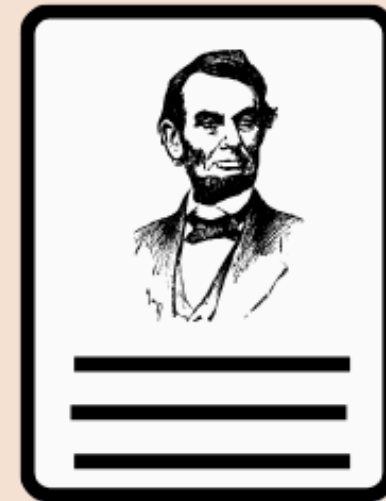


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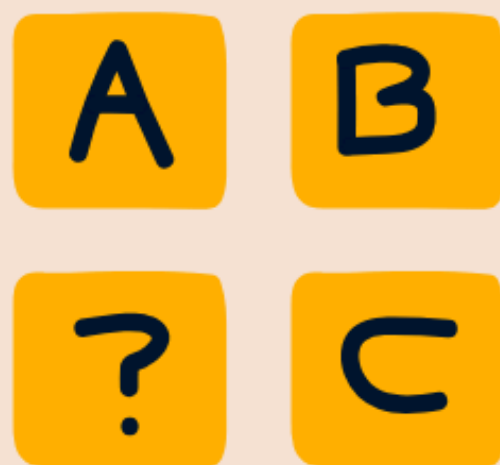
English Notes



**Full
Explanations**



**Character
Sketch**



**Word
Meanings**



**Tone, Central
idea, devices....**

Footprints without Feet

5. Footprints Without Feet

Chapter Explanation

The story "Footprints Without Feet" shows the strange and disturbing adventures of **Griffin**, a **brilliant scientist** whose intelligence is spoiled by **selfishness** and **lack of morality**. The chapter begins with two boys in London noticing fresh muddy footprints appearing on the steps without any person visible, and this strong imagery at once creates mystery and suspense. These footprints belong to Griffin, who has discovered a way to make the human body **invisible**. The narrator explains that his body became "**as transparent as a sheet of glass**", which is a simile making his invisibility easy to imagine. Even though Griffin is highly intelligent, he is **morally corrupt**. When his landlord tries to remove him, Griffin takes revenge by burning the house. To escape, he removes his clothes and becomes an invisible wanderer, moving through the cold streets of London. This creates **irony**, because such a great scientific discovery is used for crime instead of benefit.

Due to the extreme cold of mid-winter, Griffin enters a large London store for warmth. After it closes, he eats food, drinks coffee and wine, and steals clothes, shoes, and an overcoat. Once he wears clothes, he becomes visible again and enjoys comfort without paying. However, he oversleeps the next morning, and when shop assistants arrive, he panics and escapes only by removing the clothes again. **His invisibility helps him escape**, but it also leaves him helpless in the cold. To hide himself, he later goes to a **theatrical shop** in Drury Lane, where he steals bandages, dark glasses, a false nose, side-whiskers, and a large hat. He also attacks the shopkeeper and robs him. These actions show Griffin's **cruelty and opportunistic nature**, proving that invisibility has increased his violence instead of improving him.

To escape busy London, Griffin travels to the **village of Iping** and stays at a local inn. His strange appearance and secretive behaviour make him a **topic of gossip**. Mrs Hall, the landlord's wife, thinks he is an eccentric scientist because he remains covered with **bandages and spectacles**, and behaves irritably. Griffin tells her that his face was damaged in an accident and that he needs **privacy**. Mrs Hall tolerates him since he has paid in advance, but suspicion increases when he suddenly runs out of money and then mysteriously produces more.

Soon, a strange incident happens at the **clergyman's house**. Early in the morning, the clergyman and his wife hear noises and discover that money is being **taken from the desk** without anyone visible. This adds to the **mysterious atmosphere**, though the reason is scientific. Later, an even stranger event occurs at the inn. When Mr and Mrs Hall enter Griffin's room, they find it **empty**, but his clothes and bandages are lying there. Suddenly, furniture seems to move: a hat jumps towards Mrs Hall's face, and a chair pushes them out.

This strong imagery creates both **fear and slight comic effect**. Mrs Hall becomes hysterical and thinks the **room is haunted**, while neighbours suspect **witchcraft**. This shows how ordinary people fail to understand scientific phenomena.

The mystery reaches its peak when Mrs Hall questions Griffin directly. Being **quick-tempered and arrogant**, Griffin loses control. In front of everyone, he removes his bandages, whiskers, spectacles, and false nose, showing what appears to be a **headless man**. This shocking image becomes one of the most memorable scenes and increases fear of the unknown. At this moment, Mr Jaffers, the village constable, arrives to arrest him. He is **practical** and **dutiful**, and even the strange situation does not stop him. As Griffin removes his clothes one by one, he becomes invisible again, and the struggle turns chaotic. People are hit by unseen blows, and **Griffin finally escapes**.

The chapter ends without praising Griffin's discovery. Instead, it shows that science in the hands of an immoral person becomes **dangerous**. Griffin is not a hero but a **warning**. His invisibility, which could have been a great achievement, becomes a **tool for crime and violence**. The narrator keeps a tone of **fascination** mixed with criticism, making the story both **interesting and meaningful**.

