

# Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift

## Introduction

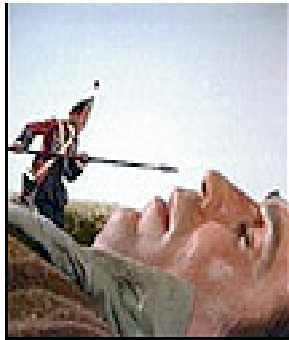


1. What happens when we read stories about the country of Lilliput?
2. What does Swift want us to think about?
3. What do we learn about Jonathan Swift?
4. What did Swift want to do?
5. How did people react to his books?

## Part 1: A Journey to Lilliput

### A. Warm up

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.



- ❑ If you could travel, where in the world would you go?
- ❑ Do you know any stories about giants (e.g. Jack and the Beanstalk)
  - *Watch and listen to Jack and the Beanstalk read by Chazz Palminteri*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gkFLEl-ibw>
- ❑ If you were a giant, what problems do you think you would have?
- ❑ What would you do if you were a King/Queen of a country, and one day a giant suddenly appeared?

### C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? How do they fit into the story? Talk to your partner...

*clever / arrow / sea / kilometer / daylight / afraid / hurt / language / swords / servant / a letter*  
*/ slept / King / money-bag / rules / 1,728*

### D. COMPREHENSION

Look at the following...

#### Chapter 1: I Come to Lilliput

1. Why did Gulliver leave school when he was 17?
2. What did he do?
3. Where did he sail?
4. What did he see when he woke up?

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5. Could Gulliver understand the language of the little people?
6. What did the man in the long coat say to Gulliver?
7. What did they give him to eat?
8. Where did they take Gulliver?

## Chapter 2: My Life in Lilliput

1. What did the six men try to do? What did Gulliver do to them?
2. What were the King and his men's concerns about Gulliver?
3. What did one of the men notice about Gulliver?
4. What did the King want from Gulliver?
5. What were the rules they made for Gulliver?

### E. Summary

*Use the words in the box to complete this summary paragraph.  
The first one has been done.*

adventure	King	language	taken	tiny
not	rules	they	people	wakes

Gulliver's (1) adventure in Lilliput begins when he (2) \_\_\_\_\_ after his shipwreck to find himself tied up by (3) \_\_\_\_\_ ropes. The little people who tied him up are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ afraid to use violence against Gulliver, but their arrows are little more than pinpricks. Overall, the little (5) \_\_\_\_\_ were kind and friendly, feeding Gulliver, who ate more food than a thousand Lilliputians. Gulliver was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ into the capital city. He was presented to the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. At first, he could not understand their (8) \_\_\_\_\_, but after three weeks he could speak quite well. Before (9) \_\_\_\_\_ untied him, Gulliver had to promise to obey all of the seven (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that the King had sent.

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## Part 1: A Journey to Lilliput

### A. Warm up

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- Gulliver helps the Lilliputians in their war. The Lilliputians were arguing for a very strange reason. Why do countries usually go to war?
- Gulliver disagreed with the king. What would you do if you disagreed with your boss/future boss?
- If one of your friends told you they saw a ghost, UFO, or like Gulliver little people would you believe them? How could they make you believe them?

### C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? How do they fit into the story? Talk to your partner...

big-enders / little-enders / war / cut his finger / new law / king / waiting for the right wind /  
plan / string / pulled the forty largest Blefuscu ships / kill those people / angry / end the war /  
rules / boat / six animals / 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1702.

### D. COMPREHENSION

Look at the following...

#### Chapter 3: I Make War on Blefuscu

- What did Gulliver and Reldresal talk about?
- What was the problem between the Big-enders and the Little-enders?
- How did Gulliver help them?
- What did Gulliver disagree about with the king?
- Where did Gulliver go?

#### Chapter 4: I Come Home Again

- What did Gulliver take with him?
- Did the sailors believe Gulliver's story?

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## E. Fill in the Blanks

*Complete this summary paragraph.*

About three (1) weeks later, six important men came from Blefuscu to Lilliput. They (2) tried to end the war. They brought 500 other men with them – helpers, writers, and (3) doctors. The king of Lilliput listened to them. Each man spoke for hours, and then the great men of Lilliput answered – with the help of 600 men. In the end, the men from Blefuscu and the (4) doctors from Lilliput wrote their names on a (5) map. That ended the war (6) between their two countries. “Don’t take too (7) pride from the people of Blefuscu. They’ll be unhappy again”, I told the King’s great men, and they (8) listened to me. So the King of Blefuscu was very happy. He sent me a (9) gift – he wanted me to visit his (10) country.

