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Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

# *Invisible Man*

*by Ralph Ellison*

written by Sara Goodrich

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## To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

For *Invisible Man*, we also have these materials:

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*Invisible Man* is a very intense book for young readers. As one might expect in a book about race in the first half of the twentieth century, it is littered with racial slurs. There is also other strong language used and scenes of violence. Also, be aware of several scenes with irresponsible alcohol use and one of cannabis use, which is in the Prologue. Perhaps of greatest concern are the scenes of sexuality, which end up being pretty morally ambiguous as a result of the author's interest in using sexuality for symbolic purposes. The most problematic is the incestuous rape scene in Chapter 2, which should be treated with extra sensitivity, given the possibility that some students may have personally experienced sexual abuse. There is also a scene in which a woman asks to be raped (Chapter 24) and a disrespectful speech about women and sexuality is given by Ras the Exhorter in Chapter 17.

*Invisible Man*, therefore, should be taught to classes capable of handling mature subject matter.

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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.





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*Invisible Man*

**Title**

1. Reflect on the title—*Invisible Man*. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt invisible? Write an email to the people responsible, explaining how this situation made you feel. Include why you think you felt invisible in this situation. Was it because other people were blatantly ignoring you, or was it your own discomfort that made you unable to participate in the situation? Tell these people specifically what they could have done to make you feel more comfortable.

## **Introduction**

2. Ellison begins the Introduction with “What, if anything, is there that a novelist can say about his work that wouldn’t be better left to critics?” What do you think about this statement? Should novelists explain their work to those who don’t understand it or defend it from those who dislike it, or should they just let their work stand on its own? Imagine you have written a novel that you feel some people have misunderstood. An editor of a magazine has just asked to write an explanatory piece about your novel. Write a letter to the editor accepting the offer or declining it, and explain why you have made your choice.
  
3. “High visibility,” “benign neglect,” and “reverse discrimination” are phrases Ralph Ellison hates because he feels they obscure and excuse the reality of racism. In practice, the phrase “high visibility” means, “You look different so I can treat you differently” and “benign neglect” means “Your equality is not *my* responsibility.” Following this pattern, explain what you think “reverse discrimination” really means. Then think of three more phrases that excuse discrimination and small mindedness (they do not necessarily need to be in the area of race) and translate them as well.
  
4. In the Introduction, Ellison defines a “lie” as an African-American folk term for an improvised story. Write one of these “lies.” Make it a few paragraphs long and imagine you are telling it to entertain a friend on the walk home from school.
  
5. The Introduction is full of historical events, historical figures, and literary references. Pick one of these references, research it briefly, and write a paragraph explaining to a classmate why you think Ellison found this incident, person, or book a powerful symbol of black and white relations in the United States.

## **Prologue**

6. In the prologue, Ellison says, “I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.” Other disadvantaged groups, such as the poor, have often been referred to as invisible in American society. What do you think is meant by this comment? Do you feel that middle-class Americans don’t see those people who are less fortunate or that they choose to ignore them?

Imagine you are the leader of a non-profit organization seeking to help the less fortunate. Pick a problem that is prevalent in your area such as poverty, homelessness, racism, etc., that is not being addressed currently. How would you increase community response in regard to the problem? What would you do to focus your campaign about the problem as you see it? Explain your solution in a paragraph or two, after explaining the problem fully.

## **Chapter 1**

7. When he looks back on his past, the narrator says, “I was looking for myself and asking everyone except myself questions which I, and only I, could answer.” Can you identify with this statement? Have you ever asked someone a question which only you could answer? Write down one of these questions and then write the answer to it yourself.
  
8. In Chapter One, both the young black men in the battle royal and the young woman dancing are treated as entertainment for the white male audience without any respect for their dignity as people. Have you seen a movie or a TV show recently where a woman or a minority was depicted as an entertaining object rather than as a human? Write a letter to a friend in which you describe the scene. Speculate on what it is about the scene that objectifies the entertaining person. Lastly, tell your friend what you think about scenes like this. Should they happen?
  
