

ENGLISH

Important Questions:

What do you know about Carlisle Indian School?

Carlisle Indian School was a school run by the British to educate the Red Indians and the British students. It had strict rules and regulations for all students. The students had to wear uniforms, girls had to wear short hair and skirts and tight shoes. The eating style also was different there. There were bells before eating. There was a prayer before eating.

How was Zitkala Sa different from the other native American students?

Zitkala Sa was a native American girl. She had great love for her tradition and culture. She was proud of her beliefs. She held closer to her heart these beliefs and felt hurt when the rest of the girls followed the foreign culture without any hesitation. For example, when she saw that the other girls like her had put on closely clinging skirts, she felt ridiculed. She herself felt embarrassed for having worn immodest dresses that closely contrasted her culture and traditions.

What does Zitkala Sa mean by, 'this eating by formula'?

When Zitkala Sa was admitted in the Carlisle Indian School, she faced a number of rules the students had to follow. One of them was the manner of eating. There were three bells to be tapped before the students were allowed to start eating. Being a natural being, Zitkala Sa could not digest the meaning of these polished manners which were alien/unknown to her culture. There was something that the school authorities had failed to recognize in Zitkala Sa. What was that?

The British authorities of the Carlisle Indian School were colonists and therefore could not understand the feelings of the people they ruled over. They believed that it was their duty to impart their civilization to the uncivilized native Americans but failed to understand their attachment to their own culture and traditions. When they passed their civilized manners like wearing shoes, uniforms, moccasins, short skirts and speaking English, they failed to think of the impact of these upon the natives. Instead of trying to understand why the little child was protesting the rules, they blindly forced her to follow them.

Why was Sa against the idea of cutting her long hair?

Zitkala Sa's mother had taught her that shingled hair was worn by mourners, cowards, and unskilled warriors caught in war. She had a great deal of love for her traditions and her hair. For her the hair meant much closer to her culture. To save her identity, to uphold her civilization and pride Sa fought against the attempts of the authorities to cut her hair.

In spite of all, the school authorities too had their own justifications. What were they?

Although the school authorities appear to be dictatorial and unfeeling, we can see the validity of their rules in the modern world. Wearing uniform dresses has been proved practical in all the schools in the world. Under a uniform dress code, the poor hardly feel inferior to the rich. Putting

on shoes was novel to Gertrude (Zitkala) but the safety and hygiene that shoes provide to the feet is undisputed. There is no denying that English language has brought the world much closer more than anything so we cannot entirely blame the school authorities for imposing English as the only medium of communication in the school. It goes without saying how good cutting of tangled hair can be. Besides keeping one's hair and head clean and safe from lice-like insects, it saves time in washing and drying. Praying before a meal or thanksgiving before a meal is one of the greatest prayers, no doubt, because we need to remember the farmers who have made our meal possible. Thus, the rules imposed by the school authorities did more good than bad. If they hadn't been rude in the way of imposition, there was no harm meant

How was Bama's innocent childhood ruffled up by the sight of an elderly man handing the parcel to the landlord at the threshing-field?

Bama was an innocent girl. She lived in a discriminated society with landlords above them and her community running errands for them. The first instance of class discrimination Bama experienced in her life was the incident of an elderly man of her caste carrying food for the landlord. The man had to carry the packet in the most shameful manner, holding the hand away from his body as a mark of untouchability.

What made Bama laugh at the sight of the elderly man handing the parcel to the landlord at the threshing-field?

Bama saw an elderly man of her society carrying a very small and light parcel to the landlord. The way the man held the parcel with its strings, the special respect the man showed towards the parcel and the way he offered it to the landlord without supporting it from the bottom made Bama laugh.

What did Bama feel when her annan explained to her why the village elder had to carry the parcel in a funny manner?

When Bama saw the elderly man from her society carrying a small parcel of eatable to the landlord, she laughed a lot but when her Annan told it was a scene of caste discrimination, she could not laugh any more. She grew angry with this social evil and wanted to touch the eatable herself and make it dirty. She felt helpless about her being untouchable and angry with the rich people who considered her so.

"Because they had scraped four coins together..." What did Bama mean?

According to Bama the cause of the rich people's superior attitude and behavior is the possession of money. Money makes a man feel superior over the poor and it makes him blind. While the ordinary people have a little wealth in their hands, the rich ones have a lot.

