

Gulliver's Travels

Jonathan Swift



About the author

Jonathan Swift was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1667 and came of age at the height of the Glorious Revolution, in which James II, a Roman Catholic, was forced to abdicate in favour of William of Orange, a Protestant. Although he was a great literary figure even in his time, we know very little about his private life. For example, we are not even sure if he married. He became an influential member of the British government but he never achieved the position in the Church of England that he felt he deserved. He was, he felt, banished to the deanship of St. Patrick's and when his party fell from power with the accession of George I, his period in the political limelight came to an end.

Swift died in a mental institution, finally struck down by an illness which had probably been with him for a long time. But he wasn't mad when he wrote *Gulliver's Travels*, a brilliant satire on politics and society, and a timeless book for children.

The original text

Gulliver's Travels is not really a children's book, but it has been seen as a children's story right from the start: little people, big people, talking horses. It was first published in 1726. At the time that Swift published *Gulliver's Travels*, he was dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The book, which made fun of the political scene and certain prominent people in England, was published anonymously and was a great success.

Summary

In each of the three stories in this book, the hero, Lemuel Gulliver, embarks on a voyage, but, as in the *Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor* on which the stories may in part have

been based, some calamity befalls him. First, Gulliver arrives in Lilliput, where he finds himself a giant, held prisoner by tiny men. They are initially afraid of him, but he gradually wins their trust and eventually helps them in their war against Blefuscu. The second land he visits is called Brobdingnag, a land of giants. Gulliver, now a tiny person, has to work as a freak in a show at first but is then rescued by the Queen and has long talks with the King. Gulliver finally ends up in the land of the Houyhnhnms, peaceful horses who have created a perfect society, except for the presence of monkey-like Yahoos. Although Gulliver looks like a well-kempt Yahoo, he wants to be a Houyhnhnm. Finally, he has to leave because he does not fit into this society.

Part I: A Journey to Lilliput

Chapter 1: Gulliver sets off on the ship *Antelope* to the South Seas, but strong winds wreck it. Gulliver lands on an island and when he wakes up he finds himself tied to the ground. A large number of little men (no larger than Gulliver's hands) keep him prisoner and when he tries to break free, they attack him with arrows. Gulliver stays still not to get hurt. Then they bring him food and drink and plan to take him to the king but still tied with strings.

Chapter 2: He is given a house, an old church, but Gulliver is still tied to the wall of the church. Lilliputians think he is dangerous. Some men attack Gulliver and when the king's men throw them to Gulliver, he pretends he is going to eat them, but then sets them free. Gulliver is kind, so the king will not kill him, and he teaches Gulliver their language. The king promises to untie Gulliver's strings if he follows his written rules. Gulliver hands over his belongings: his sword and his guns. Now he can walk again.

Chapter 3: Gulliver learns about the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu and offers to help the king: he pulls forty large Blefuscu ships to Lilliput. The king is happy, but as he is very ambitious he wants Gulliver to help him kill the Big-enders, enemies of his people, the Little-enders. Gulliver refuses to do so. The people from Blefuscu and Lilliput finally put an end to their war. The king of Blefuscu invites Gulliver to his island. Gulliver finally decides to leave Lilliput and goes to the enemy island.

Chapter 4: After a short stay at Blefuscu, Gulliver leaves for home.

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Part II: Gulliver in Brobdingnag

Chapter 1: When Gulliver sets off again to the Indies, his ship is hit by another storm and he is once again marooned on an unknown island: Brobdingnag, land of giants. He lives on a farm and the farmer's daughter teaches Gulliver their language. The farmer, an ambitious man, makes money by showing Gulliver around the country. Gulliver falls ill.

Chapter 2: When he is brought before the queen of Brobdingnag she buys Gulliver because she likes him a lot. The farmer's daughter stays with him. The king shows interest in England's political system and asks Gulliver questions which embarrass him. He wants to impress the king with his country's wonders only to discover that in Brobdingnag there is no war and people help each other instead of fighting.

Chapter 3: His happy stay ends when a huge bird lifts him high into the air then drops him into the sea, but he is soon rescued and on his way back home again.

