# *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison: Short Answers

**Short Answer:** Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. List the objects in Invisible Man's briefcase at the end of the novel, and write at least one sentence explaining why each is important.

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2. Relate the following lines to the book:

> "Perhaps the sense of magic lay in the unexpected transformations. You start Saul, and end up Paul," my grandfather had often said. "When you're a youngun, you Saul, but let life whup your head a bit and you starts to trying to be Paul -- though you still Sauls around on the side."

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3. Discuss the symbolic function of names in ***Invisible Man***.

4. Explore several possible meanings to the last sentence in the novel.

5. Select what you consider to be the most important symbol in the novel and prove your opinion by relating it to the novel as a whole.

6. Select what you consider to be the most important quotation in the novel and prove your opinion by relating it to the novel as a whole.

7. Select what you consider to be the most important chapter in the novel and prove your opinion by relating it to the novel as a whole.

8. Apply each of the following plot patterns to the novel: rite of passage, initiation, fall from innocence, and quest. As always, be specific.

9. Prepare a chart or graph which visually represents the different times the Invisible Man is "born again." Be sure to include the event or events which cause his symbolic death and resurrection.

10. What connections can you draw between Invisible Man and other major works we have read this year? Discuss the relationship you see between this novel and the following:

A. *All Quiet on the Western Front*
B. *Animal Farm*
C. *Brave New World*
D. *The Catcher in the Rye*
E. The Arthurian Legend (*Excalibur*)
F. "Everyman"
G. *Doctor Faustus*
H. *Cyrano de Bergerac*
I. *Julius Caesar*
J. *Heart of Darkness*