



Disappearing Act.

What would YOU do if you had Harry Potter's Invisibility Cloak?

You're probably familiar with Harry Potter's invisibility cloak, the cool gift given to him in his first year at Hogwarts that plays a big role in the Harry Potter adventures. But did you know that for the past 10 years, researchers across the globe have been racing to bring this dream of invisibility to life?

Out of Sight!

Recently a team of scientists in the US actually created a cloaking device using nanotech that can hide 3d objects. **Cool.**

How does it work? Check out a spoon in a glass of water, you'll notice that the spoon looks bent. This is an optical illusion found in nature, it's the same reason why diamonds glitter so beautifully. Mother nature has tons of weird illusions like this to trick our eyes; thirsty travelers in the desert are often duped into believing they see water because of the heat bending light rays making unreal "water" appear on the sand.



To create an invisibility cloak, scientists have to dupe mother nature, and do something even mother nature cannot do - bend light backwards. In our example above, the spoon would appear to hang out of the glass and backwards (even though its in the glass). **Whoaaa. Creepy.** They want to eventually use this technology to bend light around a 3d object using a cloak, sort of like water flowing around a rock in a stream, so that the person or object under the cloak will disappear.

So the question is: if YOU had an invisibility cloak, what would the first thing be that you'd do?

Some ideas:

1. Instead of pimple popping, a patch of invisibility could hide unwanted blemishes
2. No time to clean up your room? Throw your mess into a corner and hide it with the invisibility cloak before your mom pops in for inspection
3. Ladies: instead of having to wax your arms (ouch!) simply paint the hairs invisible, no one will ever have to know you're as fuzzy as a bear
4. Annoying sibling that you wish could just "disappear"? Now he really can! Toss your

invisibility cloak over him and presto - he's gone. Mind you, this may backfire when the little terror can now go around making havoc invisibly...

Indeed, the possibilities for shenanigan pranks are endless

from tormenting teachers or pals, to sneaking into places you shouldn't be, doing unseen things you normally shouldn't do. Such materials in the hands of everyday criminals or even the normal population, could be terrifying. How many people would be tempted to become hell-mongers, using the cloak for their own selfish uses, vs. how many people would choose to become hidden angels, doing unseen good deeds for others? What would you choose to do?



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