



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

THE INVISIBLE MAN

BY H . G . W E L L S



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Item No. 303001

Written by Stephanie Selice

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Was H.G. Wells a Victorian Writer

Objectives: Researching an author's biography through various sources
Understanding an author's motivation for writing
Writing a brief biography of an author

Activity

There will probably never be another science fiction writer who will have greater influence on future generations than Herbert George Wells. While, in his lifetime, H. G. Wells was primarily recognized for his treatises on social issues, he is now remembered for his novels. He wrote about space travel, alien invasion, human/animal hybrids, time travel, invisibility, and even a village where everyone had been blind for generations and had no memory of sight.

As you begin reading *The Invisible Man*, do some research on H. G. Wells's life and work. Use electronic resources, including the Internet, as well as print and other media at the library.

After conducting your research, picture yourself as a copywriter at a publishing company about to print Wells's third novel, *The Invisible Man*, in 1897. You are given the job of writing a biography of Wells to help publicize his new book. What information would you include? What information would you leave out?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1–2

Dramatization

Objectives: Writing a script collaboratively to dramatize a scene or chapter
Working as part of an ensemble to dramatize a script
Performing in front of an audience

Activity

Dramatization is a way to adapt the text of a short story or novel for a minimalist theater production. In groups, create a dramatization of a scene in Chapter 1 or 2.

Work together to create a script, and use the plot and dialogue to create a scene. Include the characters and their actions in that scene. In addition, discuss what needs to be added or changed. The group must agree on all of the decisions. After completing your script, choose acting parts. Feel free to change a character's name or gender or assign multiple roles to one person. Each actor will hold a script while acting out the scene, so the memorization of lines is unnecessary.

Make your scene interesting by adding a few small props. You may choose to use hats, signs, masks, makeup, or other props. You should also consider entrances to and exits from the classroom stage, seating arrangements for both actors and the classroom audience, the use of classroom furniture in your scene, and lighting cues. Sound effects may also be added.

In the scene, make your character seem realistic. How does your character feel in the scene? How can you communicate your character's emotions and thoughts to the audience?

On performance day, enjoy yourself. As they say in the theater, break a leg!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 3

Packing the Invisible Man's Luggage

Objectives: Understanding characterization and motivations of a protagonist
Rewriting a section of the novel

Activity

When the stranger arrives in the village of Iping, he hopes to find refuge, lay low, and work on his research while hiding from the authorities and getting his life back on track. Several weeks after his arrival at the Coach and Horses, the stranger's luggage finally arrives in Iping. Any hope he had of keeping a low profile is shattered. His property is voluminous and extraordinary, and it becomes the talk of the village.

Imagine that you are the Invisible Man in London, and you are packing things to take with you when you leave the city, probably forever. Create a packing list for the journey. Will you bring your books and laboratory equipment? What type of clothing will you pack? What will you intentionally leave behind?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 14

Reporting on the Story

Objective: Writing a newspaper article to report on events in the novel

Activity

The stranger's escape from the Coach and Horses in Iping and assault of several people has made him a wanted man. This was an era when news was spread most commonly through newspapers, and as two of the headlines in the novel state, this is a "Peculiar Story from Iping" and "An Entire Village in Sussex [Gone] Mad."

Imagine that you are a reporter with a Sussex newspaper in 1897. The news editor of the West Sussex Gazette has asked you to write an article for the *Gazette* that summarizes the facts up through the events of Chapter 14 in the novel. Be sure to include comments from at least two characters in the novel and a local authority investigating the case. Feel free to create rumors about the stranger's whereabouts and next moves.

Your article will need an attention-grabbing headline. You may also include a subhead or a quotation from the article to catch the reader's attention.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 16

Filing a Report

Objectives: Reading a scene closely
Inferring information

Activity

You work for the police department in Burdock and have been called in to file a report on the assault at the Jolly Cricketers. While there is no question about the Invisible Man's guilt, nobody, not even the policeman, is exactly sure what happened and where each person was at the time the attack.

In order to file this report, you will need to answer the following questions:

- What is the layout of the bar? Which rooms connect to each other and by which doors?
- How did the Invisible Man enter? How did he leave? What path did he take around the house, and where was he at each point in the scene?
- Who was in what room at the time? What was everyone doing at the time of the attack? Did anyone move from one place to another?
- In what order did the actions take place?