What was the point of the question raised by the landlord's man to Bama's elder brother, "On which street do you live?"

The people of Bama's time believed in untouchability and social discrimination. Some people were considered privileged while the majority of the others suffered from the shame of being backward class. People gave respect or disrespect to each other on the basis of caste, religion and being rich and poor. The landlord's men wanted to know if Bama's brother was touchable or untouchable and therefore he asked where he lived.

How did Bama fight against discrimination in her life?

Bama lived in a discriminated society with the evils of untouchability playing havoc. When she was aware of it Bama determined to fight it in her way. She was told by her Annan that education only could liberate her from being looked down by the society. Bama studied in a frenzy and stood top in the class and fought the class discrimination.

What could the Governor have done to securely bring back Evans to the prison when he caught him at the Golden Lion? Does that final act of foolishness really prove that "he was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor, that was all"?

Answer

The Governor took all the precautions to make sure that Evans should not have any chance to escape from the prison. He even tracked and arrested him at the Golden Lion after his sensational escape from the prison. But his overconfidence once again proved that he was no match for the clever and crafty Evans.

The Governor after finding the clues from the question paper tracked Evans at the Golden Lion. When Evans entered the room he was shocked to see the Governor. Evans offered no resistance and was arrested. The gullible Governor gloated over his success and said goodbye to him.

Evans was handcuffed and made to sit in the police van. The Governor did not take care to check the identity of the driver, the van and the officer. A little more vigilance could have averted the escape of the criminal. If the Governor had accompanied Evans to the prison cell with full police arrangements the criminal would not have escaped. This act of negligence proved that he was "just another good-for-a-giggle gullible governor that was all".

Note:

INVISIBLE MAN

These are some of the important questions on the bases of textual comprehension and analytic approach from the novel The Invisible Man with their possible and sample answers which are in the forms of value points. The points have to be simply expanded so as to draft full length answers. Examples can be cited from the text wherever necessary. Explanation is also required wherever it is directed.

1. Illustrate whether the ending of the novel justified? What is your reaction when Griffin gets

killed and Marvel gets to keep all the stolen money? Are you glad that the invisibility formula is hidden from Kemp, who could use it?

Value Points:

As there is always an element of nemesis in order to justify man's doings. The novelist also to provide poetic justice to the story gets Griffin killed as the thing he did was against mankind and however innovative and ambitious the plan may be, if it proves fatal to the mankind it needs to be curtailed. As such the ending is thoroughly justified.

Though Griffin deserves punishment his melodramatic killing on the part of the public was too severe and a little bit unfair as a second chance might have worked for his transformation.

It was just unwholesome and surprising that undeserving and a turn coat Marvel got hold of Griffin's money in the end, which also shows the irrationality pervading in the world.

In other way round it was right that Marvel who could not do any thing of the formulae of invisibility, was found to have possessed with the books otherwise they could be misused by Kemp or if not by him, by any other scientist as we can hardly ascertain about the mind of man.

2. Justify the title 'The Strange Man's Arrival'.

Value Points:

The first chapter is aptly entitled as it is about the arrival of the stranger which triggers the exposition of the novel.

The plot of the novel depends on his arrival, and creates an atmosphere of suspense and mystery that hangs on till the end of the novel.

The unusual appearance of the stranger. (Give illustrations)

The equally unusual behaviour to all who venture in into Griffin's room.

3. What impressions do you form of the stranger by his strange appearance and the intermittent conversation with Mrs. Hall?

Value Points:

A person of mysterious nature.

A man of weird intention who keeps all his intention and designs to himself.

Having a very secret mission which he does not want to let anyone know and only for this purpose he came to this solitude (Iping) or rather 'dropped from infinity'.

A very laconic and unsociable person having no regard for the people and their affection.

A man who perhaps deliberately wills to remain a mystery.

4. Mrs. Hall tried to prove the best of hosts but the regular snubbing on the part of the stranger frustrated all her efforts. Comment. OR
What different conversational advances did Mrs. Hall try to make? How did the stranger respond and Why did he do so?

Value Points:

Having a guest at Iping in the dead time of the year was undoubtedly an unheard piece of luck and that too the person who was no haggler.

Keeping this thing in mind she did not wish to let him go on account of reluctant services.

Started being the best of hosts by insuring every thing ready in time. (Give examples).

