

FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET Module1/3



**H.G. Wells**, in full Herbert George Wells,

Born: September 21, 1866,

Place of birth : Bromley, Kent, England

Died :August 13, 1946, London

He was an English *novelist, journalist, sociologist, and historian* .

He was best known for such science fiction novels as **The Time Machine** and **The War of the Worlds** His series of science fiction novels revealed him as a writer of marked originality and an immense fecundity of ideas.

**His popular works** : The Wonderful Visit (1895), The Island of Doctor Moreau (1896), The Invisible Man (1897), The War of the Worlds (1898), The First Men in the Moon (1901), and The Food of the Gods (1904).

He also wrote many short stories.

***Footprints without feet is a small segment of his novel , The Invisible Man (1897)***

**Characters** in the story :

**Griffin:** a brilliant scientist { the protagonist }

**Mrs. Halls :** landlord's wife {in Iping}

**Mr. Jaffers :** village constable

**Setting** : The story is set in London and a village named Iping.

It is winter and bitterly cold in England .

**An Overview :**

- Two boys in a London street are shocked to see fresh muddy footprints of bare feet. However, they are unable to find who was making them.
- They follow it until the footprints become fainter and disappear leaving the boys in disbelief.

- These footprints are made by Griffin, a scientist, who had discovered how to make his body transparent. He had experimented it on himself. Although his body was transparent like glass now, it remained solid as glass.
- He was running away after burning his landlord's house in revenge. To save himself from being caught, he had taken off his clothes and shoes which made him invisible.
  - It was bitterly cold in London. Without clothes, it was difficult to move around the streets.
  - He enters a shop/store to get warm.
  - He uses clothes from the store to cover himself, eats cold meat and coffee and goes off to sleep.

Next morning, he is found by the shop assistants. To escape, he again takes off his clothes and becomes invisible

- He enters a shop of a theatrical company to use the clothes and accessories to give himself cover, especially to his invisible face.
- He wears bandages on his face, dark glasses, a false nose and big bushy moustache and a hat.
- He also robbed the shopkeeper and escaped by train to avoid being caught.

What qualities of Griffin are revealed from this part of the story?

- He is a **brilliant scientist** .
- He is a **model of science without humanity**. He is **revengeful**.
- He is **selfish and greedy** as he steals money , clothes ;and violent as he attacks the shopkeeper of the theatrical company.
- He is **remorseless**.
- He did not carefully consider the disadvantages of invisibility.