

Gulliver's Travels

Jonathan Swift



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Golden Classics is an imprint of EduGate LLC.

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EduGate Design Team

D.N.: 19009

ISBN: 978-977-5110-66-4

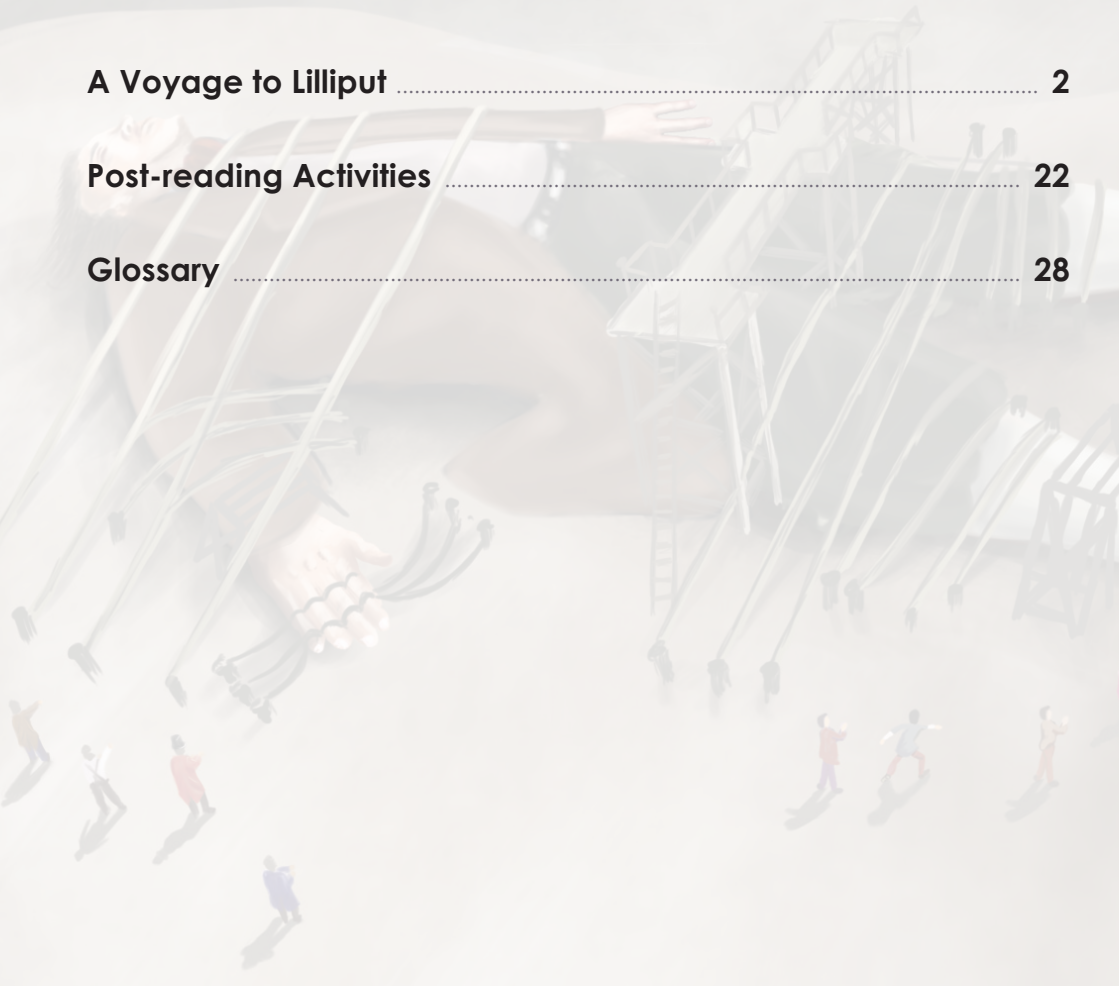
Second Impression 2024

Published by EduGate LLC. 2024

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Notes About the Author:

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) is an Irish satirist and essayist who was born on 30 December, 1667. He attended Dublin University and excelled in satirical prose. Among his satires are *A Modest Proposal* and *A Journal to Stella*, but he is most famous for *Gulliver's Travels*. Swift died on 19 October, 1745.

Prereading Activities:

1. Have you heard about this book before?
2. What do you know about the life of Jonathan Swift?
3. What is the place you would like to travel to? Justify your answer.
4. Have you seen any movie about the story of *Gulliver's Travels*?
5. What is satire?
6. Does the cover of the book match the title?