Part III: Gulliver in the country of the Houyhnhnms

Chapter 1: After a brief stay with his family, Gulliver sets off again in 1710. His crew falls ill, so he stops for more men in Barbados. The new crew stages a mutiny and keeps Gulliver in his room for a long time until he is left ashore. He ends up in the land of the Houyhnhnms, peaceful horses with a strange language and monkey-like Yahoos who work for them. A grey horse takes him to his house, but Gulliver finds their food distasteful.

Chapter 2: Gulliver learns the new language and talks to his new 'owner', who asks questions about life in Gulliver's country but is puzzled by some of the answers. The horse cannot understand why creatures who think make war and destroy each other. The grey horse has to attend the meeting held every four years, where they discuss important matters.

Chapter 3: Back home, the horse tells Gulliver he should leave because the other horses are afraid he might help the Yahoos against them. Although Gulliver looks like a well-kempt Yahoo, he wants to be a Houyhnhnm and belong to that perfect society but in the end he decides to leave. Even on his return to England, he prefers the company of horses to the company of men, whom he now sees as bestial Yahoos.

Background and themes

Satire as a genre: Satire is a genre in which human or individual vices are exposed by means of ridicule, derision, burlesque, irony, or other methods, with the intention of bringing about improvement. Satire is usually witty, and often very funny. However, its purpose is not to make readers laugh but to criticise an event, an individual or a group in a clever manner.

Voyages around the world: Jonathan Swift wrote *Gulliver's Travels* in the 1720s, when much of the world had not yet been discovered by Europeans. Gulliver, a surgeon, narrates his voyages to foreign lands and calls them 'Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World In Four Parts ... by Lemuel Gulliver.' It was originally received by audiences as merely an exciting adventure. People of this era enjoyed reading literature about travel into unknown lands such as the East Indies (southeast Asia) or the West Indies (islands in the Caribbean Sea).

British political organisation in Swift's times:

When Swift was writing *Gulliver's Travels*, England was undergoing a lot of political shuffling: George I was an unpopular king who had gained his throne with the help of the Whig party. The Whig ministers then used their power against the Tories and Swift, a Tory himself, resented their actions.

Discussion activities

Before reading

- 1 Guess:** Put students into small groups and ask them to make a list of places they expect Gulliver to visit in his travels. Ask students to bring along a map of the world and speculate where Gulliver will go.
- 2 Discuss:** Ask students to work together to describe the picture in the book cover: *Where is Gulliver? Who are the little people around him? How does Gulliver feel? Why?*
- 3 Group work:** Put students in three groups. Each group must consider the problems of living in a particular fantasy land:
Land 1: a place where all the people are very small and you are the only normal-sized person.
Land 2: a place where all the people are giants and you are the only normal sized person.
Land 3: a place where you are the only person; all the other creatures are animals. The students must consider where they would live, what they would eat, how they would travel, the advantage and the dangers of their particular situation.
Each group presents their ideas to the other groups.

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Part I: A Journey to Lilliput

While reading

- 4 **Discuss:** Ask students to work in pairs and place Bristol and the East Indies (nowadays, Southeast Asia) in their maps. Get them to speculate what route the Antelope followed to the East Indies.
- 5 **Role play:** Have students imagine the interaction between Gulliver and the man in the long coat on page 5. Get students to imagine the man's gestures and movements that helped Gulliver understand what he meant.
- 6 **Discuss:** Have students discuss why the people in the story said or thought the following:
'I'm going to die', Gulliver said (page 1)
'I'll stay quiet', Gulliver thought (page 3)
'We have to carry you with the strings around you', the great man said to Gulliver (page 6)
'Don't climb up onto this man's body!' the king's men told him (page 6)
'You can put me on your hand', Reldresal said to Gulliver (page 10)
'I won't help you with that', Gulliver told the king of Lilliput (page 12)
- 7 **Write:** Have students imagine they are one of the great men. You write to a friend of yours and you tell him what you have decided to do with the 'Man-Mountain' and why.

