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**Literature**  
Teaching Unit  
*Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide*



## The Invisible Man

by H. G. Wells

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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# Literature Teaching Unit

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 **Prestwick House**

P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938  
[www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)  
800.932.4593

ISBN: 978-1-58049-245-4

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Item No: 300547

# The Invisible Man

## Objectives

*By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:*

1. understand science fiction as a literary genre.
2. explain the setting of the novel.
3. recognize that the point of view from which this novel is written is third person, which allows the story to be presented through the eyes of many characters and that a brief portion of the novel is written entirely in the first person point of view (that of the Invisible Man).
4. summarize the plot of the novel sequentially.
5. define the following themes:
  - how power corrupts
  - the fate of those who are different in society
  - theoretical versus experimental science
6. discuss the interweaving of humor, monstrosity, and violence in this novel.
7. discuss the role of dialect and how it adds to the tone of *The Invisible Man*.
8. discuss the use of formal language in the author's style.
9. define certain vocabulary words according to their context.
10. discuss the part-human, part-monster makeup of the character of the Invisible Man.
11. understand the symbolism of doors, windows, fences, blinds, and curtains in the novel.
12. infer meanings about characters and events when those meanings are not explicitly stated.
13. summarize the types of conflict in this novel.

# The Invisible Man

## Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Why is science fiction is a very popular literary genre?
2. There are many humorous, even slapstick, sequences in *The Invisible Man*. Discuss which one you feel is the most humorous and explain why.
3. Write a short essay about the character of Thomas Marvel, which discusses how much better he is able to function in society than is Griffin, even though Marvel is a tramp.
4. Write a short essay about the differences between the material conveniences of the 1800's as seen in this novel and the material conveniences we have today.
5. Discuss whether the murder of Griffin by the townspeople is an act of perceived self-defense, an act of revenge by them, or an example of mob hysteria.
6. Discuss the themes Wells deals with in the novel.
7. Describe the style Wells uses. How does it contribute to or detract from the story?
8. Find an example of literary terms in the novel and explain how they are used.
9. Analyze the motivation of the Invisible Man throughout the book.

# The Invisible Man

## I. The Strange Man's Arrival

### VOCABULARY

**animation** – adding life to  
**audible** – able to be heard  
**brevity** – shortness, conciseness  
**brooked** – tolerated  
**concisely** – quickly  
**contempt** – hatred, dislike  
**deftly** – quickly and skillfully  
**eloquent** – vividly expressive  
**haggler** – an argumentative person; bickerer  
**hitherto** – until that time  
**impenetrable** – unable to be seen through  
**inscrutable** – mysterious  
**lymphatic** – here meaning sluggish  
**muslin** – cotton material  
**obscured** – made unnoticeable  
**perplexity** – confusion  
**portmanteau** – a suitcase, briefcase  
**resolutely** – firmly, with perseverance  
**scythe** – a long, curved, sharp blade attached to a pole and used for cutting down tall grass  
or plants  
**sidelights** – sidepieces for glasses to block peripheral vision  
**side-whisker** – sideburns  
**staccato** – in an abrupt way, quick  
**stateliness** – dignity  
**swathed** – wrapped  
**tangent** – a thought or action unrelated to the current though process or situation

1. Describe some of the actions and appearance of the stranger upon arrival at the Coach and Horses.

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## V. The Burglary at the Vicarage

### VOCABULARY

**conviction** – a strong belief  
**guttering** – burning out  
**kindred** – similar  
**tread** – a footstep  
**vicarage** – a priest's residence

1. How does the author build suspense about what is wrong with the stranger? This stranger is invisible, so there is no wondering on the reader's part.

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2. During the burglary, the Buntings could hear things indicating someone was in the Vicarage, that a candle had been lit, and money in a drawer was gone. What conclusion can be drawn from this chapter?

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**XIV. At Port Stowe**

## VOCABULARY

**august** – honorable, dignified  
**bandying** – exchanging  
**cordon** – an area or line of protection by policemen  
**dexterously** – skillfully, cleverly  
**engrossed** – deeply absorbed  
**gait** – a manner of walking  
**imperceptible** – unable to be seen or felt  
**incoherently** – not making sense  
**monologue** – a speech spoken by one person  
**opulence** – wealth  
**receding** – falling back  
**recriminations** – criticisms  
**retorted** – answered quickly and pointedly  
**rouleaux** – [*French*] small rolls (usually referring to rolled coins)  
**thence** – from that time on

1. What has the mariner read?

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2. What happens to Mr. Marvel when he brags about his knowledge of the Invisible Man to the mariner? What excuse does Marvel give when the Invisible Man intrudes?

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3. What does Mr. Marvel's willingness to tell a stranger about the Invisible Man show about his trustworthiness, even in the face of the threats of the Invisible Man? Does this hold any implications for their future relationship?

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