However she failed to assess him and sometimes went too far in her considering him, and as such, had to face rebukes. (Give examples).

Taking the advantage of offering tea or lunch sometimes, about his asking for getting his luggage brought and telling the story of her nephew.

Though seemed sometimes sociable but cautious at the same time of the unwarranted intrusion in his private life in any way, he frustrated all her efforts to sneak into his life.

He did it as talking casually might result in giving some clue about his mysterious identity and secret objective.

5. What difference do you find in Mrs. Hall's treatment of the stranger and her husband? How much importance did Mrs. Hall give to Mr. Hall's observations, remarks and suggestions about the strange guest that she had taken into the "Coaches and Horses" inn? What traits of her character are highlighted by her approach?

Value Points:

Mrs Hall was dominating kind of wife who perhaps had low opinion of her husband.

Mr Hall too was a little sluggish in his approach to personal, professional and familial life and as such, failed to be the bread and butter winner, leaving only a poor impression on his wife's mind.

On the other hand she had an opportunity to earn money even in off season time. She, therefore, did not want to entertain any opposite idea on the part of other people about the stranger.

There could be a tinge of jealousy in Mr Hall which she noticed and as such, regarded his observations being little bit prejudiced about the stranger.

By this way it can be concluded that she was a credulous, somewhat irresponsible (in believing the stranger even without confirming his identity) about her family's well-being and judgmental about her husband (not giving any respect to what he said).

6. Describe the stranger's behaviour while unpacking the crates. What does it indicate about his personality?

Value Points:

Impatient, and eager for the accomplishment of his task i.e. preparing the antidote of his invisibility.

Careless about any other consideration like spoiling the room of Mrs. Hall.

The behaviour also shows how desperate he is to get his previous form back as this invisibility has frustrated him to the core.

A very diligent, concerned, laborious, guy he is to his work.

He is very objective in his approach to his work.

7. What made Cuss interview the stranger? What kind of interview was it and what did come out of it?

Value Points:

The interview was not intended fairly by Cuss. He with an evil desire to know about the stranger out of his professional envy tried to infuriate him rather know something valuable. (Detail it slightly)

It was a fake type of interview as Cuss asked something else and had his eyes and aim at something else.

It turned out to be an extra ordinary, an unusual and a nightmarish kind of experience for Cuss as the things he noticed and felt could hardly be rationalized. (Give details)

8. There has been a shift in Mrs. Hall's temperament and opinion about the stranger in sixth chapter. Explain the statement in context of the chapter. OR What made Mrs. Hall change her opinion about the stranger and what change do you notice in her attitude towards the stranger?

Value Points:

A person can feel comfortable even sometimes in the odd behavior and can tolerate somebody if there is something to have monetary gains or some other self-vested interest. However, if there is an element of supernatural in it, all the possibilities of bearing with the person fly. The same happened with Mrs Hall.

The shift directly appeared in Hall's attitude by the experience she had in the stranger's room. (Give details)

The money making pursuit which she had in tolerating Griffin's offending antics vanished when she found something of the unusual and particularly para-natural or supernatural in the stranger. (Give details)

9. Why did the invisible man choose Mr. Marvel as his helper and why did Mr. Marvel comply?

Value Points:

Having been thrown by the people at Coach and Horses and having no hope with those people Griffin wanted someone who was of his own type.

Mr. Marvel was a socially outcast and of awkward temperament (explain) which suited Griffin's purpose i.e. luggage carrier and money pocket.

Mr. Marvel had no choice (explain) on the one hand and on the other was tempted to the supposed benefits he would have being with the stranger with the infinite powers of invisibility.

10. The unusually strange experience with the invisible man could not weaken the enthusiasm of the people for much awaited 'Whit Monday'. Justify the statement.

Value Points:

The people of Iping were simple minded and as such, could not be distracted by any unusual event for so long.

Moreover they were not sceptic in their approach to the supernatural or unusual event, and could easily believe the thing i.e. the invisibility the stranger.

The people come out of their homes in order to celebrate the much awaited event of Whit Monday.

They were in their gala dress (Explain) and in their cheerful moods.

