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**Response Journal**

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*The Invisible Man*  
H.G. Wells



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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.



## **I. The Strange Man's Arrival**

1. *The Invisible Man* was written in 1897. There are many clues in this chapter which confirm this. We see that horses are the only means of transportation, candles are used for lighting, and heating comes only from fireplaces and non-electric stoves. Suppose you were told that you would be required to live without electricity, cars, and central heating for one year. Write an article for a magazine that would describe how different your life for that year would be than what it is now. In the article, list all the things you would *not* be able to have in your life without electricity, cars, and central heating. The title of your magazine article would be "If I Were a 1900's Teenager."
2. The setting for *The Invisible Man* is England. As you can see from the dialogue, the dialect spoken differs in many ways from standard English. Mrs. Hall's dialogue on page four is a good example of this. Copy down three of Mrs. Hall's complete sentences. Below them re-write each in standard English, making sure you correct all of the spelling and grammatical errors which Mrs. Hall made.

## **II. Mr. Teddy Henfrey's First Impressions**

3. In this day and age, when clocks are very inexpensive and certainly not made by hand, this chapter's emphasis on the repair of a clock in the stranger's room may seem odd. Many modern people feel their lives are run by alarms, clock, and schedules. Imagine a situation in which you had no time restrictions. Describe one day in this type of world. What would you do? Why? How would you feel?

## **V. The Burglary at the Vicarage**

10. The stranger enters the vicarage at four o'clock in the morning to rob it, awakening the vicar and his wife as he does so. They hear the activity, the sneeze of the stranger, and discover the gold kept in a drawer is gone. They are astounded that they see no one, even as the back door opens and closes. Suppose you and your best friend were having a discussion about whether or not this scene was believable. Complete the following dialogue:

**Friend:** I know this is a science fiction novel, but, hey, this stealing the gold right in front of the old folks seems a little far out. I mean, wouldn't they have gone screaming out of the vicarage?

**You:** You've got to understand...

11. The vicar and his wife certainly do seem like a sweet old couple. Think about some of the couples you know over age sixty. Choose one you have a particular fondness for whether in real life or that you know of from a television program. Suppose that they are involved in a car accident and both are in the same room at the hospital. Write them a letter telling them of your hopes that they get well soon and also how much you admire them and why.

## **VI. The Furniture That Went Mad**

12. One of the previous questions dealt with humor in this novel. This chapter goes beyond the quiet humor of Dr. Cuss' tale. Here we have comic activity of a high level as the furniture in the stranger's room, seemingly of its own accord, flies around the room. Even the bedclothes take on a life of their own. This kind of humor goes by the name of slapstick comedy. There is a good deal of this kind of comedy to be found in television programs; re-runs of "The Three Stooges" is a good example. Choose one television program which has remained in your memory as containing a lot of slapstick humor. Describe the plot of the program and as many of the slapstick antics in it that you can remember.

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*The Invisible Man*

19. Mr. Marvel is described as being a tramp. A dictionary definition for the word tramp is “a person who travels about on foot, usually with no permanent home, living by begging or doing casual work.” Today we might call such a person “a homeless person.” Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in which you set forth your feelings about today’s homeless persons in our communities. Your opinion could be sympathetic or angry. Your letter might begin:

To the Editor:

Perhaps it’s about time that someone speaks up about...

## **X. Mr. Marvel’s Visit to Iping**

20. When Mr. Marvel appears in the village of Iping, he appears to be talking to himself. Of course, we know that he is being accompanied by the Invisible Man, who is prodding him along. Mr. Marvel’s task is to go to the room of the Invisible Man and retrieve things, particularly the books with the formulas about invisibility. Trembling, Mr. Marvel, nevertheless, does so. Suppose it is five years later and Mr. Marvel has become a settled, respectable citizen who is writing his memoirs. Write the scene in his book which describes the afternoon he did the Invisible Man’s bidding. It might start like this:

That afternoon, this demon forced me into...

21. Thinking further about Mr. Marvel five years later, imagine and write down the life you think he would be having. Be sure to discuss what type of work he might be doing, if he was married and had a family, what he looked like, and whether his neighbors knew about his past.