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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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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.

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.

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?

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?

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?

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?