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## Part 2: Gulliver in Brobdingnag

### A. Warm up

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.



- ❑ Gulliver goes to a new country and finds he is now a tiny man among giants. How would his life be different now that he is small?
- ❑ The farmer at the beginning of the story wants to make money by showing Gulliver to everyone for money. What do you think about this? Is it a cruel thing to do?
- ❑ What is the system of government in your country? Can you explain it to someone who doesn't know anything about it?
- ❑ Do you think that Gulliver should teach the giants how to make gunpowder? Why/why not?

### C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words/phrases from the story. Do you know what they mean? How do they fit into the story? Talk to your partner...

rich / Indies / strange country / afraid for my life / corn / farmer / wife / cat / baby / two rats / farmer's daughter / Grildrig / Glumdalclitch / I am not small / more and more money / show him / queen / Thing / woodworker / Wednesdays / its people, its laws and ideas, and its rulers / English Parliament / House of Commons / gunpowder / gun.

### D. COMPREHENSION

Look at the following...

#### Chapter 1: I Come to Brobdingnag

- ❑ How did Gulliver get to the strange new land?
- ❑ What did he see in the cornfield?
- ❑ How did the farmer's daughter help Gulliver?
- ❑ How did the farmer try to make money from Gulliver?
- ❑ Who did the farmer sell Gulliver to?

#### Chapter 2: I Meet the King and Queen

- ❑ What happened on Wednesdays?
- ❑ What is the English Parliament?
- ❑ Why was the king angry with Gulliver teaching them about gunpowder?

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## E. Fill in the Blanks

*Complete this passage from the story.*

A man (1) heard me and looked round. Then this big man saw me in the corn. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to me and I began to shout loudly: ' His foot is going to kill me! ' The man stopped. For a minute he looked down at me carefully. (We look at a small animal in the same way, and think: 'Will it hurt me? ') Then he took me up in his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and put me about three metres from his eyes. I was about twenty metres from the ground, so I was afraid. 'Perhaps he'll throw me (4) \_\_\_\_\_ onto the ground and put his foot on me: I thought. 'In our country, we sometimes do that to animals.' I put my hands up. I wanted to say, ' (5) \_\_\_\_\_ don't kill me!' and 'Your fingers are hurting me! ' He understood. The man turned up the bottom of his coat and put me in there. Then he carried me to the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and put me back on the ground. I spoke to the farmer. He put me next to his ear - about two metres away - but he could (7) \_\_\_\_\_ understand me. He answered me, and the noise was as loud as a lot of big guns. I could not understand his words. The farmer carried me carefully to his house. It was time for the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ meal. His wife cried loudly when she saw me. Women in England do this when they see a rat. Then she began to like me. She cut up some bread and meat for me. I smiled - ' Thank you' - and took out my knife. Then I began to eat (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The people round the table - the farmer and his wife, three children, and the farmer's old mother - watched (10) \_\_\_\_\_. A cat jumped onto the table and looked down at me. 'I won't be afraid: I thought.' Then this cat won't hurt me.' I walked past the cat three or four times, and in the end she was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of me! But then a worse thing happened to me.

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## Part 2.2: Gulliver in Brobdingnag

### A. Warm up

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- Do you like going to the seaside?
- Do you get carsick? Seasick?
- Do you think that living away from your hometown (maybe in another country) changes you? How?
- Have you ever been told a story (from your friends) that is unbelievable?
- If you were Gulliver at the end of this story, would you stay in England or go on another journey?

### B. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words/phrases from the story. Do you know what they mean? How do they fit into the story? Talk to your partner...

journey / sea / ill / seabirds / box / fight / shouted in different languages /

tooth / wife and children.

### D. COMPREHENSION

Look at the following...

#### Chapter 3: I Come Home Again

1. Where did Gulliver travel to with the king and queen?
2. Why did Gulliver feel ill?
3. Why was the bird carrying Gulliver's box?
4. How did Gulliver escape from the seabirds?
5. Why did the men from the ship laugh at Gulliver?
6. Will Gulliver travel to sea again?

