

## Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* Study Guide

### Characteristics of Nineteenth Century Romanticism:

- Ideas of democracy, individual rights, and a belief in the limitless possibilities inherent in change and progress
- Spontaneity, imagination, and originality emerged as valued forces through which the individual could connect with universal truths and communicate those truths to others
- Influences seen in literature, the growing sense that societal institutions corrupt human nature

### Jonathan Swift (1667-1745):

- Irish author and satirist
- Most of his writings were published under pseudonyms
- Best remembered for his 1726 book, *Gulliver's Travels*

### Satire:

- The use of humor, irony, or exaggeration, even ridicule to expose and criticize politics, people, topical issues, etc.
- Typically appearing in plays, novels, film, editorials, social media, etc.

### *Gulliver's Travels*:

1. What is Gulliver's given name?
2. What was Gulliver's profession before he begins his travels?
3. What is the name of the ship Gulliver sets sail upon to begin his adventures?
4. What is the misfortune that the ship meets?
5. Where does Gulliver finally land after his lifeboat capsizes?
6. What is the name of the ocean in which Lilliput is located?
7. Describe the human creatures that are surrounding Gulliver when he awakens.
8. Who is the chief of the Lilliputians?
9. How do the Lilliputians transport Gulliver to the capital city?
10. Where is Gulliver confined in the capital city?

11. What does Gulliver “do” inside his confinement house that he regrets and determines to do outside in the future?
12. How does Gulliver win the favor of the Lilliputians?
13. What is the translation of the term: “Quinbus Flestrin”?
14. What are some of the items discovered on Gulliver’s person when he is searched?
15. What item do the men searching Gulliver assume must be “the god that he worships”?
16. What are the conditions upon which the King agrees to release Gulliver?
17. Name the great metropolis within which the emperor’s majestic palace may be found.
18. Who are enemies of the Lilliputians? On what island do they reside?
19. What is the ridiculous reason behind the war in which Lilliput is currently engaged?
20. How does Gulliver end the war?
21. What is Gulliver’s punishment if he is charged with treason?
22. Where does Gulliver escape to avoid this punishment?

**Points of Satire:**

How does a Lilliputian win an opportunity to be selected as a government official? And, what might Swift be saying about the selection of political officials in Europe?

How might the continued tradition of the Lilliputians burying a dead person with their “heads directly downwards” (even though some Lilliputians confided to Gulliver that this is foolish practice) compare to some of the traditions of the Europeans?