**Gulliver’s Travels Jonathan Swift**

1. Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels was published -----------.

Ans. In 1726

1. Name the floating island in Gulliver’s Travels.

Ans. Laputa island

1. Which is the capital of Laputa in Gulliver’s Travels?

Ans. Lagado

1. With whom did Gulliver make friendship in Balnibarbi?

Ans. Munodi

1. Which place did Gulliver travel after Balnibarbi?

Ans. Glbbdubdrib

1. Gulliver talked to the ghost of which great people in Balnibarbi?

Ans. Alexander the Great, Julius Ceaser, Pompey, Homer, Aristotle, Descartes etc.

1. What were the main concerned of the inhabitants of Laputa?

Ans. Mathematics and Music.

1. What does the word Laputa mean?

Ans. Floating island

1. The island Laputa consists of -----------------acres of land?

Ans. 10,000 acres

1. What punishment did the king use to tyrannize the people of Balnibarbi?

Ans. The king used to cut off sunshine and rain to tyrannize the people.

1. Who are called Struldbruggs?

Ans. Luggnaggians born with a red spot on their foreheads are called Struldbruggs.

1. Which people were described as immortal in Gulliver’s Travels?

Ans. Struldbruggs.

1. How many books is Gulliver’s Travels divided into?

Ans. Four

1. **What is the real title of ‘Gulliver’s Travels’?**

**Ans.** The real title of “Gulliver’s Travels” is “Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, by Lemuel Gulliver”.

1. **Who are Swift’s satirical targets?**

**Ans.** Education, politics, religion, science, society, the nature of man, and the king in the 18th century England are the satirical targets of Swift in “Gulliver’s Travels”.

1. Who were Houyhnhnms?

Ans. In Gulliver’s Travels Houyhnhnms were horses with human intelligence.

1. What position does Gulliver hold aboard the ship on his last voyage?

Ans. Captain

1. How long does it take Gulliver to learn to speak Houyhnhnm?

Ans. Three month

1. What do the Houyhnhnms propose to do with the Yahoos at the Grand Assembly of Houyhnhnms?

Ans. They should merely castrate the Yahoos, and eventually unable to breed to their place.

1. How long do the Houyhnhnms usually live before dying of old age?

Ans. 75 years

1. **‘Gulliver’s Travels is a satire’. Justify your answer.**

**Ans**.

“Gulliver’s Travels” is indeed the one of the very few satires written in English, which is vast and cut across both the domains of human and non-human. It is a satire that leaves no space untouched or unscathed from its piercing analysis. Satires generally have certain definite points of critiques. Accordingly, they are divided between ‘Juvenalian’ and ‘Horatian’ varieties, other than the ‘Menippean’ ones. While the ‘Juvenalian’ satires are known for their merciless treatment of objects of satire by often resorting to a moralist overtone, ‘Horatian’ satires are lighter in tone and meant for evoking laughter and mirth. “Gulliver’s Travels”, in the mold of ostensibly narrating separate tales of wonder and exploration, presents a grand narrative within which different segments deal with different objects of satire. Jonathan Swift, the author, has adopted utopia and dystopia as distinct literary techniques to intensify the satiric effect, which importantly undermines any division between Juvenalian-Horatian varieties. It is very difficult to decide where the laughter ends, and where the satire turns ‘Juvenile’. This indistinction, in part, makes this narrative a grand one, a sui generis of its kind.

In the first part, ‘Voyage to Lilliput’, Gulliver arrives at the land of Lilliputians. He first faced a shipwreck, and then was imprisoned by the King as a prisoner in Lilliput. From this position of a prisoner, an outsider who is looked up as an object of wonder and suspicion, Gulliver could see the vanity of man, the pompous nature and the trappings of monstrous ego. His observation closely relates to the condition of his own nation, the artificial nature of civilization, the unnecessary importance given to ceremony and convention over genuine feeling for the fellow citizen. Men are essentially basking in ego, and living in tombs of inflated self-perception. Gulliver was made to stand with legs apart, so that the king could parade down in between his legs and feel like doing the same through a colossal gate, the symbol of human pride. The quarrel between Blefuscu and Lilliput is regarding from which end to break an egg, the big end or the small end. Could this be a reason for quarrel? Don’t we indulge in war mongering in the name of religion, in the name of whose blood is purer? This is a sheer attack on warfare, violence, on people who are the prisoner of their imagined world. These situations eerily relate to the contemporary Whig/Tory animosity back in England in the 18th century.

