

7th & 8th Summer Read 2025

Gulliver's Travels

By Jonathan Swift

“Lilliput-the kingdom of tiny people- is perhaps the one element of *Gulliver's Travels* that is still commonly remembered in the contemporary world. But while the idea is remembered, very few people recall what Jonathan Swift was actually attempting to communicate to his readers with his Lilliputians, the giants of Brobdingnag, the intelligent horse creatures of Houyhnhnm, or their subservients, the Yahoos. Swift is the father of modern satire, a role which critics still acknowledge, but his satire itself has been forgotten. His jabs and assaults on civilization are now ignored, and his heritage consists of a single slice of imagination used and reused to entertain children. But *Gulliver's Travels* was not for children. It was written as an all-out attack on a modernizing world, an attempt to put man first, in perspective, and second, back in his place, humbled and content.” – Omnibus III

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Be prepared to turn these in on Monday, August 11th. Also, be prepared to discuss the novel on that day.

1. What are the two parties of Lilliput? What is the main difference between these two parties?
2. How does Gulliver arrive in the land of Brobdingnag?
3. Once again, Gulliver arrives in a strange land (Laputa). How does this occur?
4. What is a flapper?
5. When the King tries to punish the rebellious city of Lindalino, what goes wrong?
6. What is a Struldbrugg? Why are they called Immortals?

7. Do the people of Luggnag view being a Struldbrugg as a blessing or a curse? Explain.
8. Do the Laputans prize imagination? Why or why not?
9. What do the Houyhnhnms prize instead of imagination? Explain
10. What are the defining characteristics of the Houyhnhnm? What are the defining characteristics of the Yahoos?

Cultural Analysis

1. What does our culture believe about growing older?
2. Does our culture cultivate the quality of imagination? How?
3. What does *Gulliver's Travels* teach about power?

Biblical Analysis

1. Are differences acceptable among Christians (1 Cor. 12:12-31)?
2. In the Bible, why is it a good thing to grow old (Job 12:12; Proverbs 16:31)?