Detailed Character Sketches

Griffin

Griffin is the main character, shown as **highly intelligent but morally weak**. He discovers invisibility but uses it for crime instead of benefit. He is described as "rather a **lawless person**," which perfectly defines him. He is selfish, quick-tempered, and cruel. He burns his landlord's house, steals, attacks people, and spreads fear. He is also arrogant and secretive, believing himself **superior**. However, he lacks **practical wisdom**, as invisibility creates problems for food, clothing, and shelter. Thus, Griffin represents how knowledge without morality becomes dangerous.

Mrs Hall

Mrs Hall is the landlord's wife and represents common people. She is friendly, curious, and initially patient. She accepts Griffin thinking he is an **injured scientist**. But as strange events increase, she becomes **suspicious and bold**. Her fear is natural when furniture moves mysteriously. Finally, she confronts Griffin, showing courage and practicality. She helps move the story towards its climax.

Mr Jaffers

Mr Jaffers is the village constable, representing law and duty. He is **brave and determined**. Even when faced with a headless and invisible man, he tries to arrest Griffin. He does not give up easily, showing **honesty and courage**. His character highlights the difference between lawful duty and Griffin's lawless behaviour.

Central Message

The story shows that scientific knowledge must be guided by morality. Intelligence alone is not enough. Griffin is brilliant but becomes dangerous due to lack of ethics. The story teaches that power without responsibility leads to destruction. Science is useful only when used for human welfare.

Narrator's Tone

The tone is suspenseful, curious, and critical. At first, it creates fascination through mystery. Later, it becomes ironic and critical as Griffin's immoral actions are revealed. The narrator does not glorify him but presents him as a warning.

Word Meanings

Transparent – see-through.

Imprints – marks.

Bewildered – confused.

Lawless – criminal.

Eject – throw out.

Wanderer – person without fixed home.

Bitterly – severely.

Without regard to expense – without caring about cost.

Panicked – suddenly frightened.

Theatrical company – group for stage performances.

Side-whiskers – hair on sides of face.

Eccentric – unusual.

Solitude – being alone.

Irritable – easily annoyed.

Clergyman – priest.

Poker – metal rod for fire.

Extraordinary – unusual.

Hysterics – uncontrolled emotion.

Haunted – occupied by spirits.

Witchcraft – magic.

Constable – police officer.

Magistrate – judge.

Horrified – shocked.

Remarkable – unusual.

Quick-tempered – easily angry.

Headless – without head.

Invisible – cannot be seen.

Shivering – shaking from cold.

Callously – cruelly.

Bandages – cloth strips.

Convinced – certain.

Transparent as a sheet of glass – completely see-through (simile).

Reference Information:

1. **Opening mystery:** Two boys see muddy footprints appearing without a visible person, creating suspense.
2. **Scientific discovery:** Griffin discovers invisibility by swallowing rare drugs; his body becomes transparent but solid.
3. **Griffin's nature:** A brilliant scientist but lawless person.
4. **Cause of homelessness:** Burns landlord's house and escapes invisibly without clothes or money.
5. **First visibility after invisibility:** Becomes visible again by wearing stolen clothes.
6. **Store episode:** Eats, drinks, steals clothes, and sleeps inside the store.
7. **Second escape:** Escapes by removing clothes when shop assistants arrive.
8. **Disguise from theatrical shop:** Steals bandages, glasses, nose, whiskers, hat.
9. **Violence against shopkeeper:** Attacks and robs him.
10. **Setting at Iping:** Moves to village inn to avoid London crowds.
11. **Why Mrs Hall excuses him at first:** Thinks he is injured and eccentric; he pays in advance.
12. **Money problem:** Runs out of money, claims he expects a cheque.
13. **Theft in clergyman's study:** Money disappears mysteriously.
14. **Haunted-room effect:** Furniture moves because of Griffin's invisibility.
15. **Villagers' reaction:** Suspect witchcraft due to lack of understanding.
16. **Mrs Hall's confrontation:** Questions Griffin, leading to revelation.
17. **Headless man scene:** Griffin removes disguise, shocking everyone.
18. **Mr Jaffers' role:** Attempts arrest despite fear.
19. **Final struggle:** Griffin escapes invisibly after chaos.
20. **Major conflict:** Scientific power vs moral responsibility.

literary devices:

Simile: "as transparent as a sheet of glass."

Imagery: footprints, headless man, moving furniture.

Irony: scientist behaves like criminal.

Suspense: mystery builds gradually.

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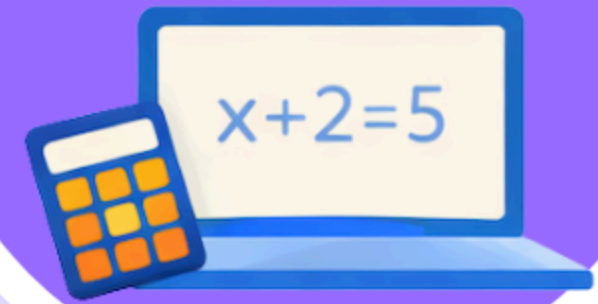
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