
CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature

NCERT Solutions

Footprints Chapter 5

Footprints without Feet

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1. How did the invisible man first become visible?

Ans: Griffin was completely invisible until he happened to step in some mud, which caused him to leave footprints as he walked. Two boys noticed these footprints and followed him as long as the prints were visible. Griffin, on getting rid of them, went into a big London store to put on some warm clothes. After the store was shut, he got himself dressed in an overcoat and a wide-brimmed hat. He also put on a pair of shoes. This made him visible to the people who came to work at the store the next day.

2. Why was he wandering the streets?

Ans: Griffin was a lawless person. His landlord disliked him and tried to get rid of him. In revenge, Griffin set fire to his house. He had to remove his clothes to get away without being noticed. This was why he had become a homeless wanderer—without clothes and money.

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1. Why does Mrs Hall find the scientist eccentric?

Ans: The arrival of a stranger at an Inn in winter was in itself a strange occurrence. In addition, the stranger had an uncommon appearance. In spite of Mrs Hall's repeated attempts to be friendly, he would respond in a cold manner. He told her that he had no desire to talk and wanted to live in solitude. He did not wish to be disturbed in his work. For all these strange reasons, she regarded him as an eccentric scientist.

2. What curious episode occurs in the study?

Ans: A clergyman and his wife were awakened by some strange noises in the study very early in the morning. Creeping downstairs, they heard the chink of money being taken from the clergyman's desk. He and his wife looked under the desk and behind the curtains, and

even up the chimney. There wasn't a sign of anybody. Yet the desk had been opened and the housekeeping money was missing.

3. What other extraordinary things happen at the Inn?

Ans: The landlord and his wife were surprised to see the door of scientist's room open. Usually it is shut and locked and Griffin becomes furious if anyone enters his room. So They did not want to miss this opportunity . They peeped round the door, and finding nobody inside , decide to enter and investigate. The bedclothes were cold, showing that the scientist must have been up for some time now. All of a sudden Mrs. Hall heard a sniff close to her ear. A moment later the hat on the bed suddenly leapt up and dashed itself onto her face. Then the bedroom chair became alive. Springing into the air, it charged straight at her legs . As she and her husband turn away in terror, the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs. Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was, by now, convinced that the room was haunted by sprits and the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into the furniture.

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1. "Griffin was rather a lawless person." Comment.

Ans: It is rightly said that Griffin was a lawless person. A person who follows law and order of the country can not think of damaging other's property. But Griffin set fire to the house and became a homeless wanderer. He also robbed a shopkeeper of all the money he could find. He also stole the housekeeping money from the clergyman's desk. Griffin also attacked Mrs. Hall when she entered his room. All these activities and instances prove that he was not a law abiding citizen.

2. How would you assess Griffin as a scientist?

Ans: After repeated experiments, Griffin had discovered how to make the human body invisible. This was a big achievement. However, he misused his discovery for personal gains and for hurting others. Thus, though he can be termed as a brilliant scientist, he was not a noble one.
