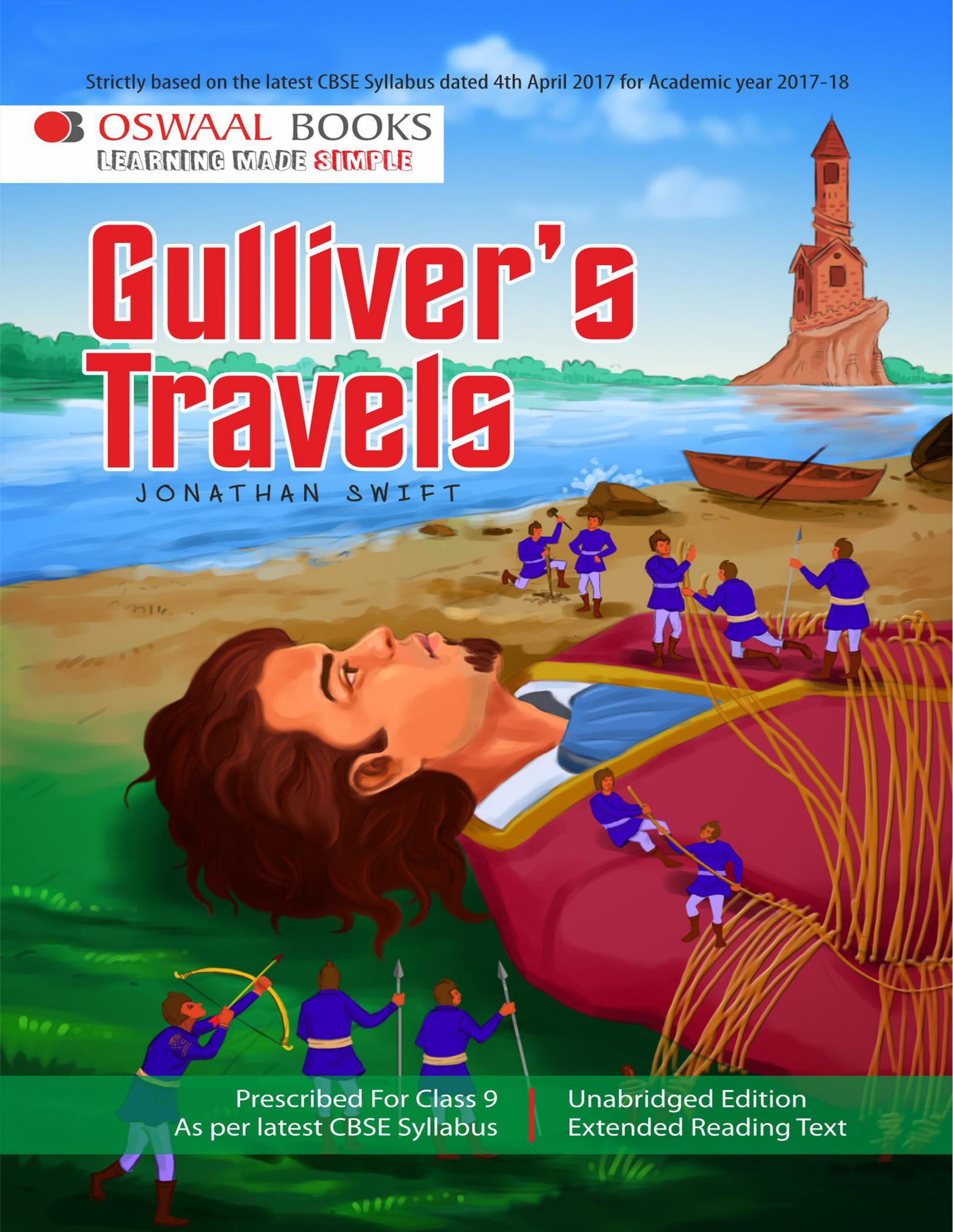


Strictly based on the latest CBSE Syllabus dated 4th April 2017 for Academic year 2017-18

 **OSWAAL BOOKS**
LEARNING MADE SIMPLE

Gulliver's Travels

JONATHAN SWIFT



Prescribed For Class 9
As per latest CBSE Syllabus

Unabridged Edition
Extended Reading Text

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PREFACE

Going by the old adage by renowned thinker Francis Bacon, "Reading maketh a full man....," and to inculcate good reading habits among the children, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) introduced novels for classes IX to XII from the 2012-13 academic session.