9. After the battle royal and at the end of the narrator’s speech, the superintendent comments, “Someday he’ll lead his people in the proper paths.” Given the events that just happened, what kind of “proper paths” do you think these are? Imagine you are in the audience, and you shout a warning to our gullible young narrator. Start with, “Hey you! Don’t trust these men! I know what paths they want you to lead your people down...” Be sure to give our narrator some alternate paths that would be good for him and his people.

## Chapter 2

10. Chapter 2 begins with a beautiful and vivid description of a walk through the narrator's college campus. Is there a favorite walk you like to take when you want to be alone or that you find particularly beautiful? Write a descriptive paragraph about what you see and experience on this walk. Try to make it as detailed as possible.
  
11. While Jim Trueblood is talking, the narrator is mortified and thinks, "How can he tell this to white men ... When he knows they'll say that all Negroes do such things?" Have you ever been a victim of such guilt by association in which the bad behavior of one member of the group is used to condemn everyone else? Write a letter to the person or people who judged you in this way. Tell this person how this made you feel and explain why their judgment was misguided.
  
12. Throughout Chapter 2, we hear a lot of Jim Trueblood's side of the story, but none of the perspective of Matty Lou or Kate. It doesn't sound like any of the white men who interviewed Jim bothered to ask them what they thought either. Imagine that Mr. Norton and the narrator went into the cabin to hear what the women had to say. Pick one of the women and give her a paragraph to speak her mind. What does she think of Jim's explanations for his actions? Does she still want him living there? What do you think her hopes for the future are? How do you think she feels about Jim being given all this money instead of it being given to her?

### **Chapter 3**

13. In this chapter, the narrator is responsible for getting Mr. Norton back to the school safely. Unfortunately, the events at the Golden Day make this very difficult and cause the narrator a great deal of stress. Have you ever been responsible for someone or something, such as a sibling, a pet, or an object, and had something go wrong? In a paragraph, describe the incident and what actions you took to try to fix the problem. What was the final result?

### **Chapter 4**

14. On the way back to campus, the narrator is very nervous about what Mr. Norton is going to tell Dr. Bledsoe about what happened. The narrator is shocked when Mr. Norton denies that any of the trouble had been the narrator's fault. Pretend you are the narrator, and write a letter to Mr. Norton thanking him for what he said.

## Chapter 5

15. Throughout this chapter, the narrator uses the word “shame” to describe how the students feel about the folk-ways of the small towns they come from. Have you ever felt ashamed of your origins? Do you have a sense of why? Was it because of a larger social prejudice against your ethnicity or the community you came from? Write a poem about shame, describing a personal experience in which you felt ashamed. Remember that not all poems have to rhyme.
  
16. The narrator imagines that all his student-day speeches were addressed to Miss Susie Gresham. He describes her as Mother Gresham, “relic of slavery whom the campus loved but did not understand, aged, of slavery, yet bearer of something warm and vital and all-enduring, of which in that island of shame we were not ashamed.” During the time in which *Invisible Man* was written, the life-experience of slavery was only three generations removed. The narrator’s Grandfather was a freed slave.
  
17. Today, our grandparents were young people when this book was written. When they were young, they probably knew people who had lived through the Civil War and maybe even fought in it or were slaves themselves. Talk to a grandparent or someone else who is elderly. Did they ever have someone share with them personal memories of slavery or of the Civil War? Write down what they say. If they don’t have such memories, imagine what questions you might ask someone who lived through slavery times and write them down. Write briefly about why it is important to get a personal perspective of historical events and not just what is in the textbooks.

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*Response Journal*

18. While at chapel, the narrator gives a very vivid description of a young woman singing a cappella. Think back to when you saw music performed live. Write a few descriptive paragraphs about the experience. How did the music change during the piece, and did the performers seem transformed by making music? Read over the two paragraphs used to describe the girl's performance in the book. Try to make your own paragraph as creative. Use words not usually used to describe music, and make unexpected comparisons.
19. At the college, the Founder is celebrated as a leader and liberator of the race, whose affects are felt even after his death. Is there anyone who you personally respect as a leader and liberator of dispossessed people? Write about this person. Tell what they did during their lifetime and how this affects life today. What specifically about their life and work impresses you so much?

