

# The Voyage to Lilliput

Adapted from *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift

- 1 *In 1726, Jonathan Swift, an Irish church official and political writer, published Gulliver's Travels. This book, meant for adults, was intended to expose the foolishness of people and their politics. Gulliver's Travels was a satire—a form of writing in which the author uses humor and sharp wit to make fun of habits, customs, or ideas.*
- 2 *As a satire, the book was successful. It was read and talked about by many adults of the time. However, it also has elements of fantasy that children enjoy. The book pretends to be a real account of four journeys made by a surgeon named Lemuel Gulliver.*
- 3 *Gulliver's first voyage was to the country of Lilliput. There he was shipwrecked, but managed to swim ashore. Then he fell into a long*
- 4 *sleep. When he awoke, he found he could not move; his arms, legs, and hair were tied to the ground by slender ropes.*
- 5 *Because he was lying on his back, Gulliver could not look around, but only up. Soon he felt something moving up his leg, across his chest, and up to his chin. With great difficulty, he rolled his eyes downward and was astonished to see a six-inch man carrying a bow and arrow. This man was followed by at least forty more of the same size.*
- 6 *Gulliver cried out in surprise, and the tiny people scampered away. Soon they returned, speaking a language that Gulliver could not understand. At length, Gulliver was tired of lying so still. With great effort, he broke the strings that bound him. Frightened, the little people ran off again.*

- 6 Then one of them cried aloud, "Tolgo phonac!" Immediately, a shower of miniature arrows rained upon Gulliver like needles. Gulliver remained still after this until he was approached by a person who was clearly important. By gesturing humbly, Gulliver convinced the man that he meant no harm. Then, pointing to his mouth, Gulliver indicated that he was hungry, and soon hundreds of people arrived bearing baskets of meat and tiny loaves of bread.
- 7 The people were at first frightened of Gulliver. They thought of putting him to death. They feared that his huge appetite would cause a famine. But they also realized that he might be useful to them, so they spared his life. Six hundred persons were assigned to feed and care for him, and three hundred tailors were told to make him a suit of clothes. The emperor's greatest scholars taught Gulliver the language and customs of Lilliput.
- 8 Gulliver learned about the government, the laws, the educational system, and family life. He also learned about two mighty conflicts: a dangerous disagreement among the Lilliputians themselves, and the danger of invasion by an outside enemy.
- 9 The internal conflict concerned two groups who argued about the height of their shoe heels. These groups had not spoken to each other for years. The second conflict was even more serious. It had begun with a fight over which end of an egg should be broken. Eleven thousand Big-Endians of Lilliput had suffered death rather than break their eggs at the smaller end. Others had moved to the nation of Blefuscu, where they were now in favor at court. The two countries had battled over this matter for years, losing more than forty ships and thirty thousand sailors. Lilliputians begged for Gulliver's help.
- 10 Gulliver consulted with the most experienced seamen about the depth of the water and found it was seventy glumgluffs, or six feet, at the most. He then ordered fifty pieces of cable with hooks at their ends. Next he took off his coat, shoes, and stockings and waded into the sea. He waded most of the way to Blefuscu, swimming only a few yards. The enemy was so frightened by the sight of him that they leaped from their ships and swam ashore.
- 11 Gulliver then took his cables and fastened a hook to the prow of each boat. The enemy attacked with thousands of tiny arrows, many of which struck Gulliver's face. To protect his eyes, he took a pair of spectacles from his pocket and tied them on his face. The arrows bounced harmlessly off the glass, and Gulliver continued his work.
- 12 By now, he had fastened all the hooks and had tied the thread-like cable ends into a knot. Using his knife, he cut the lines that fastened each ship to its anchor. Then he began wading back to Lilliput with ease, dragging fifty of the enemy's largest ships after him.
- 13 The Blefuscudians were astonished. They had thought that Gulliver planned only to let the ships run adrift. But when they saw that he was pulling their whole fleet away, they screamed in grief and despair.
- 14 Gulliver stopped to pick out the arrows that had stuck in his hands and face. Then he took off his spectacles and waited for the tide to fall. He waded safely back to the royal port of Lilliput, drawing his cargo behind him. There the delighted emperor received him and made him a Nardac on the spot. A Nardac was the highest title of honor in Lilliput.
- 15 After more adventures, Gulliver decided to leave the islands. He and the tiny inhabitants fixed up a boat that had washed ashore. Gulliver took with him a good store of food and several tiny animals. He did not take any of the people, even though several wished to go.
- 16 After two days at sea, Gulliver was picked up by a passing ship. He told the captain his story, but the captain thought that Gulliver was out of his mind. Only when Gulliver took from his pocket the Lilliputian cattle and sheep did the man believe him.
- 17 Gulliver finally returned to England and his family. He stayed only a few months, though, and then returned to the sea and to further voyages.
- 18 *From this story has come the term lilliputian. It is still used to describe something very tiny or much smaller than normal size. The term yahoo, meaning a crude, uneducated person, comes from the name of a creature Gulliver met on another of his voyages.*

## How Well Did You Read?

Swift used many details to describe the Lilliputians. Some details made them seem like ordinary people. Some made them seem make-believe. Write *O* if a detail made them seem like ordinary people. Write *M* if it made them seem make-believe.