In a recent circular issued by the Board, emphasis has been laid on reading novels as this could help children in acquiring important skills of imagination, expression and appreciation of literature. It further states that though all the skills of gaining proficiency in a language are equally important, nevertheless, reading tremendously helps in improving comprehension, accuracy, fluency and diction.

For class IX, the recommended books are **Gulliver's Travels** by *Jonathan Swift* or **Three Men in a Boat** by *Jerome K. Jerome*.

This book on **Gulliver's Travels** has been designed with utmost care considering the student's need to comprehend the text better. It contains the Original Text from the Novel as well as a Question Bank at the end of every chapter. About the Author, About the Novel and Chapter review for every Chapter is given to facilitate better understanding of the novel. At the end of every chapter, important questions and answers are incorporated in order to assist the student in systematic revision of the chapter.

A few Highlights of this book are:

- Original & Unabridged Text along with Chapter Summary.
- Chapterwise Questions based on understanding.
- Questions based on Theme and Plot involving interpretation and inference.
- The language used in the book is simple and accurate in order to enhance comprehension of the novel
- The book will enable the amalgamation of reading & writing skills of the students

We sincerely hope that this book will assist every student in better comprehension of the prescribed novel thereby facilitating examination oriented learning.

We are always open to suggestions for improvement from teachers and students alike!

Wishing you luck for the forthcoming Academic Year.

Publisher

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(6)

Gulliver's Travels

JONATHAN SWIFT

About the Author

Early Years and Education: Jonathan Swift was born in Dublin to a poor family that included his mother (Abigail) and his sister (Jane). His father, a noted clergyman in England, had died seven months before Jonathan's birth. There is not much known of Swift's childhood, and what is reported is not always agreed upon by biographers. What is accepted, however, is that Jonathan's mother, after the death of her husband, left the children to be raised by relatives (probably uncles), while she returned to her family in England (Leicester). It is also reported that Swift, as a baby, was taken away by a nurse to England where he remained for three years before being returned to his family. This is open to conjecture, but the story contributes to the lack of information available regarding Swift's childhood.

Beginning in 1673, Swift attended Kilkenny Grammar School, where he enjoyed reading literature and excelled especially in language study. In 1682, Swift entered Trinity College where he received B.A. by "special grace," a designation for students who did not perform very well while studying there. After leaving Trinity College, Swift went to England to work as a secretary (a patronage position) for Sir William Temple. In 1692, Swift received M.A. from Oxford; and in 1702, a D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) from Dublin University.

Author's Career : From approximately 1689 to 1694, Swift was employed as a secretary to Sir William Temple in Moor Park, Surrey, England. In 1694, he was ordained as a priest in the Church of Ireland (Anglican Church) and assigned as Vicar (parish priest) of Kilroot, a church near Belfast (in northern Ireland). In 1696, he returned to working with Sir William Temple, and in 1699 after the death of Sir William, he became chaplain to Lord Berkeley.

In 1700, Swift became the Vicar of Laracor, Ireland, and was also appointed prebend (an honorary clergyman serving in a cathedral) at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. In 1707, Swift was appointed as an emissary to the Church of Ireland, and in 1713, he was appointed as Dean

of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. Throughout all this time, and, indeed, after his appointment as Dean of St. Patrick's, Swift continued writing satirically in various genres, including both prose and poetry, using various form to address different causes, including personal behavioural, philosophical, political, religious, civic, and others.