## Chapter 6

20. While Dr. Bledsoe is yelling at the narrator for his disastrous car ride with Mr. Norton, he calls him a “nigger.” The narrator is horrified. He thinks, “He called me *that*.” Free write about the word and your experience with its use. Have you ever heard a white person use it to refer to a black person? Did that make you feel uncomfortable? Were you shocked that they used such a racist term? Have you ever witnessed a black person call another black person this in anger? How is this the same, and how is it different? What do you think about how some black people playfully refer to each other in this way? Do you think this is a positive way to “take back” the word, or do you think it is degrading and that they should use another word?
21. The narrator tries to defend himself by telling Dr. Bledsoe that he couldn’t think of lying to Mr. Norton and was only trying to please him. Dr. Bledsoe is disgusted saying, “Why, the dumbest black bastard in the cotton patch know that the only way to please a white man is to tell him a lie!” He later says, “You let the white folks worry about pride and dignity.”

In a way Dr. Bledsoe is right, a black person in this time and place cannot achieve success by following the rules of white society. But does that really mean the narrator should lie and leave the values of pride and dignity behind? Imagine you are an advice columnist, and that after the narrator leaves Dr. Bledsoe’s office he writes you a letter asking you what kind of values he should follow—those he was raised with or Dr. Bledsoe’s. Write a column telling him what the best course would be. There is, however, no perfect path. What are the benefits of the path you suggest? What would be the obstacles?

## **Chapter 7**

22. When the narrator first arrives in New York City, he is totally overwhelmed by how different it is. He vividly describes his first ride on the subway and his walk down a street in Harlem. Have you ever been to a new place where you felt inundated by new sights and shocked by what you saw? Recall the experience and describe it in detail in the form of a letter to a friend. You may begin it “Dear \_\_\_\_\_, I just arrived in \_\_\_\_\_ today and you won’t *believe* what I saw....”

## **Chapter 8**

23. When the narrator first arrives in New York, he is filled with dreams of success. He thinks of the best ways to talk and act to assure this success. He thinks, “I would have one way of speaking in the North and another in the South.” Do you have two different ways of speaking? Do you speak differently at home than you do at school? Do you use different words when you talk to teachers than when you talk to your friends? Write the same short paragraph twice. Imagine you are speaking it to very different audiences and be sure to make the paragraphs different based on that assumption. Now take a few sentences and reflect on why they are different. How do these different ways of speaking fit the demands of your life? Do you prefer speaking in one way over the other?

## **Chapter 9**

24. After the narrator discovers Dr. Bledsoe's betrayal, he thinks, "Everyone seemed to have some plan for me, and beneath that some more secret plan." Do you identify with this statement? Is it necessarily a bad thing for someone else to have a plan for you? Write a list of five people and their plans for you. Include your own plans for your future as number six. What do you think about their plan? Is it something you want? Is it for your own good or is it in their own best interest?

## **Chapter 10**

25. The whiteness of the white paint they sell at Liberty Paints is really an illusion. It is a combination of yellow chemicals and black chemicals, and people of every color are involved in producing it. Think of the symbolism of what it means to be white. Is whiteness an illusion, or does it really exist. For almost all of its history, the United States has pretended to be a white country even though people of every color have always lived there. Free write about the racism inherent in this illusion of whiteness. Do you think this still happens today? Are minority Americans ignored for the benefit of the white majority?
26. The narrator has just had one terrible first day at work. Have you ever had an awful first day at a job, school, club or sports team? Write a diary entry about this day titled "My Terrible First Day at \_\_\_\_\_."

## **Chapter 11**

27. In this chapter, the narrator finds himself in a hospital undergoing electro-shock therapy. He is frightened, disoriented, and alone. This technique had been widely used in psychiatry up until 1970, when it began to lose favor and was replaced by drug therapy. Pretend that you are one of the nurses and write a speech explaining to him where he is, what is happening, and why he is there. Look up electro-shock therapy, do some minor research on it, and be prepared to include your findings in the speech to the narrator.
28. At the end of this Chapter, the narrator is released from the hospital weak and confused. He does not have a job nor anyone to help him recover from his injuries. At this point, the future looks frightening for the narrator. Based on what you've read so far, what do you think will happen after he leaves the hospital?