After reading

- 8 **Guess:** Have students check their predictions about Gulliver's adventures in Lilliput from activity 4. Were they right?
- 9 **Discuss:** Ask the students to discuss why the Lilliputians keep Gulliver tied up with strings.
- 10 **Write:** Get students into two groups. One will write a chapter in the story of Lilliput called 'The problems between the Big-enders and the Little-enders' and the other group another chapter called 'How the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu ended.'
- 11 **Role play:** Put students into pairs to role play a conversation between the king of Lilliput and Gulliver. The king wants Gulliver to help him in his war with Blefuscu. Gulliver agrees on certain conditions.

Part II: Gulliver in Brobdingnag

Before reading

- 12 **Guess:** Ask students to look at the pictures in Part II and answer the following: *Will Gulliver's adventures in Brobdingnag be the same or different from his adventures in Lilliput? Why do you think so?*

While reading

- 13 **Role play:** The head man of a village visits the farmer to take a look at Gulliver. Ask the students to role play the conversation between the farmer and the visitor.

- 14 **Discuss:** The big men were kind to Gulliver. Ask students to discuss what the big men did to make Gulliver feel comfortable in their land.

After reading

- 15 **Role play:** Ask students to imagine they all live in Brobdingnag and that two of them have been to the market. They have seen Gulliver. They must explain to the others what he looks like and what he does. The other people don't believe them and ask lots of questions.
- 16 **Discuss:** Have your students compare the political system in their country with England's political system. Have them discuss what type of work the people who make laws do.
- 17 **Pair work:** Explain to students that *Gulliver's Travels* was written as a satire (see Background and themes above). Ask them to work in pairs and make a list of points that Swift is making about English politics in this part of the story. Elicit all the ideas and list them on the board.

Part III: Gulliver in the country of the Houyhnhnms

Before reading

- 18 **Guess:** ask students to look at the picture on page 30, and ask them to guess what the new place Gulliver visits is like.

While reading

- 19 **Research:** Ask students to find information about Barbados. Where is it? What is it like? Would they like to go there? Why/why not?
- 20 **Role play:** The two horses are making noises. Gulliver thinks they are having a conversation about him. Ask students to role play that conversation.
- 21 **Research:** Ask students to find information about the British Parliament at the time. Have them make presentations with their findings.
- 22 **Discuss:** Have students discuss why Gulliver thought 'In many ways they're as bad as the Yahoos here.'
- 23 **Write:** Have students imagine Gulliver wrote a farewell note to his host family of horses. Ask them to write the note.

After reading

- 24 **Discuss:** Have the students work in pairs and make a list of points that Swift is making about English society and politics in this part of the story.
- 25 **Discuss:** Ask students to discuss this question: *Why did Swift choose horses to represent good people and Yahoos (monkey men) to represent bad people?*

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Part I

1 Look at the underlined words. Who, whose or what are they?

- a Six of us got a boat into the sea.
.....
- b They were everywhere – round my arms, my feet and through my long hair.
.....
- c Some were hurt, they told me later.
.....
- d I drank it and called for another cup.
.....
- e I don't want to feel them again. They can carry me.
.....
- f He was kind to them. He did not hurt them.
.....
- g I won't help you with that.
.....
- h That ended the war between their two countries.
.....
- i Everybody looked at them with wide eyes.
.....

2 Complete with one word.

The little men looked inside Gulliver's (a) They made notes of everything, his notebook, the (b) for his weak eyes, his money and his (c)-bag. Then the king brought more men and Gulliver pulled out his (d) The sun shone on it and hurt everybody's eyes. He also gave them his (e)

3 Match A and B.

A	B
The little men watched Gulliver with wide eyes because his body was too big.
They cut the strings round his head because he ate very quickly.
They put a string round one of Gulliver's feet and they thought his story was true.
They didn't want to kill him and he could turn and see the people on the table better.

Some men didn't want to open their eggs at the little end so they left Lilliput and started new lives at Blefuscu.
Gulliver showed the little animals to the men on the English ship and he could only walk about a metre away from the outside of his door.

4 Write why.

- a Gulliver slept the best sleep of his life when he came to the island.
.....
- b When Gulliver cried loudly, the little men ran away and jumped onto the ground.
.....
- c Gulliver slept for nine hours.
.....
- d Big-enders left the island and started a new life in Blefuscu.
.....
- e The king of Blefuscu sent Gulliver a letter.
.....