*A***uthor's Major Literary Works** : Between the years 1696–99, Swift wrote two major works: *Tale of a Tub*, defending the middle position of the Anglican and Lutheran churches, and *Battle of the Books*, taking the part of the Ancients (those who believed in the superiority of the classics and the humanities) against the Moderns (those who upheld the superiority of modern science, scholarship, politics, and literature). In the *Mechanical Operation of the Spirit* (1704), Swift continues his satiric attack on both questionable religious views and knowledge acquisition, particularly the scientific knowledge. In an *Argument against abolishing Christianity*, Swift shares his reactions to the Test Act, a law enacted by Charles II, requiring office holders to declare their allegiance to the king over the church. The *Journal to Stella* (1710–1713), a series of letters written by Swift to Esther Johnson and Rebecca Dingley, includes the poem "The Windsor Prophecy," a satirical attack on the person and personality of the Duchess of Somerset, Queen Anne's red-haired attendant who did not care for Swift because of disparaging remarks that Swift had written about her family.

The author is also recognised as a defender of Ireland. A *Modest Proposal* (1729), a reaction to English commercial practices that negatively impacted Ireland, was one of the greatest works of sustained irony in English or any other language. Instead of maintaining the English laws that prevent the Irish from manufacturing anything to sell, he argues that the only item of commerce that the English don't restrict are Irish babies and the reason being that the Irish would be better off as cattle to be butchered than as a colony to be starved by the English. The *Drapier's Letters* (1724) is Swift's response to the continued subjugation of all aspects of the lives of those living in Ireland, England. The letters aroused so much opposition that the English offered a reward of £300 for the name of the Swift. Although the Irish knew that he had written the letters, they did not betray him. They made him a national hero instead.

In his most recognized novel, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), Swift presents a satire on all the aspects of humanity by pointing out the weaknesses, vices, and follies inherent in all human beings; the satire reaches its apex in Swift's comparison of Houyhnhnms (horses) and Yahoos (human-like creatures) in Books IV.

In 1727, Swift visited England for the last time. He was declared mentally incompetent in 1742 and died in October 1745, leaving his estate to charity.

About the Book

Gulliver's Travels, written by Jonathan Swift, is an account of the voyages undertaken by Lemuel Gulliver. Though a surgeon, he went sailing many times and he has given a vivid description of his experiences during his journeys to various places.

Part I 'A Voyage to Lilliput' deals with his journey to the land of Lilliput where he reached accidentally. Actually, the ship he was sailing was hit by a storm and all the crew members fell into the sea. Gulliver, with great struggle, swam to the shore while all others got drowned. After much exhaustion of swimming, Gulliver dozed off to sleep and found himself tied with ropes when he woke up. He found that he was surrounded by fifteen centimetre tall people aiming their bows and arrows at him. He could not communicate with them due to the language problem and somehow made them understand through sign language that he was hungry and thirsty. His demand of food and drink was immediately fulfilled though the Lilliputians risked famine by feeding him as according to them he was a 'man-mountain'. Rest of the story deals with how he became friendly with the king and the people of Lilliput and how he helped them in their times of need.

Part II 'A Voyage to Brobdingnag' is again a beautiful description of 'Gulliver's visit to a place where people almost as huge as giant lived. Gulliver felt himself small in front of these people. Gulliver had a tough time in this land as he had great trouble from animals like dogs, monkeys etc., and birds like eagle. A girl helped her in this land by being kind and gentle towards him. The king and queen of this land were also helpful to him.

Both, part I and II deal with Gulliver's adventures - good and bad during his journey to various lands.

Part III A Voyage to Laputa Gulliver's third voyage was to Laputa (neighbouring Luggnagg and Glubbudrib). In a visit to the island of Glubbudrib, Gulliver was able to call up the dead and discover the deceptions of history. In Laputa, the people were over-thinkers and

ridiculous in other ways. Also, he meets the Struldbrugs, a race endowed with immortality. Gulliver discovered that they are miserable, though immortal.