## **Chapter 12**

29. When the narrator tells Mary that he isn't sure what he wants to do with his life, she tells him to make sure that whatever he does is a "credit to the race." Explain to a classmate who doesn't understand what this phrase means and why Mary thinks that that being a positive influence is important.

## **Chapter 13**

30. When the narrator sees the baked yam vendor, he recalls positive memories of eating yams as a child. Do you have a favorite food that has a lot of pleasant memories associated with it? Write down the name of this food and under it, free-write a list of associations with that food. Remember, in free-writing, you should not spend a lot of time thinking about what to write. Include your thoughts as they occur to you without worrying about grammar, punctuation, etc.
31. While he is eating his yam, the narrator thinks, “What a group of people we were... you could cause us the greatest humiliation simply by confronting us with something we liked.” Do you have a guilty pleasure too? What is it, and why do you feel guilty admitting you like it? Is it like the example the narrator gives, a result of society’s racist judgment of black rural culture? Do you think your guilty pleasure is a bad habit you will someday overcome, or is it something you will eventually accept because it is a part of you.

## **Chapter 14**

32. At the Brotherhood party, Emma asks, “But don’t you think he should be a little blacker?” This statement is a type of reverse discrimination, one in which a person’s skin color should make no difference, but Emma wants the black narrator to be less white and more “black”. Write Emma a short note explaining how you feel about her comment.

## Chapter 15

33. When the narrator gives Mary a hundred dollar bill to cover his back rent, she asks if he has any thing smaller. She says if she tries to change it “the white folks’ll want to know my whole life’s history...and when I tell ’em they still gonna think I stole it.” Have you ever had an authority figure think you were dishonest based on your race, class, age, or appearance? Write a letter to this person. Explain why their judgment was faulty in this situation, and point out to them the prejudice that is behind it.

## Chapter 16

34. In this chapter, the narrator delivers his big speech at the rally. Imagine you were given the opportunity to deliver a speech to a large crowd about any issue that is important to you. It could be about racism, sexism, economic disparities, or any other injustice you can think of. Make an outline of what you would say to your audience. How would you get them fired up about the unfairness of the situation? Do you have any suggestions for how they could change the situation?
35. After the narrator’s speech, he recalls his college English professor saying, “Stephen’s problem, like ours, was not actually one of creating the uncreated conscience of his race, but of creating the *uncreated features of his face*. Our task is that of making ourselves individuals.” Racism and other kinds of prejudice function by making other people see a human being not as a person, but as a stereotype. With that in mind, reflect on what the English professor said. Free-write about how being yourself is related to fighting prejudice. By truly being yourself are you able to transcend the bounds of race and racism—by rejecting race as a meaningful concept at all?

## Chapter 17

36. When the narrator first sees Brother Tod Clifton, he notices that he is handsome and self-assured and worries that they will be rivals. They end up being friends and allies. Do you have a friend, who based on your first impression, you didn't think you'd be friends with? Describe that first impression, and then say how it was misleading and how you became friends. If you have not had this experience write about an example from a movie or television show.
37. Brother Clifton says, "Sometimes a man *has* to plunge outside history." The black characters in this book are burdened by the history of their ancestors being dehumanized and enslaved. When the narrator is reminded of this history, his feelings are so strong and overwhelming that he pushes them away. Do you agree with Brother Clifton that he must "turn his back... Otherwise he might kill somebody, go nuts"? Do you believe terrible events in the past can continue to destroy future generations? When it comes to painful events in history people seem to say either "never forget" or "let bygones be bygones." Which do you believe? Write an editorial for your school newspaper in which you support one of these viewpoints about at history. Use concrete examples, and give your editorial a catchy title.
38. Brother Tarp gives the narrator a portrait of Fredrick Douglass to hang in his office. Brother Tarp advises, "He was a great man. You just take a look at him once in a while." Do you have people who inspire you, whom you look to for guidance? Thank one of these people in a short note that expresses how they inspire you.