Part II

5 Answer these questions about Gulliver in Brobdingnag.

- a Why did Gulliver leave the ship and go to the strange country in a boat?
.....
- b What did Gulliver see in the sea near the boat?
.....
- c Why did he run away to the mountains?
.....
- d What were the trees really?
.....
- e Who did the man in the corn field take Gulliver to?
.....
- f What did the baby do to Gulliver?
.....
- g How big was the bed?
.....
- h What did the farmer's daughter call Gulliver?
.....
- i What was the farmer's plan?
.....

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6 What happened first? Put the sentences in order, number them 1–12.

- a A boy carried Gulliver's box to the sea.
- b A great seabird picked up Gulliver's box and carried it away.
- c Glumdalclinch shut the windows and door of Gulliver's box.
- d Gulliver heard a loud noise and someone pulled his box out of the water.
- e Gulliver showed the men the things in his box.
- f Gulliver travelled home to his family.
- g Gulliver travelled with the king and queen to the towns and cities in the south.
- h Gulliver went to sleep.
- i Gulliver, the king and the queen arrived near the sea.
- j Gulliver's box fell into the sea.
- k Someone opened the box.
- l The bird fought with another bird over Gulliver's box.

7 Who is who? Choose the right words and complete.

- The farmer The farmer's daughter
 The farmer's wife The queen of Brobdingnag
 The king of Brobdingnag The king's men
- a was Gulliver's teacher.
 - b made a lot of money showing Gulliver around the country.
 - c thought Gulliver was a Mistake.
 - d bought Gulliver from the farmer for a lot of money.
 - e asked Gulliver questions about Europe and its people, its laws and ideas, and its rulers.
 - f gave Gulliver something to eat and somewhere to sleep.

Part III

8 Which sentences are wrong about the Yahoos? Correct the wrong ones.

- a They have long hair on their heads and bodies. Their hair was different colours.
- b They live in groups and don't live very near the Houyhnhnms.
- c Their front feet are like the hands of a man.
- d They are not afraid of the Houyhnhnms.
- e They can climb trees.

- f They love to wash their hair and to be clean.
- g The Houyhnhnms keep the Yahoos because they can work very well on the farms.
- h Gulliver is better than a Yahoo because he can think and learn.
- i Gulliver likes the Yahoos and is happy when the Houyhnhnms call him a Yahoo.
- j When Yahoos fight, they hurt other Yahoos with their teeth.

9 Complete these sentences.

- a Finding new men in Barbados was a mistake for Gulliver because
- b When Gulliver met the first horse, he put his hand on its back but
- c The grey horse's wife looked at Gulliver in an unfriendly way because
- d They grey horse, his family and his servants wanted Gulliver to learn their language because.....
- e The Houyhnhnms use the word *Yahoo* when
- f Gulliver has to leave. He can no longer live in the grey horse's house so

10 Who says this? Who to?

- a 'Don't come out or we'll kill you.'
- b 'Your nose is too big.'
- c 'How can you use them in that way?'
- d 'The young red-brown horse likes me. He and I can build the boat.'
- e 'Why do you have wars?'
- f 'I cannot live with Yahoos!'

After reading

11 A time line: Draw a time line. Show ten important things that happened in Gulliver's travels.

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Part I

1 Are these sentences right or wrong? Change the wrong sentences.

- a The Lilliputians were a little bigger than Gulliver's hands.
.....
- b The little men were afraid because Gulliver cried loudly.
.....
- c The little men built a wooden table near Gulliver because they wanted to see Gulliver better.
.....
- d The Lilliputians were kind to Gulliver. With 600 small beds they made a big bed for him.
.....
- e The King of Blefuscu sent Gulliver a letter: he wanted to end war with the Lilliputians.
.....

2 Answer the questions.

- a What did the little men teach Gulliver? Why?
.....
- b What would the king do if Gulliver followed his rules?
.....
- c What was the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu about?
.....
- d What did Gulliver do to help the Lilliputians in their fight against the people from Blefuscu?
.....
- e How did the king from Blefuscu help Gulliver come back home?
.....

