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# Sample



nvisible Man

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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.

### Invisible Man

# Title

1. Reflect on the title—*Invisible Man*. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt invisible? Write an email to the people responsible, explaining how this situation made you feel. Include why you think you felt invisible in this situation. Was it because other people were blatantly ignoring you, or was it your own discomfort that made you unable to participate in the situation? Tell these people specifically what they could have done to make you feel more comfortable.

### Invisible Man

# Prologue

6. In the prologue, Ellison says, "I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me." Other disadvantaged groups, such as the poor, have often been referred to as invisible in American society. What do you think is meant by this comment? Do you feel that middle-class Americans don't see those people who are less fortunate or that they choose to ignore them?

Imagine you are the leader of a non-profit organization seeking to help the less fortunate. Pick a problem that is prevalent in your area such as poverty, homelessness, racism, etc., that is not being addressed currently. How would you increase community response in regard to the problem? What would you do to focus your campaign about the problem as you see it? Explain your solution in a paragraph or two, after explaining the problem fully.

# Response Journal

# Chapter 3

13. In this chapter, the narrator is responsible for getting Mr. Norton back to the school safely. Unfortunately, the events at the Golden Day make this very difficult and cause the narrator a great deal of stress. Have you ever been responsible for someone or something, such as a sibling, a pet, or an object, and had something go wrong? In a paragraph, describe the incident and what actions you took to try to fix the problem. What was the final result?

# Chapter 4

14. On the way back to campus, the narrator is very nervous about what Mr. Norton is going tell Dr. Bledsoe about what happened. The narrator is shocked when Mr. Norton denies that any of the trouble had been the narrator's fault. Pretend you are the narrator, and write a letter to Mr. Norton thanking him for what he said.

# Chapter 18

- 39. Brother Wrestrum suggests that the brotherhood create a flag to represent the organization. This flag would be important "Specially for us black brothers" who feel the American flag does not really represent them. The narrator remembers, "There was always that sense in me of being apart when the flag went by. It had been a reminder...that *my* star was not yet there." Do you feel our nation's flag represents you? Is your star on it? Write and editorial for the school paper in which you argue either that the flag does represent you or it doesn't. Give the editorial a title.
- 40. Part of what makes the narrator's "trial" over the magazine article so disastrous is that he is not allowed to defend himself until he is too angry to stay calm. Have you ever been in a situation where your anger kept you from responding in the best way? Here is you chance to rewrite history. Write down what you *would* have said if you had been thinking clearly. How could you have explained yourself and defused the situation?

# Chapter 19

41. After his encounter with the woman from the lecture, the narrator is consumed by guilt and fear that someone will discover what he has done. He sneaks out of the building, filled with even greater guilt.

Most of us have been in a similar situation, one in which we have done something we know was wrong, but we have not been confronted about it yet. Think about a time when you knew that you had done something inappropriate or wrong. Make a list of your feelings, emotions, or thoughts while you were waiting to see what would happen in your own situation.