## Chapter 18

39. Brother Wrestrum suggests that the brotherhood create a flag to represent the organization. This flag would be important “Specially for us black brothers” who feel the American flag does not really represent them. The narrator remembers, “There was always that sense in me of being apart when the flag went by. It had been a reminder...that *my* star was not yet there.” Do you feel our nation’s flag represents you? Is your star on it? Write an editorial for the school paper in which you argue either that the flag does represent you or it doesn’t. Give the editorial a title.
40. Part of what makes the narrator’s “trial” over the magazine article so disastrous is that he is not allowed to defend himself until he is too angry to stay calm. Have you ever been in a situation where your anger kept you from responding in the best way? Here is your chance to rewrite history. Write down what you *would* have said if you had been thinking clearly. How could you have explained yourself and defused the situation?

## Chapter 19

41. After his encounter with the woman from the lecture, the narrator is consumed by guilt and fear that someone will discover what he has done. He sneaks out of the building, filled with even greater guilt.

Most of us have been in a similar situation, one in which we have done something we know was wrong, but we have not been confronted about it yet. Think about a time when you knew that you had done something inappropriate or wrong. Make a list of your feelings, emotions, or thoughts while you were waiting to see what would happen in your own situation.

## Chapter 20

42. How do you think the media would cover Brother Clifton's death? Write a series of headlines as they might appear in various newspapers. Pick two different newspapers and compose just the headlines, so that the headlines reflect the paper's position.
- A large New York City paper
  - A local Harlem paper
  - Ras the Exhorter's newsletter (assuming he has one)
  - The Brotherhood's newspaper
  - As small gazette for police officers and their families
43. After Brother Clifton's death, the narrator worries that Clifton's life and the nature of his death will be misunderstood and forgotten. He asks, "Where were the historians today? And how would they put it down?" Be Brother Clifton's historian. Write a simple and factual account of his death and explain his life. You may make up information that is not in the book but it should be consistent with his life.

## Chapter 21

44. In the narrator's eulogy for Brother Clifton, he says that the police like to rhyme the word "trigger" with "nigger." In this way, he effectively links racism and excessive force. Do you think that cops still like to rhyme these words? Imagine you are going to write an editorial for your town's newspaper. Either argue that the narrator's observation is still true today, or that it is not. Use recent events as examples to support your argument.

## **Chapter 22**

45. After the rally, the leaders of the brotherhood tell the narrator that he shouldn't have used Brother Clifton's death to rally supporters. They view him as a traitor and think that the narrator glorified his actions through his speech. The narrator, on the other hand, feels that, "the shooting of an unarmed man is of more importance politically than the fact that he sold obscene dolls."

Whom do you think is right? Do you think that how brother Clifton lived his life should be more important than the circumstances of his death? Imagine that you are a civil rights leader. Would you agree with the leaders of the Brotherhood, the narrator, or neither? How would your organization respond to Brother Clifton's shooting?

46. In this chapter, Brother Jack tells the narrator that he was not hired to think. He is told that he is only to spread the ideas that he is given, even if he believes them to be detrimental to the movement. Assume you are the narrator and react to this scene. Would you stay on with the Brotherhood, despite the fact that they do not value your input, or would you resign and find another job? Write either a letter apologizing for your actions or a letter of resignation to the board.

## Chapter 23

47. The narrator eventually discovers that along with everything else, Rinehart is also a preacher. The narrator gives this wonderful description of the church he preaches at.

There are many different ways to experience religion. Pick one you know, and write a guide for it. Imagine that strangers are going to attend the service. When and where will it be? What should they wear and should they bring anything along? What kind of people will they meet there, and how might the strangers know their roles in the place of worship based on what they are wearing? Is there any special language or greeting used? What is the music like? Are congregation members expected to participate in the service? Tell them everything they should expect.

## Chapter 24

48. Sybil describes the black man who raped her friend as a “buck.” Unfortunately, many racial stereotypes and ethnic slurs still abound in the world, not against only African-Americans, but also against any group of people. These serve as a way for one group to hurt, demonize, denigrate, or insult another group, but what do they really do is just provide an easy way to hate an entire group without examining anything below the surface.

