



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Can you think of any reasons why someone might not want other people to see their face?
- 2 When you talk to someone, how important is it for you to see their eyes?
- 3 When we meet people for the first time, what do we usually notice about them?

HG Wells was one of the first 'science fiction' writers. These writers imagine the future and how science might make things that seem impossible become possible, like travelling to another planet. Many of Wells' predictions have come true – like going to the moon. In this story, a man has discovered how to become invisible.

- 1 Read the text. As you read the text think about this question.

Which colours do you see as you read this text?

The Invisible Man (1897)

H. G. Wells

The stranger came early in February, one **wintry** day, through biting wind and snow, the last snowfall of the year, walking from Bramblehurst railway station. He was wrapped up from head to foot, and his hat hid every inch of his face

- 5 but the **tip** of his nose. He **staggered** into the Coach and Horses, more dead than alive. 'A fire,' he cried, 'A room and a fire!' He **stamped** and shook the snow from off himself in the bar, and followed Mrs Hall into her guest **parlour**. Mrs Hall lit the fire and left him there while she went to prepare him a meal. She carried the **tablecloth**, plates, and glasses into the parlour. Although the fire was burning she was surprised to see that her visitor still wore his hat and coat, standing, **staring** out of the window at the falling snow. He seemed to be lost in thought. 'Can I take
- 15 your hat and coat, sir,' she said, 'and give them a good dry in the kitchen?' 'No,' he said without turning. He turned his head and looked at her over his shoulder. 'I prefer to keep them on,' he said with **emphasis**, and she
- 20 noticed that he wore big blue glasses and his coat-collar completely hid his cheeks and face.



- 'Very well, sir,' she said. 'As you like.'
- He made no answer, and had turned his face away from her again, and Mrs Hall left the room. When she returned he
- 25 was still standing there, like a man of stone, his hat hiding his face and ears completely. She put down the eggs and bacon with considerable emphasis, 'Your lunch is served, sir,' she said.
 - 'Thank you,' he said at the same time, and did not move
 - 30 until she was closing the door. Then he turned and approached the table quickly.

GLOSSARY

wintry	cold and typical of winter
tip	the end of something long and narrow
staggered	walked as if you might fall
stamped	put your foot down on the ground hard and quickly, often to show anger
parlour	a room in a public building for receiving guests
tablecloth	a piece of material that covers a table, especially during a meal
staring	looking at someone or something for a long time and not move your eyes
emphasis	particular importance or attention that you give to something

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why is the man wearing so many clothes?
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- 2 What do you notice about how the man moves and stands?
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- 3 Why do you think he avoids looking at Mrs Hall?
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- 4 What do you think Mrs Hall thinks about the stranger?
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- 5 Can you think of any reasons why the man might have come to Bramblehurst?
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VOCABULARY

3 Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

parlour tablecloth tips wintry

- 1 I took a photograph of snow and pine trees.
- 2 At home, we only use a for special meals.
- 3 The old hotel had a where guests could drink tea or coffee.
- 4 It was so cold I couldn't feel the of my fingers!

4 Match a word in the box with the idea in sentences 1-4.

emphasis staggered stamped stared

- 1 She did this with her foot because she was angry!
- 2 He walked this way because he was very, very tired.
- 3 He looked at her in this way because he was surprised.
- 4 He spoke with this because the message was important.

WRITING

5 Work with a partner. Discuss what might be some of the advantages of being invisible in these situations:

- at home
- at school
- in the countryside
- at a concert
- at Halloween
- at a birthday party

Choose one of these situations and describe what happened when someone called Alex (16) becomes invisible for a day. What does she/he do?

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SPEAKING

6 Work in a small group. You are going to perform the extract. Choose one person to be the stranger and one to be Mrs Hall. The rest of the group narrate the text that is not spoken by the two characters. Practise the scene together and think about how the characters speak, move, stand and look at each other.