While Chapter 16 provides a very detailed description of the events at the Jolly Cricketers, you will need to infer some information, such as the Invisible Man's whereabouts at each point in the scene. If it will help you, you may draw a floor plan of the bar and the characters' locations.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 20–23**Flashback and Chronology****Objective:** Arranging events in chronological order**Activity**

In Chapters 20–23, Griffin tells Dr. Kemp about the events that occurred between his turning invisible and his stay at Iping. This conversation is an example of flashback: the scene interrupts the action of the story in order to show something that happened previously. With this new information, the reader discovers how Griffin became invisible, how he acquired his clothing and money, and how he ended up at the Coach and Horses Inn at the beginning of the story.

However, this flashback destroys the chronology of the story. Read the following events on the following page, and in the line next to each, write a number from 1-15 according to when it took place in the story.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Epilogue

Interviewing a Character: A Profile of Marvel

Objectives: Understanding the purposes and format of an interview
Conducting an interview under varying circumstances

Activity

Throughout *The Invisible Man*, Thomas Marvel's fortune changes for the better. A man down on his luck, destitute, alone, and isolated becomes a prosperous innkeeper and famous because of his association with Griffin.

Imagine you are a journalist for a magazine, and you write profiles of famous people in the news. Your publication is interested in Griffin's strange and tragic story. It is now the early 1900s, and Marvel is the owner of "The Invisible Man," a successful establishment near Port Stowe. He has become a respectable citizen and a person of status, wealth, and prestige in his chosen home.

Using the novel, do some research on Marvel and find out as much as you can about him and his relationship with Griffin. Compile a list of questions that you would ask Marvel and what you believe his responses would be to those questions.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Writing Griffin's Last Will and Testament

Objectives: Understanding character motivation and intent
Writing a character's last will and testament

Activity

In general, a person's will is the written expression of how that individual wants property (including real estate, stocks and other investments, cash, patent rights, or trade secrets) to be distributed to surviving people, charitable organizations, or other recipients after his or her person's death.

Draft a will on Griffin's behalf directing how his property is to be divided between different people and organizations. Griffin is a loner, but he forms an initial attachment to Dr. Kemp during his stay at the house in Port Burdock. Feel free to invent other characters from Griffin's life whom Griffin remembers with some faint affection. For such characters, have Griffin describe his reasons for wanting to leave that person or those people a legacy. For other characters who have been excluded, explain why.

A sample will for a fictional person other than Griffin is provided for you.

A Fictional Will:

I, Sarah Peterson, being of sound mind and body, do hereby make this my last will and testament.

I leave my violin to my best friend, Emily Robinson. You probably never knew this, but I used to be jealous of your talent and hate how you always played better than me. I'll miss you very much, and I sincerely hope that you become a famous violinist someday. I also leave you my library, my stereo, and my car.

To my aunt, JoAnn Schultz, I leave my stables, my horses, and four hundred thousand dollars for their upkeep. Please take care of all of my horses, especially Melly, my chestnut mare.

I hereby leave my house and all other earthly possessions to my sister, Sheryl Mullins. I'm very grateful to you for always being there for me.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Designing a Movie Poster or DVD Case

Objective: Designing a movie poster or DVD case for *The Invisible Man*

Activity

A movie poster does more than just promote actors, directors, and writers and sell tickets or DVDs. While a well-designed poster can inspire people to see the movie for the first time, and it can also remind a viewer of their first experience watching that movie—even decades later.

Marketing movies has changed since the introduction of VCRs and DVDs. Because you can buy a copy of a movie you love and watch it whenever you like, advertisers have an incentive to sell more copies of their movies than they might sell tickets to that movie's first run in theaters. They have to market movies to a much broader audience and use some of the same tools to sell DVDs that they have used for decades to sell books.

However, marketing DVDs is fundamentally different than selling books. How many ways can you think of in which a book cover and a DVD cover look different? What information does each include? What does each leave out? What kind of taglines grabbed your attention?

Design a movie poster for *The Invisible Man*. Include artwork, taglines, and a summary of the movie. In addition, include the names of contemporary actors and a director whom you would want to see act in or direct this film. Finally, assign this movie a rating (G, PG, PG-13, R).