The satire is both centrifugal and centripetal as it first attacks ‘several remote nation of the world’ and then immediately recoils and turns its attention to the criticism of English custom, protocol and ceremony. This is illustrated with the King of Brobdingnag's concluding comment on European society, "I cannot but conclude- hate Bulk of your Natives to be the most pernicious Race of little odious Vermin". The satire is double-edged that refuses to find any position which can morally or socially sets standard. This is where the suspicion regarding misanthropy as an important thematic of the text becomes pertinent. Except the relation with Glumdalclitch, the satire in this second travel, titled as ‘Voyage to Brobdingnag’, is filled with irony to indict the women body as a source of tremendous duplicity and detestation.

Further, these two books can be read as two contrasting images of human sociality. If in the first part, Gulliver stands tall, towering over the entire Lilliput race, thus could better see to what extent humans can be absurd in their pretention, in the Brobdingnag section, the same Gulliver is reduced to the position of a dwarf. He is so small that even a caterpillar can trample him down and he can hide behind women’s petticoat to save him from falling down. He is sold like a caged creature, and is hauled up for being too presumptuous by the King of Brobdingnag who expressed his tremendous dissatisfaction with the English state, their instrumental approach and the excessive emphasis on reason. Brobdingnag, in contrast, believes in primitive modes of living, in anticipation of socialist and communitarian ideals of life. In all these, it is the British pride, which is put under scanner. Gulliver, as a representative of this race, is pushed to self-introspection.

The voyage to Laputa has an ironic framework. Here men are engaged in strange scientific and philosophical speculations and experiments like extracting sunbeams out of cucumber. They are more interested in hypothetical speculations than facts, and as a result, the practical side of their life is clumsy and neglected. Here Swift reflects the opinion of the contemporary wits and scholars who found much of the work of the Royal Society intellectually contemptible. The voyage to the land of the Houhyhnhnms is the climax of the book. The land is populated by horses who are perfectly reasonable and Yahoos who are human beings in their irrationality. Swift has adopted the technique of reversal in this book. The horses or the Houyhnhnms are noble and lead life according to laws of reason and nature., while the Yahoos, human in form, are filthy brutes. The irony is again emphasized when at the time of his departure, Gulliver feels the pangs of parting, while the Houyhnhnmns are completely unmoved by it. Swift manipulates the three elements, Gulliver, the Houyhnhnm and the Yahoo for his satiric effects. Gulliver finds savages (horses) noble and Yahoos savage. Gulliver's Travels is a satire on the English as well as on mankind. It is a satire on the politics and administration of England, as well as the smallness of man, his vanity, illusions, rivalries, malice and hypocrisy. Gulliver himself is Swift's most important device of irony. His narration is apparently innocent of malice, and his manner is polite and agreeable. These are the cause of the reader's confusion because he is caught unawares.

Gulliver's Travels was written as a satire on politics in contemporary England as well as satire on mankind in general. His tone is often harsh and bitter, particularly when he wants to criticize the policies during his time. So, overall, this satire, in scope, is much expansive and sprawling. It shares various affinities with what we now recognize as science fiction. In fact, the absurdist mode of narrative in Kafka’s “Metamorphosis” bears ample similarities with Gulliver’s distention and contraction in physical size. This comparison, on the final count, makes this massively powerful narrative into a political satire, which precariously borders on misanthropy.

1. **Discuss the significance of Gulliver’s third voyage and how it different from others.**

**Ans.**

The first two voyages are mostly satires of politics and ethics, the third voyage extends Swift's attack to science, learning, and abstract thought, offering a critique of excessive rationalism, or reliance on theory, during the Enlightenment. After being at home for only ten days, [Gulliver](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list#gulliver) is visited by a ship captain who invites him on a voyage departing in two months. Gulliver convinces his wife that this is a good opportunity and sets off, again working as the surgeon.