Part IV A Voyage to the land of Houyhnhnms. His fourth voyage was to the land of the Houyhnhnms, who were a race of horses endowed with reason. Their rational, clean, and simple society was contrasted with the filthiness and brutality of the Yahoos, beasts in human shape. Gulliver reluctantly came to recognize their human vices. Gulliver stayed with the Houyhnhnms for several years, becoming completely one with them to the point that he never wanted to leave. When he was told that the time has come for him to leave the island, Gulliver fainted with grief. After returning to England, Gulliver felt disgusted about other humans, including his own family.

Summary of the Novel

Part I : A Voyage to Lilliput

It begins with a short preamble in which Lemuel Gulliver gave a brief outline of his life and history before his voyages. He enjoyed travelling, though that love of travelling led him to his downfall.

During his first voyage, Gulliver was washed ashore after a shipwreck and found himself as a prisoner of a race of tiny people, less than 6 inches tall who were inhabitants of the island country called Lilliput. After giving assurance of his good behavior, he was given a residence in Lilliput and became a favourite of the court. He was also given the permission to roam around the city on a condition that he won't harm their subjects. He assisted the Lilliputians to subdue their neighbours, the Blefuscudians, by stealing their fleet. However, he refused to reduce the island nation of Blefuscu to a province of Lilliput, displeasing the king and the court. He was convicted of treason for 'making water' in the capital (even though he was putting out a fire and saving countless lives) among other 'crimes'. He was charged with treason and sentenced to be blinded. With the assistance of a kind friend, he escaped to Blefuscu where he spotted and retrieved an abandoned boat and sailed out to be rescued by a passing ship which safely took him back to his home.

Part II : A Voyage to Brobdingnag

When the sailing ship 'Adventure' was blown off-course by storms and forced to put into land for want of fresh water, he was abandoned by his companions and was found by a farmer of 72 feet (22 m) tall. He brought

him home and there, his daughter cared for him. The farmer treated him as a curiosity and exhibited him for money. The news spread out and the queen of Brobdingnag wanted to see the show. She started loving him and bought him and kept him as a favourite in the court.

Since Gulliver was too small to use their huge chairs, beds, knives and forks, the queen commissioned a small house to be built for him so that he could be carried around in it. That was referred to as his travelling box. Between small adventures such as fighting giant wasps and being carried to the roof by a monkey, he discussed the state of Europe with the king. The queen was not happy with Gulliver's accounts of Europe, especially upon learning of the use of guns and cannons. On a trip to the seaside, his travelling box was seized by a giant eagle which dropped Gulliver and his box into the sea, from where he was picked up by some sailors who returned him to England.

Part III :A Voyage to Laputa, Balnibarbi Glubbdubdrib, Luggnagg and Japan

The author sets out on his third voyage; is taken by pirates; the malice of a Dutchman; his arrival at an island; he is received into Laputa.”

After 10 days back home, Gulliver gets a visit from a former captain of his, William Robinson, who offers him a position on Robinson's ship as a surgeon. Gulliver agrees after a year of travel, and the ship heads to Tonquin, part of the modern-day Vietnam.

The captain has to stay ashore in Tonquin for several months, but he wants to make some profit. The captain buys a small boat and appoints Gulliver to be the leader of it, with fourteen sailors under him, so that they can continue doing business while the captain hangs out on land.

Unfortunately, Gulliver sails into a terrible storm which carries them eastward where they are seen and chased by the pirates (who were, incidentally, a serious threat to sailors in the seas around China and Southeast Asia, particularly in the seventeenth century.) The Japanese pirates are accompanied by a Dutchman, who tells the English that he wants them to be tied up and thrown into the sea. Gulliver begs him to let them go, but his requests seem only to make the Dutchman angrier -especially Gulliver's references to the Dutchman as a “brother Christian”.