11. Give pen portrait of Dr. Kemp and contrast it with that of Griffin.

Value Points:

Introduction: Kemp was a research scholar who aspired for fellowship of Royal Society, and at the same time wanted to get his journals published so as to benefit the masses. (Explain his physical features)

Sceptic: He could not believe anything unusual as such like supernatural or the thing or idea like invisibility. (Explain)

Contrasting Personality: He presents a sharp contrast to Griffin-

Intentionally: He had fair vision to be achieved by his discovery while Griffin to create a reign of terror. (Explain)

-- He kept all his work or did his research in open way unlike Griffin who always kept his plans to himself. (Explain)

-- He proved to be the benefactor of humankind by getting Griffin arrested while the latter even killed Wickstead and harmed other few just like anything.

12. Unseen fear of something strange often leads to puzzle senses of the people. Justify the statement in the light of people at 'Jolly Cricketers' and their handling the invisible man.

Value Points:

Often fear drives the people so much that they go with willing suspension of disbelief.

Their sensuous impression works more than the reality.

Describe the scene of Jolly Cricketers when Marvel took shelter and the stranger followed him and created ruckus.

People's getting afraid and as such, behaving in an unusual way.

Their (mention names) trying to hit him.

Lastly their assuming that they had hit him severely and believing that the stranger was killed.

13. "All men, however highly educated retain some superstitious inkling". Explain the line in context of Dr. Kemp's reaction at unusual sight in his house.

Value Points:

If we even tend to doubt the existence of something like supernatural it tends to exist and if we rule it out completely it does not. Every impression stays in our subconscious mind for some time and if we incline to think of it, there may be chances of believing its existence.

Our so-called rationality, however, sometimes belies our senses.

The same happened with Kemp as well. (Explain his impressions of Marvel's running as if he had been chased, the spot of blood and his experience of the invisible man in his room.)

14. What strange thoughts or nightmare Griffin had when he was sleeping after he had executed his experiment on himself and why did he feel so? What do these suggest about his present state?

Value Points:

The experiment was being carried out at the cost of his social, familial and personal life. Even he became less scrupulous about stealing his father's money which later on caused him to commit suicide.

This had created a kind of unease in Griffin's psyche that did not leave him in his sleep.

The chaos in his subconscious mind resulted in his experiencing his father at his funeral.

He felt as if somebody were pulling him into the grave itself. (Explain)

Effect on his life: Guilt ridden about the supposed killing of his father and obsessive about his remembrances.

He became a kind irritated person and could not develop intimacy with anybody. (Explain)

15. Once Griffin saw no drawbacks in the invisibility but when he became invisible, there came to his view thousands of disadvantages. Explain the statement in the general way when we have certain fantastic plans and the ensuing disappointment when we have realized them.

Value Points:

There have been many examples evident whenever ambition turns into vaulting ambition, the result has been disastrous. This was the case with Tithonas when he asked for immortality, and

had to regret later on. The same case was with Dr. Faustus who regretted sorely after signing a bond with the Satan. His wish to do whatever he could failed to satisfy him and ultimately his mortality came very soon. Bhasmasur's over ambition turned into his own downfall when he took it otherwise.

Griffin also failed to be an exception to it.

His wild idea of invisibility of conquering the world and creating a reign of terror led him to be oblivious of a thousands of drawbacks he would have to be exposed to.

(Explain the drawbacks like his being prone to the weather condition, crowd's reaction or their unbidden collision etc.)

16. Sometimes the plan or the intention behind some ambitious innovation is so wicked that the accomplishment of it is either prevented from or if it is done, it is done with some irreparable faults. Justify the statement with Griffin's plans and intentions.

Value Points:

There is always an element of nemesis (retribution) implied in all the evil tasks that human being presupposes. There have been many examples evident whenever ambition turns into vaulting ambition the result has been disastrous. This was the case with Tithonas when he asked for immortality and had to regret later on. The same case was with Dr. Faustus who regretted sorely after signing a bond with the Satan. His wish to do whatever he could failed to satisfy him and ultimately his mortality came very soon. Bhasmasur's over-ambition turned into his own downfall when he took it otherwise. All these examples show that the evil intended task is always prevented from its accomplishment as was desired. The reason is that the welfare of humankind is above the malicious intentional innovation.

Though Griffin did the impossible yet he failed to generate fair intention in him after its fulfillment. (Explain his intention) (Explain the challenges he faced during and after the accomplishment of his idea of invisibility)

17. Often the innocent people fall the victim of the mad raid. Justify the statement with Griffin attacking and killing Wickstead desperately and cruelly. Why did he do so?