After they sail for three days, a storm arises, driving the ship to the north-northeast, where they are attacked by pirates. They are unable to defend themselves. Gulliver insults the captain of the pirate ship and as punishment is set adrift in "a small Canoe, with Paddles and a Sail, and four Days Provisions." On the fifth day of sailing in his canoe, Gulliver reaches a small island, where he spends the night in restless sleep. In the morning he notices that what he thought was a cloud floating above the island is actually a floating island. Gulliver calls up to the people he sees moving about the island. They lower down a system of pulleys that can pull Gulliver up.

As soon as Gulliver steps onto the floating island, he is surrounded by a crowd of people. He finds them very strange even though they are of a size similar to his. Their heads are slanted to the left or right, and their clothes have pictures of either musical instruments or astronomical signs. Gulliver learns that he is on Laputa. The people here have terribly short attention spans, so they carry around "Flappers." These are used for hitting other people during conversation in order to keep them focused. After dinner a man is sent to teach Gulliver the language.

Gulliver finds that the Laputian houses are built very poorly and with no right angles. This is odd because the men here are obsessed with mathematics. The people here never have peace of mind. They are constantly worrying about dangers such as the possibility that the sun might go out. The women are very sexual creatures who often cheat on their husbands, especially with their preferred men from Balnibarbi, but the men are so wrapped up in mathematics that they do not notice. [The King](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list#the-king) of Laputa is not remotely interested in the government of England.

Gulliver learns that Laputa is floating above Balnibarbi, the island on which he landed his canoe. Laputa contains 10,000 acres and is perfectly circular. It is able to move about the surface of Balnibarbi but not beyond its borders, and it can move up and down because of its magnetic forces. When a town from Balnibarbi acts up, the King has Laputa moved directly above it so that it can receive no sun or rain. No one from the Royal family is allowed to leave Laputa.

Gulliver finds Laputa terribly boring because the people there are all much more intelligent than he is. He has a hard time conversing with them and is generally ignored. He petitions to go down to Balnibarbi, and his request is granted. On Balnibarbi, Gulliver meets Lord [Munodi](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list" \l "munodi), who invites Gulliver to stay at his home. Munodi's home is beautiful and kept well, but when the two travel out into the country Gulliver finds that the rest of the land is barren and sadly kept. Munodi explains that this is because many years back, people from Balnibarbi visited Laputa, and when they returned they decided to change things to a more academic way of living. This idea has failed. Munodi's land is plentiful because he never changed his way of living.

Gulliver visits the Grand Academy of Lagado, the largest metropolis of Balnibarbi. The scientists there are constantly working on experiments that Gulliver finds pointless. For instance, he meets a man who is trying to extract sunlight from cucumbers. Other experiments are trying to turn excrement back into the food it began as, trying to make gunpowder from ice, and trying to employ spiders as weavers of silk. Professors are also attempting to alter the communication of Balnibarbi by doing away with language altogether.

Gulliver then visits the part of the Academy designated for studies of government. He finds the professors especially in this wing to be entirely crazy. They propose such things as studying excrement to find treasonous people and taxing people based on beauty and wit.

Gulliver decides to take a trip to the Island of Luggnagg but finds that no ships will be available for the voyage for a month, so it is suggested that he visit Glubbdubdrib, which he translates to mean the island of sorcerers or magicians. Once he arrives in the governor's home, he finds that "The Governor and his Family are served and attended by Domesticks of a kind somewhat unusual." Gulliver learns that the governor has the power to bring back the dead for the purpose of serving him. Gulliver is given the option to bring back anyone he would like. He chooses Alexander the Great, who tells Gulliver that he actually died because he drank too much. He then brings back a parade of other famous dead.

Gulliver spends a great deal of time speaking with various famous dead people. He speaks with Homer, Aristotle, and Descartes and even gets them into conversation with one another. He later brings back a few English Yeomen and finds them much larger and stronger than the English people today. He worries that his countrymen are diminishing with time.

Gulliver travels to Luggnagg, posing as a Dutchman. He says, "I thought it necessary to disguise my Country, and call my self an Hollander, because my Intentions were for Japan, and I knew the Dutch were the only Europeans permitted to enter into that Kingdom." His true identity is discovered, however, and Gulliver is made a prisoner. He later learns that anyone who wants to come before the king must crawl on hands and knees and lick the floor. The king, it turns out, uses this tradition to his advantage when he wants to get rid of someone-simply by poisoning the floor.