A Voyage to Lilliput

My Youth

At the age of seventeen I left school since my father, having five sons, did not have enough money to maintain me. I went to work for a famous **surgeon** in London and, while studying medicine, I also studied navigation and mathematics because my one desire was to travel.

After several years as a surgeon on a ship named the Swallow, I decided to stay in London. I got married and tried to settle down. But I was soon restless and left on other voyages. At last, I was offered a position on the ship Antelope, sailing to the South Seas. We departed on May 4th, 1699.

Shipwrecked

On our way to the East Indies, there was a violent storm that sent us in the wrong direction. We found ourselves north of Van Dieman's Land. Many of the men had already died from hard work and bad food. One day in November the ship hit a rock and split in two. Six of us got into a boat but the wind was strong and we were weak and the boat turned over. I think my companions **drowned**. I was lucky. I swam (I don't know how far) until, at last, I reached land. Now, I was very, very tired. I lay down on the grass and fell asleep.

My Notes



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What is your favorite field of study?

Lilliput

It was morning when I woke up. I tried to stand up, but could not move. Then I realized that my arms and legs were fixed to the ground, and my hair, too! In fact, all over my body there were **strings** holding me down. I could only look up at the sky and the hot sun was shining in my face.

Suddenly, I felt something moving on my foot. I managed to lift my head and saw a man – a very little man. He was less than fifteen centimeters tall! He was dressed like a soldier. Then forty other soldiers came on me.

“Hey!” I shouted in surprise and they all ran back. (Later they told me that many had hurt themselves when they fell off my legs.)

Soon they returned and one very brave man came right up to my face.

“Hekinah degul!” he shouted. The others repeated the same words but I did not understand.

I felt very uncomfortable but, with a violent **tug**, I succeeded in pulling my left arm free. I also lifted up my head which was very painful as many hairs were pulled out. I tried to catch some of the little men, but they ran away too quickly. Then I heard a noise and felt a **pricking** in my hand: they were shooting arrows at me! Some fell on my face and hurt me very much. I covered my eyes with my free hand and lay without moving.

After some time, they stopped shooting at me but, from the

My Notes



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I Visit Mildendo

The first thing I did after obtaining my freedom was to ask permission to visit the city, called Mildendo. The King ordered all the citizens to stay indoors. I stepped over the city wall and carefully walked down the long main street. At all the windows I could see the faces of the people watching me, and many stood on the **roofs**, too. When I reached the main square, I saw the royal palace. I lay down and looked through the windows. I saw the Queen and the young princes. They waved to me, smiling.

The High-Heels and the Low Heels

That night an important man named Reldresal came to talk to me. He began to tell me about the quarrelling in Lilliput between two parties – the High-Heels and the Low-Heels. They can be distinguished by the **height** of the heels of their shoes. The King, being part of the second, has only low heels in the administration of the government. His Majesty's heels are, in fact, lower than anyone's. The **heir** to the crown, instead, has High-Heel tendencies and walks, therefore, in rather an unbalanced way. (He wears one high heel and one low heel!) The High-Heels, it is true, outnumber the Low-Heels, but they have no power. Animosity between the two parties is so strong that they will neither eat nor drink nor talk together.

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10. State whether the following are True or False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| a. The King is a member of the Low-Heels. | T | F |
| b. The King's son walks strangely because he does not wear low heels. | T | F |
| c. There are more High-Heels than Low-Heels. | T | F |
| d. The two parties are great friends. | T | F |
| e. The Big-Endians live in Blefusco. | T | F |
| f. Eggs used to be opened at the small end. | T | F |
| g. The King's grandfather changed the law. | T | F |
| h. The Big-Endians refused to cut their eggs at the small end. | T | F |

11. Explain the following:

- a. How did the author stop the invasion?
.....
- b. Why was the King angry?
.....
- c. Why did the people of Blefusco lose less than they expected?
.....
- d. How did the Lilliputians write?
.....
- e. Why did they bury their dead upside down?
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7. Write in your own words the incident of Gulliver's hat.

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8. Read the King's orders again and complete the two lists below:

What the Man-Mountain must do.

- He must only walk on the main roads.

What the Man-Mountain must not do.

- He must not walk across the fields.

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9. Explain why the King promised Gulliver food sufficient for 1,728 Lilliputians.

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Golden Classics

Golden Classics is a series of Leveled Readers which introduces students to the most well-known International classics through a carefully graded text and illustrations. Each text offers a wide range of activities that encourages readers to ask, discuss, and respond to questions individually or in small groups. Higher thinking skills are addressed on each page in the form of an open-ended question. Each reader is bundled with activities and a glossary at the end of the book.



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