The pirate captain finally decides to split Gulliver's crew between their two ships and to set Gulliver adrift in a small canoe with a little bit of food.

Gulliver uses his canoe to row to some tiny local islands nearby, but he can't find much food or shelter on any of them.

While he's standing on the fifth and last island, Gulliver sees a shadow blot out the sun. He takes out his telescope, looks up, and sees that it is a floating island covered with people. (This is the island of Laputa.) Gulliver manages to signal to these people that he needs help, and they eventually steer overhead and let down a chain for Gulliver to climb up.

Part IV : A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms

The author relates several particulars of the Yahoos—"the great virtues of the Houyhnhnms, the education and exercise of their youth, their general assembly."

Gulliver asks the Master Horse for permission to observe the Yahoos, which the Master Horse gives as long as Gulliver is always accompanied by a Houyhnhnm guard - the sorrel nag. Yahoo children are agile, and they also smell bad.

Yahoos are strong but cowardly, stubborn, lying, and deceitful. The Yahoos also swim well, which leads Gulliver to an adventure. One day, the weather is so hot that he wants to go for a swim, so he asks the sorrel nag if he may go for a dip in the river.

The sorrel nag agrees. A young female Yahoo finds Gulliver so hot that she goes running into the river to try and seduce him on the spot. Gulliver freaks out and yells. At the sight of his Houyhnhnm guard, she runs away.

Gulliver is truly embarrassed, because this is the final proof he needs that he is, in fact, a Yahoo. Gulliver has spent three years in Houyhnhnm Land and is ready to tell the reader a bit more about the Houyhnhnms.

The Houyhnhnms do not understand the word "opinion" truly, because they are totally devoted to reasons, and you can only have an opinion about something that you do not know absolutely. It doesn't make any sense to argue over something you don't know; the Houyhnhnms believe that you should respect other people's ideas without trying to dominate them with your own. The Houyhnhnms are equally good to their neighbours and strangers; they value friendship above everything else.

When a female Houyhnhnm has had a foal of each gender, a couple will stop producing children. This is to keep Houyhnhnm Land from becoming overpopulated. The rule is slightly relaxed for servant-class Houyhnhnms, who can have up to three kids of each gender.

The Houyhnhnms do not believe in mixing races, so a Houyhnhnm will only marry another Houyhnhnm of the same colour. (For a discussion of race in Gulliver's Travels, check out our "Character Analyses" of the

Houyhnhnms and the Yahoos.) The Houyhnhnms apply their rules of reason even to marriage, which is always arranged for a couple by their parents. Houyhnhnm couples are always faithful.

The Houyhnhnms believe in equality of education for both the sexes, since it's not rational to leave half the species knowing nothing except how to bear children. Children are strictly disciplined, with a restricted grass diet and lots and lots of exercise. The Houyhnhnms have assemblies representing the whole nation every four years, where they check in to make sure everyone has all the supplies they need.

If one Houyhnhnm couple has two sons, and another has two daughters, they'll trade one to make sure that they have the set quantity of one boy and one girl. If one family has lost one or both children, another Houyhnhnm couple has to have a child to supply their loss.

Critical Essays

Philosophical and Political Background of Gulliver's Travels

Author has at least two aims in Gulliver's Travels besides merely telling a good adventure story. Behind the disguise of his narrative, he is satirizing the pettiness of human nature in general and attacking the Whigs in particular. By emphasizing the six-inch height of the Lilliputians, he graphically diminishes the stature of politicians and indeed the stature of all human nature. And in using the fire in the Queen's chambers, the rope dancers, the bill of particulars drawn against Gulliver, and the inventory of Gulliver's pockets, he presents a series of allusions that were identifiable to his contemporaries as critical of Whig politics.