Gulliver learns about the Struldbrug children who are born to Luggnaggians but who have a red dot on each of their foreheads. These children are immortal, which causes Gulliver to fantasize about what he would do if he were immortal. He dreams of the ability to take his time becoming a master of many different subjects and amassing great wealth. But Gulliver soon comes to learn that the Struldbrug children are actually very unhappy and jealous of those people who can die. They find their own lives depressing.

After offering Gulliver employment in the court but finally seeing that he is determined to leave, His Majesty gives him license to leave, a letter of recommendation to the Emperor of Japan, and a gift of 444 pieces of gold and a very valuable red diamond. In Japan he is told to trample the crucifix, which all Dutchmen are happy to do, but Gulliver manages to get out of doing so. He takes a ship to Amsterdam and then to England, where he happily returns to his family.

1. **Discuss Gulliver’s experiences/adventures in the land of Houyhnhyms**.

**Ans.**

Book IV In the land of the Houyhnhyms, Gulliver enters a new world where he encounters strange kinds of animals. The hairy animals have a human form and attack Gulliver for no reason. The horses or Houyhnhnms are amazingly rational and intelligent. As soon as they appear, the animals in the human form or the Yahoos who are attacking Gulliver , move away from him. Gulliver's description of the Yahoos is a highly effective device of satire to show how ridiculous humans are. Swift comments on human beings through the contrast between the Houyhnhnms and the Yahoos. The horses are clean and their diet is balanced and vegetarian. Though the Yahoos are human in form and features, they are filthy and stink and eat rotten meat and garbage. The physical similarity between Yahoos and human beings shocks and horrifies Gulliver. The inferiority of the Yahoos to the Houyhnhnms reflects that man is inferior to a horse. Each Houyhnhnm knows what is right and acts accordingly. They are untroubled by greed, politics, or lust. They live a life of cleanliness and exist in peace and serenity. They live by the grand maxim: Cultivate Reason and be totally governed by it.

After five months at home, [Gulliver](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list#gulliver) leaves his children and pregnant wife yet again to go on his fourth voyage, this time as captain. Not long into the trip, his crew mutinies, locking him into his cabin for a great deal of time and threatening to murder him. Eventually the crew, who plan to become pirates, drop Gulliver off on an unknown island. Gulliver walks inland until he comes across a field of strange creatures. After observing them for some time he comments, "Upon the whole, I never beheld in all my Travels so disagreeable an Animal, nor one against which I naturally conceived so strong an Antipathy." Soon Gulliver comes to realize that these are actually naked human beings behaving like cattle. Gulliver comes face to face with one of them. He hits it with the side of his blade when it comes at him violently. The animal-like human (which Gulliver later learns is called a Yahoo) cries out, causing the rest of the forty Yahoos to surround Gulliver.

Gulliver fears the worst until the Yahoos suddenly flee because of a grey horse coming toward them. The horse takes an interest in Gulliver and circles him until another horse comes along. Gulliver observes that their whinnies to each other sound almost like a language. Gulliver hears the word Yahoo several times and repeats it to the great surprise of both horses. The horses then teach Gulliver the word Houyhnhnm, which Gulliver later learns is their word for themselves-for horse. Afterward, the grey horse signals to Gulliver that he should walk in front of him, which he does. Gulliver and the grey horse arrive at a home where Gulliver expects to meet the horse's human masters. The two move through every room of the house and meet several other horses before Gulliver realizes that the grey horse is the master of the house. After some discussion between the horse and his wife about whether or not Gulliver is in fact a Yahoo, he is brought out to the stable where the Yahoos are kept and is made to stand next to one of them. Aside from the extra hair, longer nails, and nakedness of the Yahoo, they are the same. Gulliver makes a kind of bread out of the horses' oats for his dinner and is given a small room near the house with some hay to sleep in.

After about three months of living among the Houyhnhnms, Gulliver has learned their language quite well and can answer most of their questions. He tells them about the mutiny that landed him on their shores, but they have a very difficult time understanding, because they have no concept of what a lie is. They tell Gulliver that "The Word Houyhnhnm, in their Tongue, signifies a Horse, and its Etymology, the Perfection of Nature." The horses believe that Gulliver is a Yahoo-but a more rational and civilized Yahoo. Gulliver, wanting to separate himself from the Yahoos as much as possible, asks not to be called a Yahoo anymore.