- 1 They were about six inches tall.
- 2 They had a government and an educational system.
- 3 They had feelings and were intelligent.
- 4 Their ships were so tiny that Gulliver could tow fifty of them at one time.
- 5 Their cattle and sheep fit into Gulliver's pocket.
- 6 They had ropes and baskets, and ate meat and bread.

Write the letter of the best answer for each question.

- 7 Why do both children and adults enjoy *Gulliver's Travels*?
  - a Both children and adults enjoy reading satires.
  - b The story is both a clever satire and an enjoyable fantasy.
  - c The story describes a real foreign land.
- 8 Why were the people of Lilliput afraid of Gulliver?
  - a Gulliver was a violent man.
  - b The people of Lilliput were foolish.
  - c Gulliver's large size made him seem dangerous.
- 9 What point was Swift making when he described the two mighty conflicts affecting Lilliput?
  - a People can get into fights over silly things.
  - b The height of a person's heels or how an

## Learn about Words

### Vocabulary

- A You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word.

- 1 reveal; show clearly (1)
- 2 modestly; weakly (6)
- 3 carrying (6)
- 4 period of little or no food (7)
- 5 did not take (7)
- 6 inside; local (9)
- 7 front end (11)
- 8 residents (15)

- B A word may have more than one meaning. Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. See how the word in **heavy type** below is used in the paragraph. Decide whether it has meaning **a**, **b**, or **c**. Write **a**, **b**, or **c**.

- 9 **shower** (6)
  - a a place in which to bathe
  - b a special kind of party
  - c a sudden downfall of many objects
- 10 **spectacles** (11)
  - a public performances
  - b eyeglasses
  - c unpleasant public scenes

## Word Study

- C logic + **al** = logical (related to logic)  
 poison + **ous** = poisonous (full of poison)  
 fear + **less** = fearless (without fear)

Many adjectives end in *al*, *ous*, and *less*. Often *al* means "related to," *ous* means "full of or possessing the qualities of," and *less* means "without." Read the definitions below and then choose *al*, *ous*, or *less* to complete the word in **heavy type**. Write the completed word.

- 11 related to an accident: **accident**\_\_\_\_  
 12 full of courage: **courage**\_\_\_\_  
 13 without faith: **faith**\_\_\_\_  
 14 without help: **help**\_\_\_\_  
 15 related to directions: **direction**\_\_\_\_  
 16 related to electricity: **electric**\_\_\_\_  
 17 full of danger: **danger**\_\_\_\_  
 18 without shame: **shame**\_\_\_\_

- D Many English words come from the Latin language and contain Latin roots. For example:

**port** = to carry (as in portable)  
**sect** = to divide (as in section)  
**vert** = to turn (as in invert)

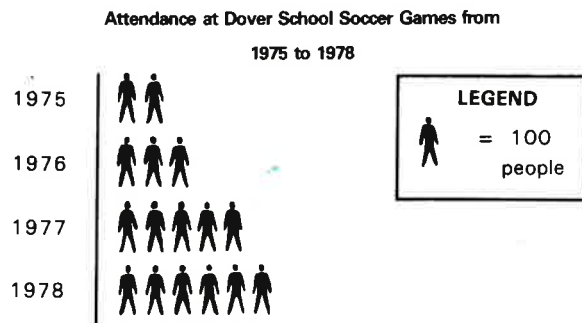
Knowledge of Latin roots will sometimes help you unlock the meanings of new words. Read the sentences below. The word in **heavy type** is a clue. It will help you find the right Latin root to complete the partial word. Complete the word and write it in full.

- 19 Trans\_\_\_\_ your pet in a pet **carrier** box.  
 20 **Divide** the property into one-acre \_\_\_\_ions.  
 21 Dis\_\_\_\_ the worm by **dividing** it into thirds.  
 22 A pet lion may re\_\_\_\_ to old habits and **turn** fierce again.  
 23 This sofa is con\_\_\_\_ible; it **turns** into a bed.  
 24 We cannot im\_\_\_\_ camels, since we have no way to **carry** them into the country.

- 25 A \_\_\_\_able radio is easy to **carry** and useful to have.

- 26 Ask the \_\_\_\_er to **carry** your bags.

- E A *picture graph* uses symbols to stand for numerical information. The graph's *legend* tells what the symbols mean. In this graph, one symbol stands for one hundred people. To find out how many people attended the soccer games each year, just count the symbols beside that date and multiply by 100.



Notice how readily you can compare the different years. A graph lets you see the facts at a glance. Use this picture graph to answer the questions below. Write *Yes*, *No*, or a date for each question.

- 27 In what year did three hundred people attend?  
 28 In what year did five hundred people attend?  
 29 In what year was the soccer attendance highest?  
 30 In what year was the attendance lowest?  
 31 Did more people attend the games in 1976 than in 1977?  
 32 Has attendance been increasing from 1975 to 1978?  
 33 Does one stick figure stand for one hundred people?

## Use Your Imagination

If there were a giant in your town, how could he help people? How could you and your friend help him?