Part II

3 Which one is right?

- a Gulliver was looking for clean water. When he went back to the boat
 - 1) it was on the sea, but there was no one in it.
 - 2) it was on the sea, but it moved very fast through the water.
 - 3) it was on the sea and the men moved it slowly away from the land.
- b When the big man looked down at Gulliver in the corn field
 - 1) Gulliver thought the man would hurt him.
 - 2) Gulliver remembered how he looked at small animals.
 - 3) Gulliver was afraid the man would kill him.

- c When the head man of a village visited the farmer, the farmer's daughter felt very unhappy because
 - 1) the farmer had a plan: he was going to show Gulliver around the country and make a lot of money.
 - 2) the head man had a plan: he was going to show Gulliver around the country and make a lot of money.
 - 3) the farmer and the head man had a plan: the farmer was going to show Gulliver and make a lot of money.
- d The king's men thought Gulliver was a thing because
 - 1) Gulliver was very small.
 - 2) Gulliver was smaller than the smallest person in the world.
 - 3) Gulliver did not speak their language.

4 Five things are wrong. Find them and write the right sentences.

The queen was interested in Europe, so Gulliver spoke about England's wars, its poor families, the fights between their churchmen, their rulers and Parliament. Gulliver also said that his country was really four great countries under one great ruler. The king was also interested in the people who made houses. He did not understand how the men in the House of Lords did their work for no money.

Part III

5 What happened first? Put the sentences in order, 1-5.

- a The horse didn't want Gulliver to leave but did as the Houyhnhnms at the Meeting said.
- b So Gulliver asks a servant to help him build a boat from wood. After two months he was ready to go home.
- c Gulliver had to leave their land because the Houyhnhnms were afraid. Gulliver was strong and they thought 'He will help the Yahoos when they fight us.'
- d The grey horse went to the meeting with the heads of the other families but when he came back, he was not very happy.
- e The Houyhnhnms have a very important meeting every four years to talk about the countries' important problems. There is a meeting soon.

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Book key

- 1 a They are very small.
b Open answers
- 2 a No, they aren't.
b Our ideas and our lives.
c Dublin, Ireland.
d The English in Ireland.
e In 1726.
- 3 a king, queen, ruler, servant
b arrow, sword
c farm, island
- 4 a 3 b 5 c 10 d 1 e 8 f 2 g 6 h 9
i 4 j 7
- 5 a There are thousands of strings across his body.
b He doesn't want arrows to hit his eyes.
c Gulliver eats a lot of food very quickly.
d There was something in his food.
e The six men tried to hurt him.
f He says that he will follow the king's rules.
g They cut their eggs at different ends.
h The king wants to kill the people of Blefuscu. Gulliver will not help him.
i It is dangerous for him. The king's men plan to kill him.
j He wants to bring a boat back to the beach.
- 6 a Gulliver stays there in Lilliput.
b Gulliver eats food for 1,728 people.
c He tells Gulliver about the war.
d The war starts because the two countries cut their eggs at different ends.
e Gulliver wants to show them to people in his country. Five of the animals also make him rich.
- 7–8 Open answers
- 9 a corn b cries c rats d daughter e sells
f week g stupid h bad i worse j sky
- 10 a The big man in the corn./The farmer.
b The noise when the farmer speaks.
c The cat.
d A rat.
e Glumdalclitch.
f An animal in Brobdingnag under two metres long.
g Her father wants to show Gulliver to the people in the town for money.
h Life with the king, queen and Glumdalclitch.
i A ball from the biggest gun.
j A tooth from one of the king's servants, and other things.
- 11 a Glumdalclitch is talking about her father and the head man of the village.
b The farmer is talking about Gulliver.
c Gulliver is talking about Glumdalclitch.
d The king's men are talking about Gulliver. (He is not an animal or a person).
e Gulliver is talking about a place in the House of Lords (in the UK Parliament).
f Gulliver is talking about people in the House of Commons (in the UK Parliament).
g The king is talking about guns and gunpowder.
h A man on the ship is talking about the servant's tooth.
- 12 a He thinks that the people in Parliament don't work for the people.
He can't understand wars because they cost a lot of money.
He doesn't like guns because they hurt people.
b The people in Brobdingnag and Gulliver's people think and do the same things. He thinks that little people are stupid. So the people in Brobdingnag are stupid too.
c Possible answers: Life without war is possible. Clever people do not always do good things. People aren't really different.
- 13–14 Open answers
- 15 a No b Yes c No d No e No f No
g Yes h Yes i No j Yes
- 16 a No. Yahoos are dirty, ugly animals.
b Yes. His nose is very big.
c Yes. He is cleverer than other Yahoos.
d Yes. There is no word for this in their language.
e Yes. Horses in England work hard and people sit on their backs.
f Yes. There are no wars in their country.
g No. Yahoos do this.
h No. Houyhnhnms sing songs after important games.
i Yes. Houyhnhnms love everybody, not only people in their family.
- 17 a ... he wants to find more men.
b ... they are afraid of Houyhnhnms.
c ... he doesn't like hands on his back.
d ... she doesn't like Yahoos.
e ... it is too dry for him.
f ... the Houyhnhnm calls him a Yahoo.
g ... people in England sit on horses.
h ... he is clean.