Gulliver continues explaining the concept of lying to his master. He also explains the relationship of horses and humans back in England. The horses cannot believe that humans would be able to control creatures that are so much stronger than they are, but Gulliver explains that horses are tamed beginning at a very young age. Over the next two years, Gulliver explains much about the English government and political systems. Gulliver tries to explain war and the reasons why humans kill each other. His master says that Yahoos in England are worse than Yahoos because they use their reason to gain power but use it badly. Gulliver continues telling his master about the vices of the English people. He paints a particularly disturbing picture of lawyers and doctors, saying that lawyers are the stupidest among the Yahoos and doctors are corrupt and seldom cure their patients.

[Gulliver](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list#gulliver) has come to love the [Houyhnhnms](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list" \l "houyhnhnms), their society, and their way of living. He writes, "I had not been a Year in this Country, before I contracted such a Love and Veneration for the Inhabitants, that I entered on a firm resolution never to return to human Kind, but to pass the rest of my Life among these admirable Houyhnhnms in the Contemplation and practice of every Virtue."

Gulliver then describes a conversation with his Master in which he is honored by being asked to sit farther away. His Master tells Gulliver that his conclusion, after learning all about Gulliver's fellow human beings, is that they are not as different from [Yahoos](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list#yahoos), "their Brethren," as originally thought.

In order to study the Yahoos more closely, Gulliver asks to spend some time among them, which is granted. Gulliver is completely disgusted by the Yahoos. They smell terrible, are completely unkempt, and act ridiculously, even throwing their excrement at one another. When Gulliver sneaks away to a pond for a bath, he is nearly assaulted by one of the female Yahoos but is saved by a Houyhnhnm.

Gulliver's master attends a great assembly as the representative of his district. When he returns he tells Gulliver that they were discussing whether or not to exterminate the Yahoos-and that he suggested they be castrated when young, just as Gulliver told him horses in England often are. That way they will be easier to tame, and they will eventually die off. In the meantime, the Houyhnhnms can breed asses, which are much stronger and more manageable than Yahoos.

Gulliver tells the reader that the horses have no system of letters and do not read or write, but that they maintain their knowledge through oral tradition. They also have very few diseases and can calculate the year by the revolutions of the sun. Houyhnhnms live to about seventy or seventy-five years old, and when they die no one makes a big fuss.

Gulliver is given a nice room in the Houyhnhnms' home, where he settles in very comfortably. He makes new clothes and enjoys his life very much. The other Houyhnhnms, however, begin to worry about a Yahoo living among Houyhnhnms. They fear that Gulliver may lead a revolt among the other Yahoos. They tell Gulliver's master that it is time for him to leave the island. When Gulliver hears this news, he faints from grief. Having no other choice, Gulliver builds a canoe over the next two months. Heartbroken, he sets sail, but not before kissing his master's hoof. Gulliver paddles away from the shore, determined not to go too far from the Houyhnhnms. He writes, "My Design was, if possible, to discover some small island uninhabited, yet sufficient by my Labour to furnish me with the Necessaries of Life, which I would have thought a greater Happiness than to be first Minister in the Politest Court of Europe." He finds a small island, where he lives for four days on raw oysters and other shellfish until he is discovered by the natives. He runs to his canoe and rows away, but not before being shot in his left knee.

Gulliver sees a Portuguese ship, but he feels disgusted by the thought of sharing a ship with Yahoos, so he chooses to return to another side of the same island. The Portuguese land and find Gulliver. He refuses to leave, but the crewmates decide not to leave him by himself on the island. The captain, [Don Pedro](https://www.gradesaver.com/gullivers-travels/study-guide/character-list#don-pedro), is very kind to Gulliver, but Gulliver cannot stand to be near Yahoos, so he spends most of the voyage in his cabin alone.

Finally back in England, Gulliver's family is thrilled to see him alive, but Gulliver thinks of them only as Yahoos and cannot stand to be near them. He buys two horses and spends at least four hours a day in the stables conversing with them. Gulliver concludes the tale of his travels, saying that everything he has written is true. He also tells the reader that he is now able to eat at the same table with his family although he is still working to teach them to overcome their vices. He only wants to help the world he lives in to become more like the world of the Houyhnhnms.

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