The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells

Chapters 1, 2 & 3

The Strange Man's Arrival pages 1-6 Mr. Teddy Henfrey's First Impressions pages 6-11 The Thousand and One Bottles pages 11-16

- 1. What time of year is the setting for the first chapters? What's the weather?
- 2. Describe the "Coach and Horses."
- 3. Who are these characters? Describe briefly Mrs. Hall, Mr. Hall, Mr. Henfrey, Millie and the Stranger/Visitor.
- 4. What is Teddy Henfrey's impression of the visitor?
- 5. What clues, hints, and information do we have so far about the visitor?

Vocabulary:

- portmanteau trunk or suitcase
- éclat brilliant display or effect
- sovereigns British coins
- serviette a table napkin
- dilettante amateur, dabbler
- chiffonnier piece of furniture with drawers

Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7

Days 3 & 4

Mr. Cuss Interviews the Stranger pages 16-22 The Burglary at the Vicarage pages 22-24 The Furniture that Went Mad pages 24-28 The Unveiling of the Stranger pages 28-36

- 1. What is the date now? How long has the Stranger been there? What are his habits? What is his mood? What are Mrs. Hall's feelings about the Stranger? Mr. Hall's feelings?
- 2. What are people saying about the Stranger? What are the speculations in Iping?
- 3. Who is Cuss? What was his encounter with the Stranger?
- 4. Who are the Buntings? What seems to have happened in the early morning hours of Whit-Monday?
- 5. How did the Stranger escape?

Vocabulary:

- Whitsuntide Christian High Holy Day of Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter
- ammonite fossil shell, probably used here as a paperweight
- vicar in charge of the chapel or church
- vicarage the home of a vicar
- piqué stiff fabric, typically cotton
- hobbledehoy a clumsy or awkward youth
- coconut shy game played at carnivals or fairs, throwing wooden balls at a row of coconuts balanced on posts

Chapters 8, 9, 10 & 11

In Transit page 36 Mr. Thomas Marvel pages 37-42 Mr. Marvel's Visit to Iping pages 42-45 In the Coach and Horses pages 45-48

- 1. What did Gibbins, the naturalist, experience?
- 2. Describe the character Thomas Marvel.
- 3. What have we discovered about the Invisible Man and consuming food?
- 4. Why does the Invisible Man speak to Marvel?
- 5. What is going on in Iping on this day?
- 6. How is Marvel acting in Chapter 10?
- 7. Tell about the Diaries in Chapter 11.
- 8. What does the Invisible Man do to Cuss and Bunting? Why?
- 9. What is your opinion of the title character?
- 10. Predict what will happen next in the story.

Vocabulary:

- embonpoint the plump or fleshy part of a person's body
- agrimony perennial herbaceous flowering plants
- cadging begging for, scrounging for
- furze flowering, thorny evergreen shrubs
- vox et voice and nothing more, sound without substance (Latin)

Chapters 12, 13, 14 & 15

Days 7 & 8

The Invisible Man Loses His Temper pages 48-53 Mr. Marvel Discusses His Resignation pages 53-56 At Port Stowe pages 56-61 The Man Who Was Running pages 61-63

- 1. What disruption does the Invisible man cause in Chapter 12? In what condition are Mr. Bunting and Mr. Cuss left by the Invisible Man, and why?
- 2. By Chapter 13, how is Marvel feeling? What is the attitude of the Invisible Man?
- 3. Who talks to Marvel, and what is the topic of conversation? While Marvel is engaged in conversation, what is the Invisible Man doing?
- 4. Describe briefly the latest character to be introduced, Doctor Kemp, including his apparent occupation.
- 5. What do Marvel and the Invisible Man appear to be doing in Chapter 15? How do the people of Burdock react?

Vocabulary: sotto voce – quiet, soft voice rouleaux – a roll of coins belvedere – part of a building commanding a fine view In the Jolly Cricketers pages 63-66 Doctor Kemp's Visitor pages 67-74 The Invisible Man Sleeps pages 74-78 Certain First Principles pages 78-83

Warning: Chapter 19 contains a racial slur.

- 1. How did Mr. Marvel escape from the Invisible Man's control?
- 2. Where and how does the Invisible Man find shelter?
- 3. How did Kemp know Griffin?
- 4. How does Kemp help Griffin?
- 5. What does Griffin look like when he is visible?
- 6. How & why does the Invisible Man act so distrustful and paranoid? What is he afraid of & worried about?
- 7. Why, throughout the night and into the early morning, does Kemp change his mind about the Invisible Man? What does he decide to do?
- 8. What are the basic ideas behind Griffin's invisibility, as he explains to Kemp?
- 9. At what age did Griffin begin this research? Now, how many years has he been working at it?
- 10. What toll has this discovery apparently had on Griffin's father?

