

to work until the next semester in the fall, supposedly to save him from the humiliation at home and to make some money for his tuition.

The first person he meets on the streets of New York is a messenger boy for a business involved with blueprints. He is an amiable fellow, and very "black," and sort of a blues street singer type. The Invisible Man takes a condescending attitude towards him, and is almost dumbfounded at encountering this energetic embodiment of black street wisdom that is "...learned (in) back of school." He is almost ghost-like and calls himself "Jack Wheatstraw" and "Blue" (an offshoot of the song he sings about a bullfrog woman), but gives the Invisible Man some solid advice about the city. "Man, this Harlem ain't nothing but a bear's den. But I tell you one thing, it's the best place in the world for you and me, and if times don't get better soon I'm going to grab that bear (he is obviously a Brer Rabbit) and turn him every way but loose!" He wants the Invisible Man to incorporate a little optimism into his thinking, and adopt a positive, more down-to-earth, attitude. He also presents the Invisible Man with a rhyming motto to live by, "All it takes to get along in this here man's town is a little shit, grit, and mother-wit."

Armed with a few letters of referral from the college he goes about the business of getting a job in the "big city." He never gets past the secretaries of the prospective employers except in one case. When he does get an interview he finds that Dr. Bledsoe is still teaching him. The letters he has been distributed are less than letters of recommendation and the son of the man he is supposed to see for the job lets him see one of the copies of the letters. He finds out now that his expulsion from the college is final and the letters are not meant to get him a job. The employer's son gives him an idea what educated unprejudiced whites are like, trying hard to be