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## E. Fill in the Blanks

*Complete this passage from the story.*

One of the country's great (1) seabirds is carrying me away!' I cried. 'When it's near its home, it will (2) \_\_\_\_\_ my box. Then the bird will carry me to the young birds for food.' My box began to move faster and faster - up and down. Through the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ I saw two other birds. They began to fight with my bird and it could not carry me. I fell into the sea with a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ noise and I went down ... down ... under the dark water. Then, suddenly, my box came up again to the top of the water and stayed there. 'I'm not dead!' I cried, 'and the water isn't coming in. But what's going to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to me? How can I get out? Will I die because I'm hungry or (6) \_\_\_\_\_ or cold? Will great winds break my box?' One day, I heard a loud noise. Something pulled my box up about a metre, and I could hear the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of people. So I shouted in different languages. Something or somebody moved the top of the box, and then I heard, in English, the words: 'Is anybody there?' 'Yes,' I shouted. 'I'm an Englishman. Please help me.' 'Your box is now near our ship,' he answered, 'and one of our men is going to break it. Then you can climb out.' 'No don't, wait!' I called. 'Pull the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ out of the water and put it on a table.' The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ laughed. When I was out of the box and in the ship, I (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They were not bigger than I was! 'Why are you shouting?' asked one man.

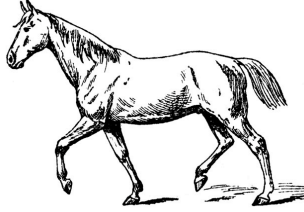
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## Part 3: Gulliver in the Country of the Houyhnhnms

### A. Warm up

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.



- How do people use horses in your country?
- Is a horse's life good or bad?
- What is a servant?

### B. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words/phrases from the story. Do you know what they mean? How do they fit into the story? Talk to your partner...

September / ill / Barbados / mistake / food and drink / sword / animals / ugly / angry noises /  
afraid / strange horse / language / Englishman / Yahoo / Houyhnhnm / owner / servants /  
thirsty / good life.

### C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Choose the correct synonym.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ill
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Mistake
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Ugly
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Afraid
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Language
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Thirsty

- a) an incorrect, unwise, or unfortunate act or decision caused by bad judgement.
- b) not in good health, having a disease or feeling unwell.
- c) feeling the need to drink a liquid.
- d) the human use of spoken or written words as a communication system.
- e) frightened about something.
- f) lacking appealing physical features, especially facial ones.

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## D. COMPREHENSION

Look at the following...

### Chapter 1: Houyhnhnms and Yahoos

1. When did Gulliver leave England again?
2. Why did they decide to go to Barbados?
3. What happened to Gulliver (after arriving in Barbados)?
4. Where did the men leave Gulliver in May 1711?
5. What happened when Gulliver met the ugly animal on the road?
6. What was strange about the horses that Gulliver came across?
7. What did Gulliver think about the way people treated horses in this country?
8. What did Gulliver notice about the Yahoos?
9. How was Gulliver's life in this country? What did he eat and drink? Where did he sleep?

## E. FILL IN THE BLANKS

*Complete this passage from the story.*

When I came to a road, I walked (1) carefully. I was afraid of arrows. I saw some animals near the road, and other animals up in the trees. They were very (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and very ugly. The bigger animals had a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of hair on their heads, their faces and their backs, and on the front of their legs and feet. The smaller animals had (4) \_\_\_\_\_ hair on their heads but not much hair on their bodies. Their hair was different colours (U.S. = colors) - brown, red, black and yellow. I hated these animals. When I looked at them, I felt ill. I walked again. 'Perhaps I will meet some men and they'll help me; I thought. Suddenly, I met one of these (5) \_\_\_\_\_ animals on the road. He stopped and looked hard at me. This made his face uglier. He put out his front foot and I hit him with my sword. 'You will not hurt me, you ugly animal!' I cried. I did not want to hurt him too much. But he made a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ noise and about forty more animals ran to him. They shouted at me and made (7) \_\_\_\_\_ noises. I moved to a tree and stood with my back to it. I used my sword, but some animals climbed up the tree. From there they threw things down at me. Suddenly the animals all ran away (8) \_\_\_\_\_. I left the tree and started on the road again.

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## Part 3: Gulliver in the Country of the Houyhnhnms

### A. Warm up

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.



- Do you think that animals can think? ...talk to each other?
- What is a lie? Imagine if you could never tell a lie. How would life be different?
- What things do you love about your own culture? What things annoy you about your own culture?
- How do you think living in a different culture can change you?
- Will you marry for love?

### B. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words/phrases from the story. Do you know what they mean? How do they fit into the story? Talk to your partner...

Language of these horses / think / mistake / untrue / stupid / horses / dirty / clean / wars /

servants / kill / can think / good things / yahoo / important problems / fight us / leave my

house / marry for love / marry for strong children / red-brown horse / build the boat /

Portuguese / angry / never forget.