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- i ... they have to talk about the country's important problems.
- j ... the other Houyhnhnms are afraid of him. (He is clever and perhaps he will help the other Yahoos.)

18–27 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–5 Open answers

6 Possible answers:

(p. 1) Gulliver fell into the water. He was weak and the wind and the water carried him away from the other men on the boat.

(p. 3) Gulliver didn't want the little men to hurt him. They were attacking him with arrows.

(p. 6) The king wanted to meet Gulliver but they were going to carry him. They didn't want to untie the strings. They were afraid of Gulliver.

(p. 6) The men thought that Gulliver was very dangerous.

(p. 10) Reldresal wanted to speak to Gulliver and he wanted to be nearer Gulliver.

(p. 12) The king wanted Gulliver to help him kill the Big-enders. Gulliver thought that was wrong.

7–8 Open answer

9 Possible answer: The little men were afraid of Gulliver. They thought that if they untied the strings, Gulliver would attack them. They thought he was dangerous.

10–13 Open answers

14 Possible answers:

The big man in the corn field carried him to the farmer in the bottom of his coat.

The farmer carried Gulliver carefully to his house.

The farmer's wife cut up some bread and meat for Gulliver. Then she took him to her room and put him on her bed.

The farmer's daughter let him sleep in her doll's house and taught him their language.

15–16 Open answers

17 Possible answer: Members of Parliament do not learn about laws when they are young but when they start work at Parliament. When they are young they learn to kill animals and they learn to fight.

18 Open answer

19 For information about Barbados, visit the BBC website at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1154116.stm

20 Open answers

21 Possible answers:

Rulers in England:

William III (with Mary II, sister of James II, until 1694) (1689–1702) – invited to become king by Parliament.

English Bill of Rights (1689) expands civil liberties.

Anne (1702–1714) – sister of James II, last of the Stuart Dynasty.

George I (1714–1727) – Hanover Dynasty. A German unable to speak English, he turns over an increasing number of responsibilities to Parliament.

George II (1727–1760)

Major developments to mention

1600s–1700s Scientific Revolution begins; scientific method is developed. Galileo proves solar-centred universe; Isaac Newton studies gravity; William Harvey studies human circulation; microscope is invented.

1689 After the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688, English Parliament passes the Declaration of Rights, making Parliament stronger and protecting the rights of the people.

1700s 'Age of Enlightenment' in Europe: thinkers question the authority of religion, believe that reason and science can solve human problems.

c. 1760 James Watt (England) works on perfecting the steam engine. Industrial Revolution begins in England. The country rapidly changes from mostly agricultural to mostly manufacturing.

1763 End of the Seven Years' War between England and France. Canada becomes a colony of Britain and Nouvelle-France ends.

