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Class 10 English (Footprints without Feet) Notes

Footprints without Feet



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

LESSON-5
FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET
by - H.G. WELLS

Key Points :

- "Footprints Without Feet" is a story about an eccentric scientist.
- It has been taken from the novel of H.G. Wells "The Invisible Man".
- Once two boys were surprised to see the fresh muddy imprints of the bare feet without any trace of anyone.
- Actually they were following a scientist called Griffin who had discovered a rare drug that, when eaten makes a person invisible.
- Griffin was a brilliant scientist but he was a lawless person.
- He set fire to the house of his land lord and ran away after becoming invisible.
- To protect himself from cold of London he slipped into a store.
- There he enjoyed the food, comforts and clothings.
- Next Morning escaped by taking off his clothes from the grip of workers.
- Then he entered a theatrical house. Changed himself-with artificial costumes, nose, whiskers and bandage. Hit the shopkeeper. Robbed him and took train to the village Iping.
- In Iping he rented a room in an inn owned by Mr. & Mrs. Hall.

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- His strange look and activities invited people's curiosity and attention.
 - Once he stole money from the house of the clergyman.
 - His land lady and her husband found his room open. They peeked inside. Finding the room empty they went on only to be hit and chased by chair.
 - They panicked and ran out.
 - Griffin was now highly suspected.
 - Village constable Jaffers was called.
 - Jaffers had to catch a person without seeing him.
 - In the end, Jaffers was knocked unconscious by the scientist.
 - Griffin ran away invisibly.

Comprehension Passage-1

There were nervous, excited cries of "Hold him!" But this was easier said than done. Griffin had shaken himself free, and no one knew where to lay hands on him

Questions:

- a) Whose cries were those?
- b) Whom were they trying to hold?
- c) Why did they want to catch him?

Answers :

- a) Cries were of startled people of Iping.
- b) They were trying to hold Griffin.
- c) Because he was a criminal.

Passage-2

The landlord and his wife were up very early, and were surprised

to see the scientist's door wide open. Usually it was shut and locked, and he was furious if anyone entered his room. The opportunity seemed too good to be missed.

Questions:

- a) Who is the scientist mentioned here?
- b) Why was he furious?
- c) Why were they surprised to see the door open?

Passage-3

The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face.

- a) What was the unusual event? or How was it unusual?
- b) Who was the man of uncommon appearance?
- c) Why did Griffin not have any desire to talk?

SAQs

1. Why did Griffin set his landlord's house on fire? or How did Griffin become a homeless wonderer?

Ans. Griffin's landlord disliked him and wanted to eject (throw out) him. In revenge, set his house on fire. He swallowed, a drug able to make someone invisible, he had just discovered and became a homeless wanderer.

2. Why did he go to Iping in the cold season?

Ans. Griffin wanted to work on his scientific discoveries, besides he was a lawless person. He wanted a place where no one could

disturb him.

3. Why did Mrs. Hall rent her a room to a strange man despite the fact that he was not ready to be friend?
4. Why did Mrs. Hall suspect the scientist behind every curious thing happening in the town?
5. Why was the village constable called for?
6. Why was the constable desperate to catch the man though he was not able to see him.

L.4 Qs. (VBQs)

1. 'Brilliant scientist though he was , Griffin was a lawless person. Comment.

Ans. Griffin was a brilliant scientist. He had discovered a rare drug that could make a human body invisible. This made Griffin an arrogant lawless person. He broke the law more than once but never for a good reason. He could dedicate his discovery to his country but he didn't do that. His lawlessness made the law helpless. All his actions approve that science in devil's hand is disastrous.

2. Griffin could use his discovery for welfare of the people but misuses it to take revenge. Comment?

