. He broke the law more than once but never for a good reason. He could have dedicated his discovery to his country but he chose not to. His lawlessness made the law helpless. All his actions prove that science the devil's hand is disastrous.

8. "Scientific discoveries have made life easier but insecure." Explain with reference to the story 'Footprints without Feet' written by H.G. Wells.

Answer: There is no doubt that scientific discoveries have made life easier. Take any sphere of human activity, electricity, telecommunications, electronics, computers, etc, these have changed man's life.

We can interact and even travel to the moon. A trip to Mars is next on our agenda. We can fly like birds. Supersonic planes fly faster than sound. Wonderful drugs can overcome deadly diseases. Surgery can replace defective limbs. Despite all these discoveries, human life is becoming insecure. Weapons of mass destruction are a constant danger. The fear of chemical and biological warfare looms large. Diseases like AIDS and SARS pose a serious threat to humanity.

9. "A lawless scientist is a curse to the society." Discuss.

Answer: It is true, that a lawless scientist is a curse to society. A true scientist uses his discoveries for the good of society and welfare of the people. It helps nations to progress. A lawless scientist increases the misery and suffering of society. In this story, we find how Griffin misuses his discovery. He brings pain and suffering to others. He causes destruction. Suppose nuclear weapons fall into the hands of a lawless scientist, he could cause widespread destruction. He may ruin the achievements of other scientists. That's why the leaders of the world are worried about chemical weapons falling into the hands of lawless governments leaders or terrorists. If this happens, science itself will be doomed.

10. How did the invisible man first become visible?

Answer: Griffin was completely invisible until he happened to step in some mud, which caused him to leave footprints as he walked. Two boys noticed these footprints and followed him as long as the prints were visible. Griffin, after getting rid of them, went into a big London store to put on some warm clothes. After the store was shut, he got himself dressed in an overcoat and a wide-brimmed hat. He also put on a pair of shoes. This made him visible to the people who came to work at the store the next day.