

The Invisible Man—Study Questions
Reading Fiction 106

1. Discuss the Invisible Man's background. How might it explain his attitudes about science and society?
2. What does the novella reveal about scientific method (i.e., deduction and induction) and purpose of science? Think about the different views of science held by the Invisible Man and by Kemp, e.g., value of science, morality, ethics. How do the actions of the villagers in the first part of the novella reveal a type of scientific method?
3. Examine the character of Mr. Marvel. In what ways is he like the Invisible Man? And why does he have the notebooks at the novella's conclusion? Wouldn't Kemp be better able to appreciate and understand their true value?
4. What is the role of humor in the novella? Is it simply comic relief? Does it comment on Griffin and his situation in any way(s)?
5. How would you assess Griffin as a character and scientist? Is he mad? Misguided? In what ways is he an isolated man? Does this help to explain his character?
6. Why does the novella begin, not with Griffin's view of things, but rather with the villager's view of Griffin? How would the novella change if it were ALL in the first person—Griffin telling his own story? (Consider the novella's organization.)
7. What are drawbacks to being an invisible man? Do they make Griffin's experiment ultimately a failure?