1770 Captain James Cook claims all of eastern Australia for England and maps the Australian coast.

22–25 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1**
 - a** Gulliver and five other men on the Antelope.
 - b** Strings
 - c** Little men from Lilliput
 - d** Milk
 - e** Arrows
 - f** The little men who tried to kill Gulliver with their arrows.
 - g** Killing the men from Blefuscu, the Bigenders, becoming the king of the world.

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- h The Big-enders' and Little-enders'. [The countries of] the men who wrote their names on a paper.
i The little animals from Lilliput.
- 2 a clothes b glasses c money d sword e guns
- 3
- | | |
|---|---|
| The little men watched Gulliver with wide eyes | ... because he ate very quickly. |
| They cut the strings round his head | ... and he could turn and see the people on the table better. |
| They put a string round one of Gulliver's feet | ... and he could only walk about a metre away from the outside of his door. |
| They didn't want to kill him | ... because his body was too big. |
| Some men didn't want to open their eggs at the little end | ... so they left Lilliput and started new lives at Blefuscu. |
| Gulliver showed the little animals to the men on the English ship | ... and they thought his story was true. |
- 4 a Gulliver was very tired.
b The little men were afraid of Gulliver.
c There was something in Gulliver's food. This made him sleep a lot.
d Big-enders were angry with the king because he made a new law: they had to open their eggs at the little end. So Big-enders left Lilliput.
e He wanted Gulliver to visit Blefuscu.
- 5 a Because they had no food and no clean water on the ship.
b (He saw) a very big man.
c He was afraid for his life.
d It was corn.
e (He took Gulliver) to his family.
f (The baby) played with Gulliver.
g Nearly 20 metres wide and about 8 metres from the floor.
h Grildrig (a very small man)
i The farmer would show Gulliver round the country and make a lot of money.
- 6 a 3 b 6 c 4 d 9 e 11 f 12 g 1 h 5
i 2 j 8 k 10 l 7

- 7 a The farmer's daughter
b The farmer
c The king's men
d The queen of Brobdingnag
e The king of Brobdingnag
f The farmer's wife
- 8 a Right
b Right
c Right
d Wrong. They are afraid of the Houyhnhnms.
e Right
f Wrong. They are dirty.
g Wrong. They don't work well on the farms.
h Right
i Wrong. Gulliver hates the Yahoos.
j Right
- 9 a Finding new men in Barbados was a mistake for Gulliver because they took his ship, put him in a small room and tied him to his bed.
b When Gulliver met the first horse, he put his hand on its back but the horse did not like it and pulled away from Gulliver's hand.
c The grey horse's wife looked at Gulliver in an unfriendly way because she thought he was a Yahoo.
d They grey horse, his family and his servants wanted Gulliver to learn their language because they wanted to know about him / they wanted to answer a question: can he think?
e The Houyhnhnms use the word *Yahoo* when something is bad / they hate something.
f Gulliver has to leave. He can no longer live in the grey horse's house so he made a boat from wood and left after two months.
- 10 a The men from Barbados to Gulliver.
b The grey horse to Gulliver.
c The grey horse to Gulliver.
d Gulliver to his owner.
e Gulliver's owner to Gulliver.
f Gulliver to the men on the ship.
- 11 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 a Wrong. The Lilliputians were smaller than Gulliver's hands.
b Right
c Wrong. The little men built a wooden table because they wanted to talk to Gulliver.
d Right

Gulliver's Travels

- e Wrong. The King of Blefuscu sent Gulliver a letter: he wanted Gulliver to visit his country.
- 2 a (They taught Gulliver) their language because they wanted him to speak with them.
b (He would) untie the strings round him/his body.
c It was about eggs.
d He pulled the forty largest Blefuscu ships through the water and took them to Lilliput.
e He gave him food and men that helped Gulliver.
- 3 a 2 b 3 c 3 d 2
- 4 The ~~queen~~ KING was interested in Europe, Gulliver spoke about England's wars, its ~~poor~~ RICH families, the fights between their churchmen, their rulers and Parliament. Gulliver also said that his country was really ~~four~~ THREE great countries under one great ruler. The king was also interested in the people who made ~~houses~~ LAWS. He did not understand how the men in the House of ~~Lords~~ COMMONS did their work for no money.
- 5 a 1 b 4 c 3 d 2 e 5