Why, one might ask, did author have such a consuming contempt for the Whigs? This hatred began when author entered politics as the representative of the Irish church. Representing the Irish bishops, author tried to get Queen Anne and the Whigs to grant some financial aid to the Irish church. They refused, and author turned against them even though he had considered them his friends and had helped them while he worked for Sir William Temple. Author turned to the Tories for political allegiance and devoted his propaganda talents to their services. Using certain political events of 1714-18,, he described in Gulliver's Travels many things that would remind his readers that Lilliputian folly was also English folly—and, particularly, Whig folly. The method, for example, which Gulliver must use to swear his allegiance to the Lilliputian emperor parallels the absurd difficulty that the Whigs created concerning the credentials of the Tory ambassadors who signed the Treaty of Utrecht.

Author's craftiness was successful. His book was popular because it was a compelling adventure tale and also a puzzle. His readers were eager to identify the various characters and discuss their discoveries, and, as a result many of them saw politics and politicians from a new perspective.

Within the broad scheme of *Gulliver's Travels*, Gulliver seems to be an average man in eighteenth-century England. He is concerned with family and with his job, yet he is confronted by the pigmies that politics and political theorizing make of people. Gulliver is utterly incapable of the stupidity of the Lilliputian politicians, and, therefore, he and the Lilliputians are ever-present contrasts for us. We are always aware of the difference between the imperfect (but normal) moral life of Gulliver, and the petty and stupid political life of emperors, prime ministers, and informers.

In the second book of the *Travels*, author reverses the size relationship that he used in Book I. In Lilliput, Gulliver was a giant; in Brobdingnag, Gulliver is a midget. Author uses this difference to express a difference in morality. Gulliver was an ordinary man compared to the moral political midgets in Lilliput. Now, Gulliver remains an ordinary man, but the Brobdingnagians are moral men. They are not perfect, but they are consistently moral. Only children and the deformed are intentionally evil.

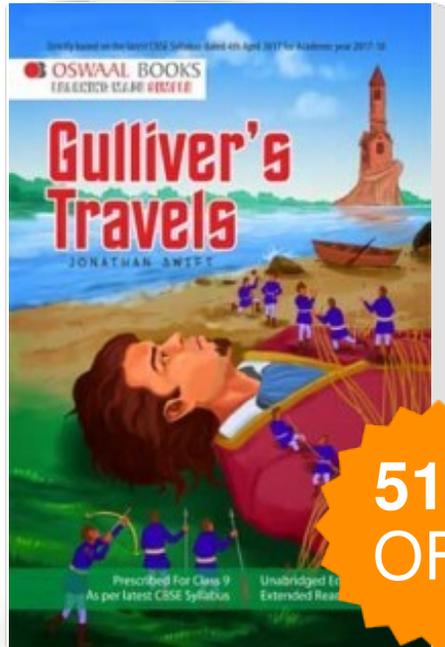
Set against a moral background, Gulliver's "ordinariness" exposes many of its faults. Gulliver is revealed to be a very proud man and one who accepts the madness and malice of European politics, parties, and society as natural. What's more, he even lies to conceal what is despicable about them. The Brobdingnagian king, however, is not fooled by Gulliver. The English, he says, are "odious vermin".

Author praises the Brobdingnagians, but he does not intend for us to think that they are perfect humans. They are superhumans, bound to us by flesh and blood, just bigger morally than we are. Their virtues are not impossible for us to attain, but because it takes so much maturing to reach the stature of a moral giant, few humans achieve it.

Brobdingnag is a practical, moral utopia. Among the Brobdingnagians, there is goodwill and calm virtue. Their laws encourage charity. Yet they are, underneath, just men who labour under every disadvantage to which man is heir. They are physically ugly when magnified, but they are morally beautiful. We cannot reject them simply because Gulliver describes them as physically gross. If we reject them, we become even more conscious of an ordinary person's verminous morality.

In Books I and II, author directs his satire more towards individual targets than firing broadside at abstract concepts. In Book I, he is primarily concerned with Whig politics and politicians rather than with the abstract

Oswaal CBSE Gulliver's Travels For Class 9



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