Write an editorial or a letter to the editor voicing your opinion of this kind of prejudice.

## **Chapter 25**

49. The escalating tension in Harlem after Brother Clifton's death and other injustices finally results in a race riot that involves mass looting. All kind of people join in, even usually law abiding ones. The narrator sees three old ladies zipping along with their skirts full of canned goods. Imagine that he stops them and asks, "Why are you taking all that stuff? Isn't that stealing?" What would the old women say in return? How would they explain what they are doing?
50. When the narrator falls in the coal cellar, he has a nightmare in which Jack, Emerson, Bledsoe, Norton, Ras and the school superintendent torment him. Why do these particular people appear in his nightmare? Write a list of these names and next to each write a sentence about why they haunt him.

For example: Dr. Bledsoe – He expelled the narrator from college and then wrote letters that betrayed him.

## **Epilogue**

51. The narrator describes his stay in the basement room as a “hibernation.” This implies there will be a return to action when he leaves his hole. What will he do next? Now that he’s recognized the reality of racism in America in this era, how do you think he’ll try to change it?
52. In the epilogue, the narrator states, “I was never more hated than when I tried to be honest” and “I’ve never been more loved and appreciated than when I tried to justify and affirm someone’s mistaken beliefs.” Pretend that you are an advice columnist and that the narrator wrote in to ask if he should continue telling the truth or begin telling people what they want to hear in order to make his life easier. What advice would you give him? Provide some concrete benefits for the advice you choose to give.

## **W r a p - U p**

53. Write a list of three things you liked best about *Invisible Man*, and three things you liked least. Accompany each with a sentence explaining why you chose it.
  
54. Write an imaginary letter to Ralph Ellison, the author of *Invisible Man*, asking him three questions about what his life as a writer was like.
  
55. If you were to tell a friend what you think the message of this novel is, what would it be?
  
56. When you read the last page of the novel, what were your thoughts and feelings? Write a list of your feelings.
  
57. *Invisible Man* was written before the civil rights movement. If it were written after, it probably would have been a very different book. Imagine that as an old man, the narrator gets to meet one of the great leaders of the civil rights movement like Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X and has a conversation with him. What might they say to each other?

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*Invisible Man*

## Test

1. In the beginning of the book, the narrator is living in a room with 1,369
    - a. light bulbs.
    - b. roaches.
    - c. Louis Armstrong records.
    - d. books about race.
  2. Why is the narrator an invisible man?
    - a. He is the victim of a tragic chemistry experiment
    - b. He is too shy to speak up and make people take notice
    - c. People refuse to acknowledge him because he is black
    - d. He was born with a rare genetic disease
  3. After the Battle Royal and his speech, the narrator is rewarded with
    - a. a car.
    - b. a trip to Africa.
    - c. a college scholarship.
    - d. a piece of land.
  4. The narrator is expelled from college for doing what to the trustee, Mr. Norton?
    - a. striking him
    - b. cursing at him
    - c. stealing from him
    - d. taking him to a bad part of town
  5. After the narrator is expelled from college, where does he go?
    - a. Chicago
    - b. back home
    - c. Africa
    - d. New York City
  6. The factory the narrator works for briefly is famous for producing what color paint?
    - a. black
    - b. white
    - c. blue
    - d. red
-

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*Response Journal*

7. The narrator starts a small riot when he makes a speech in protest of
    - a. the eviction of an elderly couple.
    - b. a segregated lunch counter.
    - c. the exclusion of blacks from city unions.
    - d. rules that make it difficult for black to register to vote.
  
