

- [Footprints Without Feet Summary](#)

Footprints Without Feet Summary

"Footprints Without Feet" is a science fiction story by H.G. Wells that explores the consequences of irresponsible scientific experimentation. The protagonist, Griffin, is a brilliant scientist who discovers a way to make himself invisible by swallowing rare drugs. However, his invisibility leads to a series of dangerous and unethical actions, including arson, theft, and violence.

After becoming invisible, Griffin wanders the streets of London without clothes or money. His footprints in the mud attract the attention of two boys, but he manages to evade them. Struggling with the cold, he breaks into a store to steal clothes and food, becoming visible again when he wears the clothes. He later escapes by removing his clothes and turning invisible once more.

Griffin then joins a theatre company, disguising himself with bandages and false facial features to avoid detection. He robs a shopkeeper and eventually moves to the village of Iping, where his strange appearance and behavior arouse suspicion. He rents rooms at a local inn but insists on solitude, revealing his eccentric nature.

Griffin's invisibility allows him to commit thefts, including stealing money from a clergyman's home. The villagers grow fearful and suspect witchcraft. When Griffin reveals his invisibility by removing his disguises, the villagers are horrified to see a headless man. The constable attempts to arrest him but struggles because Griffin is invisible and attacks those trying to capture him.

Key Points

- Griffin's invisibility is both a scientific breakthrough and a source of danger.
- His misuse of power leads to fear, isolation, and conflict with society.
- The story highlights the ethical responsibilities that come with scientific advancements.

Important Vocabulary

- **Dodged:** to avoid with sudden quick movement.
- **Solitude:** the state of being alone.
- **Eccentric:** strange or unusual behavior.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is Griffin and what is his scientific achievement?
- What causes Griffin to become visible again in the store?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe how Griffin's invisibility affects his interactions with others in the village of Iping.
- Explain why the villagers suspect witchcraft and how they react to Griffin.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the ethical implications of Griffin's actions and how the story warns about the misuse of scientific power.
- Analyze the significance of the title "Footprints Without Feet" in relation to the story's themes.

Answer Key

- **Who is Griffin and what is his scientific achievement?** Griffin is a scientist who discovers how to make himself invisible by taking special drugs.
- **What causes Griffin to become visible again in the store?** He becomes visible when he puts on clothes he stole from the store.
- **Describe how Griffin's invisibility affects his interactions with others in the village of Iping.** His invisibility and strange behavior make the villagers suspicious and fearful, leading to isolation and conflict.
- **Explain why the villagers suspect witchcraft and how they react to Griffin.** The villagers see unexplained events and Griffin's headless appearance, leading them to believe in witchcraft and causing them to fear and try to capture him.
- **Discuss the ethical implications of Griffin's actions and how the story warns about the misuse of scientific power.** Griffin uses his invisibility for harmful purposes like theft and violence, showing that scientific discoveries must be used responsibly to avoid negative consequences.
- **Analyze the significance of the title "Footprints Without Feet" in relation to the story's themes.** The title symbolizes the mysterious and frightening nature of Griffin's invisibility, representing how actions can leave traces even when the actor is unseen, highlighting themes of fear and responsibility.

Quick Reference

- **Griffin:** Invisible scientist and protagonist.
- **Invisibility:** Result of scientific experiment, central to the plot.
- **Ethical misuse:** Griffin's harmful use of invisibility.
- **Village of Iping:** Setting where Griffin faces suspicion.
- **Footprints without feet:** Symbol of invisibility and consequences.

Glossary

- **Invisible:** Unable to be seen.
- **Experiment:** A scientific test or procedure.
- **Quarrel:** A heated argument.
- **Bandages:** Strips of material used to cover wounds or disguise appearance.

- **Constable:** A police officer.

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