



Gulliver's Travels



*Retold from the Jonathan Swift
original by Martin Woodside*

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What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. When Gulliver awakes in Lilliput, he discovers that he has been tied down by men “not six inches high.” How would you have reacted in Gulliver’s position? What is the strangest experience you have ever had?

2. Almost immediately after reaching Lilliput, Gulliver seems to make an enemy of Skyresh Bolgolam. Why do you think this happens? Have you ever unknowingly made an enemy?

3. Why do you think Gulliver has a constant need to travel? Have you ever felt a similar need? Where would you most like to travel to?

4. Gulliver goes from being the biggest man in the land to the smallest. How would this

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

make you feel? Would you rather be big or small?

5. Gulliver keeps finding lands within our world that he didn't know existed. Do you think it is possible that such lands are really out there? If you were to create a new world, what would it look like?

6. While in the land of the giants, Gulliver has a number of accidents. Which did you think was the worst? Have you ever had an accident that was not too serious and simply made others laugh? What was it?

7. Gulliver seems to gain a new nickname with each country he visits. What does each of his nicknames mean? Have you ever had a nickname? Who gave it to you?

8. Of all the places Gulliver visits, the only one he wishes to stay in is the land of the Houyhnhnms. Why do you think this is? Have you ever visited a place you never wanted to leave?

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

9. Once on Luggnagg, Gulliver learns about the Struldbrugs, creatures that live forever. How does his opinion of them change over time? Would you want to live forever? Why or why not?

10. How does Gulliver change from the beginning of the book to the end? What do you suppose he learned from all of his travels? Have you ever learned anything from a trip you took?