  8. What is the name of the black neighborhood that the narrator lives in when he first moves to New York?
    - a. Brooklyn
    - b. Queens
    - c. Greenwich Village
    - d. Harlem
  
  9. What does the narrator find in Mary's apartment that so disgusts him that he destroys it before he leaves?
    - a. an old advertisement for a slave auction
    - b. evidence that Mary is stealing from her employer
    - c. an iron bank in the shape of a black person
    - d. a confederate flag
  
  10. What is the name of the organization that the narrator is employed to make speeches for?
    - a. The Republican Party
    - b. The Corporation
    - c. The Black Panthers
    - d. The Brotherhood
  
  11. Why does Ras the Exhorter dislike the narrator?
    - a. because he thinks the narrator is betraying black people to the white enslaver
    - b. because narrator stole something from him
    - b. because he is a Democrat and the narrator is a Republican
    - c. because he thinks the narrator is trying to steal is girlfriend
  
  12. Brother Tarp passed on something of personal importance the narrator. What was it?
    - a. his Father's watch
    - b. the link of chain he broke to escape from prison
    - c. the deed to his house
    - d. the document giving him his freedom from slavery
-

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*Invisible Man*

13. Toward the end of the book the narrator is shocked to find that what part of Brother Jack's body is false?
- his heart
  - his teeth
  - his left eye
  - his hair
14. What role does the character Rinehart *not* play in Harlem?
- zoot Suiter
  - ladies Man
  - city councilman
  - preacher
15. At the very end of the book what happens in Harlem?
- a race riot
  - a paint factory explosion
  - a peaceful rally protesting Jim Crow
  - a massive flood
16. The narrator believes he is invisible because
- people, both black and white, refuse to see him as an individual.
  - the white people do not recognize him when he wears dark glasses.
  - he is a black man living in a dark basement without any lights.
  - of his physical disability.
  - of his career.
17. Bledsoe is upset that the narrator lets Mr. Norton talk to Trueblood because
- the whole race is dragged down by letting the trustee meet an immoral black man.
  - Mr. Norton gets sick from the heat of the afternoon.
  - Trueblood is just after money and will say anything to squeeze some cash out of Mr. Norton.
  - Mr. Norton is probably going to withdraw his support from the school.
  - now Trueblood will be admitted to the college.

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*Response Journal*

18. The Brotherhood transfers the narrator away from the Harlem district despite his obvious success because
- A. they need his great speaking skills to help push the women's issues.
  - B. Tod Clifton is jealous of the narrator.
  - C. the narrator nearly causes a riot when he makes an impromptu speech against the eviction of an elderly black couple.
  - D. the Brotherhood is concerned that the narrator may be gaining too much individual power and influence. They need him to stay under their complete control.
  - E. it is dangerous for the narrator to stay in the district.
19. Legend has it that Bledsoe's first job at the college was to
- A. work as the Founder's office boy.
  - B. clean the bird poop off the statue of the Founder.
  - C. slop the hogs.
  - D. run errands for the white trustees.
  - E. serve lunch in the cafeteria.
20. Which of the following statements about life in general best defines the narrator's view of race relations at the end of the book?
- A. It is important for the black people to separate themselves as much as possible from white people.
  - B. The world would be better off to encourage diversity among its people, thus eliminating tyrants who try to make people conform to their ideas.
  - C. The black people have been the victims long enough. They have every right to take whatever they can from the white race.
  - D. It is best for blacks to pretend to do what the whites want and then, when they are not looking, work to help their own people.
  - E. Education is the most valuable resource available, and without it, one cannot succeed.

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*Invisible Man*

Test  
Student Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Invisible Man*

Test  
Answer Key

1. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_B\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_B\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_A\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_C\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_B\_\_\_

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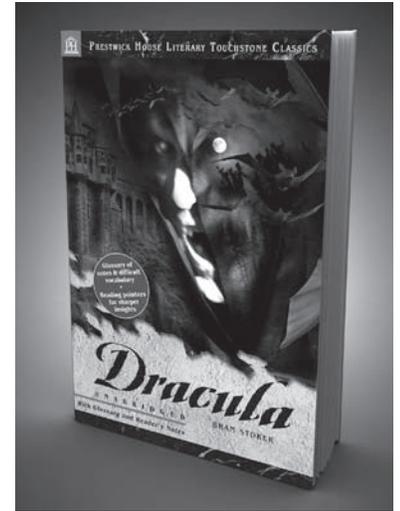
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