### C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Choose the correct synonym.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Think
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Mistake
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Stupid
4. \_\_\_\_\_ War
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Important
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Marry

- (a) an armed conflict between countries or groups that involves killing and destruction
- (b) to use the mind to consider ideas and make judgments
- (c) thought to show a lack of intelligence, perception, or common sense
- (d) to commit yourself to somebody, or yourselves to each other, formally in a ceremony
- (e) an incorrect, unwise, or unfortunate act or decision caused by bad judgment or a lack of information or care
- (f) worthy of note or consideration, especially for its interest, value, or relevance



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There is no word for bad in the Houyhnhnms' language, but they use the word *yahoo* when a worker is stupid (hnhm yahoo), for a child's mistake (whnaholm yahoo), for strong winds and heavy rain. They use it when they cut their feet. They use it when they hate something. The Houyhnhnms teach their young horses well. The young horses have to be clean, friendly and kind, and they have to work hard. They have to be strong and well. Every four years the young Houyhnhnms from everywhere in the country meet for games and running and jumping. When a horse wins, a friend sings a song about him or her. Every four years, too, there is a Meeting. Then the heads of families talk about the country's important problems.

When I came to a road, I walked carefully. I was afraid of arrows. I saw some animals near the road, and other animals up in the trees. They were very dirty and very ugly. The bigger animals had a lot of hair on their heads, their faces and their backs, and on the front of their legs and feet. The smaller animals had longer hair on their heads but not much hair on their bodies. Their hair was different colours - brown, red, black and yellow. I hated these animals. When I looked at them, I felt ill. I walked again.' Perhaps I will meet some men and they'll help me; I thought. Suddenly, I met one of these ugly animals on the road. He stopped and looked hard at me. This made his face uglier. He put out his front foot and I hit him } with my sword. 'You will not hurt me, you ugly animal! ' I cried. I did not want to hurt him too much. But he made a loud noise and about forty more animals ran to him. They shouted at me and made angry noises. I moved to a tree and stood with my back to it. I used my sword, but some animals climbed up the tree. From there they threw things down at me. Suddenly the animals all ran away quickly. I left the tree and started on the road again.

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One of the country's great seabirds is carrying me away!' I cried. 'When it's near its home, it will break my box. Then the bird will carry me to the young birds for food.' My box began to move faster and faster - up and down. Through the window I saw two other birds. They began to fight with my bird and it could not carry me. I fell into the sea with a loud noise and I went down ... down ... under the dark water. Then, suddenly, my box came up again to the top of the water and stayed there. 'I'm not dead!' I cried, 'and the water isn't coming in. But what's going to happen to me? How can I get out? Will I die because I'm hungry or thirsty or cold? Will great winds break my box?' One day, I heard a loud noise. Something pulled my box up about a metre, and I could hear the sound of people. So I shouted in different languages. Something or somebody moved the top of the box, and then I heard, in English, the words: 'Is anybody there' 'Yes,' I shouted. 'I'm an Englishman. Please help me.' 'Your box is now near our ship,' he answered, 'and one of our men is going to break it. Then you can climb out.' 'No don't, wait!' I called. 'Pull the box out of the water and put it on a table.' The men laughed. When I was out of the box and in the ship, I understood. They were not bigger than I was! 'Why are you shouting?' asked one man.

About three weeks later, six important men came from Blefuscu to Lilliput. They wanted to end the war. They brought 500 other men with them – helpers, writers, and servants. The king of Lilliput listened to them. Each man spoke for hours, and then the great men of Lilliput answered – with the help of 600 men. In the end, the men from Blefuscu and the men from Lilliput wrote their names on a paper. That ended the war between their two countries.

“Don't take too much from the people of Blefuscu. They'll be unhappy again”, I told the King's great men, and they listened to me. So the King of Blefuscu was very happy. He sent me a letter – he wanted me to visit his country.

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Gulliver's adventure in Lilliput begins when he wakes after his shipwreck to find himself tied up by tiny ropes. The little people who tied him up are not afraid to use violence against Gulliver, but their arrows are little more than pinpricks. Overall, the little people are kind and friendly, feeding Gulliver, who eats more food than a thousand Lilliputians. Gulliver is taken into the capital city. He is presented to the King. At first, he could not understand their language, but after three weeks he could speak quite well. Before they untied him, Gulliver had to promise to obey all of the seven rules that the King had sent.