Value Points:

The cruelty of a few people is suffered by many and, that too more often by the innocent.

When the over ambitious plan is felt to be of no use or ruined, the frustration is faced by the one who has the least to do with it.

Griffin, betrayed by the infidelity of Kemp, felt deeply anguished and at the same time the mounting disillusionment left him at a troubled state of mind.

The result was the desperate murder of the innocent Wickstead and the throwing of a child.

Reason: It was the last desperate attempt of resolution to accumulate the shattered pieces of his broken wild ambition and evil some plans. (Explain)

18. The entire course of Griffin's life is that of wickedness, cruelty, rudeness and unscrupulous existence. However, at the end he ended with a tragic note. Explain the statement with Griffin's chasing his ambition, getting deceived and finally leading to his catastrophic death.

Value Points:

"Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight,

And burned is Apollo's laurel-bough,

That sometime grew within this learned man.

... Regard his hellish fall...."

The above mentioned lines clearly justify the situation of Griffin as he himself ventured into something beyond natural and scientific laws and limits.

(Explain the instances of his wickedness and rudeness which he showed to various people he came across.)

His sacrifices to follow his ambitious task.

His interaction with Marvel and Kemp and having been deceived by the latter.

His Final doom and tragic death at the hand of the people prematurely.

19. Character sketch of Mrs. Hall.

Value Points:

As a host- Best of the hosts in making all her guests comfortable, doing every bit of required services by her guests. e.g. her treatment of the stranger, her tolerating the antics of her guest.

As a Wife- A kind of dominating wife who considered her position i.e. bread and butter winner in the family. e.g. her treatment of her husband as compared to her treatment of the stranger.

A Money Minded Lady- For the sake of money did not mind the rudeness in Griffin and interceded on his behalf before her husband and other people. Even her mixing the certain quantity of sarsaparilla in the beer to attract the customers.

As a Superstitious Lady- She was inclined to the existence of para-natural beings as is shown in her interpreting the stranger. Even her experience of the bed sheet's flying onto her.

20. Character sketch of Thomas Marvel.

Value Points:

Introduction- Explain his physical features i.e. cylindrical nose and fluffy cheeks etc, his living on his own and the way he led his life.

As a Vagrant- His living a secluded life of an outcast, his antipathy with all the people and society at large.

As an Unscrupulous Person- He did not feel hesitate to deceive Griffin twice or thrice, however, he was compelled to do it as well. Moreover, he accepted to follow him when he was tempted to be benefited by the infinite powers of Griffin's invisibility.

As a Utilitarian- He turned out to be a sure utilitarian as by the money of the stranger he established himself as an inn owner in the end when the latter was killed and at the same time kept Griffin's books in order to decode the mystery of becoming invisible, however he could not succeed.

21. Character sketch of Griffin.

Value Points:

Introduction- The protagonist of the novel, an anti-hero, a scientist, and a discoverer of one of the most amazing things one can ever imagine.

As a Scientist- The most dedicated, focused, determined and an aspirant of doing always something new. A kind of innovation-maniac who sacrificed everything-- his personal, social, familial and worldly life for the sake of his cherished discovery and at the end did it. However as far as the humanitarian approach to science is concerned he was secretive and missed it which finally led to his catastrophic end. Also refer to question 14 and 15.

As an Unscrupulous Being- Griffin had no sympathy or a sense of doing a service to the society by his remarkable discovery, rather he robbed his father, virtually killed him, misbehave with Mrs. Hall and all the other people he came across and never minded cheating anybody for his own sake.

As a Tragic Figure- Refer to question 17.

22. Character sketch of Colonel Adye

Value Points:

Introduction: An important character to further the plot of the story. One of the initial instrumental guy to get the stranger in panic.

As a Policeman: As a whole a very responsible person, a very conscious guy to get Griffin arrested. Very prompt to the execution of his tasks. (Explain the instances)

However, to handle the unusual cases like the one of Griffin (his being invisible) he failed to the exclusive.

He felt comfortable in this matter only when he was assisted by Kemp.(Give details)

A Foolish Officer: Though he was a better policeman and a very responsible officer, yet he lacked the especial skill of Sherlock Holmes to handle these unusually different cases. (Give instance of his foolish treatment of Griffin when he was on his gun point and as a result was killed quite easily)