**The Invisible Man**

*This extract is from the* ***opening*** *of a novel by H.G. Wells, which was first published in 1897. In this section a stranger arrives in a snowstorm at the Coach and Horses, an inn in Iping.*

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| **Section/questions/terms** | **Text** |
| **Beginning:**1.What is the weather like? What kind of mood or tone does this create? 2. What do learn about the ‘stranger’ from him walking through all that extreme weather?3. How does the structure of the sentence amplify or emphasise what we learn? | **The stranger came early in February, one wintry day, through a biting wind and a driving snow, the last snowfall of the year, over the down, walking from Bramblehurst railway station, and carrying a little black portmanteau in his thickly gloved hand.** Hewas wrapped up from head to foot, and the brim of his soft felt hat hid every inch ofhis face but the shiny tip of his nose; the snow had pileditself against his shoulders and chest, and added a white crest to the burden he carried. He staggered into the "Coach and Horses" more dead than alive, and flung his portmanteau down. "A fire," he cried, "in the name of human charity! 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 to strike his bargain. And with that much introduction, that and a couple of sovereigns flung upon the table, he took up his quarters in the inn. |
| **Shift:**4. How does the writer begin to build the mystery surrounding the stranger in this paragraph? 5. How does the stranger react to the question? Why is that both surprising and mysterious?6. How do the sentence structures emphasise the contrast between the question and the reply? | Mrs. Hall lit the fire and left him there while she went to prepare him a meal with her own hands. A guest to stop at Iping in the wintertime was an unheard-of piece of luck, let alone a guest who was no "haggler," and she was resolved to show herself worthy of her good fortune. As soon as the bacon was well under way, and Millie, her lymphatic maid, had been brisked up a bit by a few deftly chosen expressions of contempt, she carried the cloth, plates, and glasses into the parlour and began to lay them with the utmost éclat. Although the fire was burning up briskly, **she was surprised to see that her visitor still wore his hat and coat, standing with his back to her and staring out of the window at the falling snow in the yard**. His gloved hands were clasped behind him, and he seemed to be lost in thought. She noticed that the melting snow that still sprinkled his shoulders dripped upon her carpet. **"Can I take your hat and coat, sir?" she said, "and give them a good dry in the kitchen?"****"No," he said without turning.****She was not sure she had heard him, and was about to repeat her question.** |
| **End:**7. How does the writer further build the mystery surrounding the stranger in this section?8. How does the innkeeper’s behaviour illustrate how wary she has become of the stranger?9. How does the stranger try to regain some sense of politeness/humanity in the last line? Why does he fail? | He turned his head and looked at her over his shoulder. "I prefer to keep them on," he said with emphasis, and **she noticed that he wore big blue spectacles with sidelights, and had a bush side-whisker over his coat-collar that completely hid his cheeks and face.**"Very well, sir," she said. "As you like. In a bit the room will be warmer."**He made no answer, and had turned his face away from her again**, and Mrs. Hall, feeling that her conversational advances were ill-timed, laid the rest of the table things in a quick staccato and whisked out of the room. **When she returned he was still standing there, like a man of stone, his back hunched, his collar turned up, his dripping hat-brim turned down, hiding his face and ears completely.** She put down the eggs and bacon with considerable emphasis, and **called rather than said to him,****"Your lunch is served, sir."****"Thank you," he said at the same time, and did not stir until she was closing the door.** |

**4. Do you agree with a student who read the text and said: “The writer makes the stranger seem mysterious. There is something unusual about the man.”**

**To what extent do you agree? In your response, you could:**

* **write about your own impressions of the character**
* **evaluate how the writer has created these impressions**
* **support your opinions with quotations from the text.**