Vocabulary:

- settee couch, sofa
- leveret young rabbit
- cum grand (*cum grano*) skepticism, with a grain of salt (Latin)

Chapters 20, 21 & 22

At the House in Great Portland Street pages 83-92 In Oxford Street pages 92-97 In the Emporium pages 97-102

- 1. Why may Kemp not want Griffin to see out the windows?
- 2. Why does Griffin need the books/diaries? Where are they?
- 3. Griffin begins a flashback story. He tested the invisibility apparatus first on another creature. Tell all about this.
- 4. Early in his experiment, how did Griffin preserve and protect his books from being taken or damaged?
- 5. Describe what Griffin experienced and felt in the actual process of becoming invisible, as he used the apparatus on himself.
- 6. He burned his landlord's house! Why?
- 7. Griffin initially imagined it would be great to be invisible. What was his actual experience in those first hours of invisibility?
- 8. Griffin mentions the death and funeral of his father several times in these chapters. He thought about it and even had a nightmare about it. What does this seem to reveal to the reader?
- 9. Tell about Griffin's experience in the Omniums Emporium, a group of shops not unlike a department store or shopping mall.
- 10. What do you predict will happen next, both in Griffin's flashback story and in the present at Kemp's house?

Days 11 & 12

Vocabulary:

- Röntgen, Wilhelm German engineer & physicist, awarded Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901 for his 1895 discovery of x-rays
- cistern water storage tank
- tapetum gives cats night vision
- vivisecting experimental surgery on live animals
- seethe boiling liquid
- strychnine poison, used as a pesticide today, but used as performance enhancer in decades around 1900
- patois informal, common speech
- Mudie's library
- costermonger person selling fruits & vegetables from a cart in the street
- Crusoe Robinson Crusoe is a fictional character who discovers an island
- hansom two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage
- vociferating shouting, complaining, arguing
- depredations plundering

Chapters 23, 24 & 25

Days 13 & 14

In Drury Lane pages 103-111 The Plan That Failed pages 112-115 The Hunting of the Invisible Man pages 116-117

- 1. Griffin's invisibility is apparently not weather-proof. What did he discover that could make him visible to others?
- 2. How did Griffin get clothes, finally?
- 3. Kemp is listening to Griffin's story, but by his reactions and responses, his true feelings & opinion of Griffin shine through. What does Kemp really think and feel about the Invisible Man?
- 4. Kemp's note to the authorities and keeping Griffin occupied talking seem to be part of his plan. What was his hope? Did it work?
- 5. Kemp deliberately & seriously describes Griffin's mood, tone, words and plans to the Colonel. What are the nearby communities up against? What could happen?

Vocabulary:

- cheval full length mirror in a frame, free-standing, adjustable
- Louis Quatorze in the style of King Louis the 14th, also a French luxury brand
- calico dominoes multicolored cloaks
- Delilah biblical story, symbol of beautiful women who betray others
- blackguardism abusive language, unprincipled actions
- purblind having poor vision, slow or unable to understand

Chapters 26, 27, 28 and The Epilogue

The Wicksteed Murder pages 118-122 The Siege of Kemp's House pages 122-130 The Hunter Hunted pages 131-136 The Epilogue pages 137-138

1. The community organized quickly against the Invisible Man. What all did they do?

Days 15 & 16

- 2. Tell about poor Mr. Wicksteed. What seems to have happened?
- 3. Describe Colonel Adye's encounter with the Invisible Man.
- 4. Describe the attack on Kemp's house. What is Griffin's goal, do you think?
- 5. Why & how are the two policemen in Kemp's house attacked?
- 6. How did Kemp escape his own house & therefore the wrath of Griffin?
- 7. Heelas, Kemp's neighbor, is quick to protect himself. How does he react when he sees & hears the commotion at Kemp's house?
- 8. How is Griffin finally caught?
- 9. How does the story end for Griffin?
- 10. At the Invisible Man Inn, who appears to be the landlord? What secret is he keeping?

Vocabulary:

irascibility – hot tempered, easily provoked to anger steward – a manager or secretary *contra mundum* – Latin, against the world penultimate – next to last Sidney Cooper – a painting by Thomas Sidney Cooper, an English painter (1803-1902) laburnum – small tree with yellow flowers tram – trolley car, cart fag end – useless end navvy – working man shamming – faking, pretending asseverations – solemn declarations parsimony – unwillingness to spend money