



**Gulliver**

Ooh, ouch! Hey! Help! **Get off** me!! Where am I?

**Gulliver narrator**

I'm lying on my back. I'm being **pricked** by lots of tiny sharp things. My arms and legs are tied to the ground – even my long hair is **fastened**.

**Gulliver**

I... can't... move!

**Gulliver narrator**

It's the strangest sight! Hundreds of tiny figures are **prodding** me with **miniature** spears. Others are fastening bits of string and hammering tiny **pegs** into the ground. The tiny figures are...

**Gulliver**

...humans?

**Gulliver narrator**

Yes little ones, no higher than six inches tall!

**Gulliver**

I must be dreaming!

**Gulliver narrator**

I shut my eyes and open them again. No... I'm not dreaming – I'm tied to the ground – I'm **well and truly** a **prisoner**.

My name is Gulliver. This story of my travels to distant lands may seem unbelievable, and in places, disturbing – but the lands I visited and the strange peoples I met are not imaginary, I didn't **make them up**. Please listen and remember... it is all true.

**Sailor**

Dr Gulliver... the men, the men are feeling sick...

**Gulliver narrator**

I was a ship's doctor. We'd set sail from Bristol in England in 1699 and were heading for the East Indies. I'd left my wife and two children behind. A violent storm broke out...

...in the strong winds, we were shipwrecked on a large rock close to land.

I swam, battling with huge waves.

On reaching the shore, I **pulled myself up** on some soft grass and fell asleep, exhausted.

And there, during the night I became a prisoner of the tiny people. I was so amazed when I saw the tiny human creatures prodding me that I roared and they all ran back terrified. They started to shoot arrows from their bows – onto my hands, my body... my face...

The arrows pricked me like hundreds of needles. I struggled violently and **snapped** the strings on my left arm and quickly covered my eyes to protect them.

**Gulliver**

No more... Stop!

**Gulliver narrator**

I fell back and lay still. Once they realised I wasn't going to attack them or move, they stood back and waited.

One of them, wearing fine clothes, so clearly important, ventured forward from the crowd.

**Gulliver**

Ah... Sir... Now... Don't worry... I'm not going to eat you... But...

**Gulliver narrator**

I pointed to my mouth...

**Gulliver**

I'm very hungry... I need food... food!

**Gulliver narrator**

The one in charge nodded his head.

A few minutes later ladders were put against my body and a long line of tiny people mounted them, carrying dishes of meat, baskets of tiny loaves of bread, and small barrels of wine slung over their shoulders.

**Gulliver**

This is... very good...!

**Gulliver narrator**

I ate and drank greedily. Those tiny **morsels** of food and drink were some of the most exquisite food I have ever tasted. The tiny natives were amazed at my appetite.

With my stomach full, I promptly **nodded off**.

When I **woke up**, I was moving. I later found out that the wine I had drunk had contained a sleeping drug and whilst I was sleeping, 900 of the tiny natives had lifted me onto a machine which was being pulled by a thousand tiny horses. I was taken to the city to meet the king, who greeted me warmly...

He was young and dignified, with strong features. He gave a long speech to me in his language, but I did not understand a word. But he pointed to the city and his people, with a sweep of his arm.

**King**

... Lilliput...

**Gulliver narration**

Some **courtiers** were also there. One had a wise and scholarly look and made friendly gestures to me. Her name, I later learnt, was Flimnap. She was the King's secretary. Another, who had a rather mean expression, drew his sword at various points and waved it in a rather threatening way in the air at me. This was Skyresh.

I was then transported to an empty, ruined temple, where I was lifted up with **pulleys** and chained to the gates. I was still a prisoner, but at least now I could, at last, stand up.

And so it was that I became a guest in the kingdom of Lilliput with its tiny inhabitants. The ruined temple became my home. The royal family came regularly to watch me from the tower. The King sent 30 **scholars** to teach me the Lilliputian language, which I learnt very quickly.

One night I couldn't sleep. I heard the whisper of voices close by. It was the King with his courtiers Flimnap and Skyresh... What Skyresh said worried me deeply...

**Skyresh**

I think that we should kill him...

**King**

Why do you say that, Skyresh?

**Skyresh**

He eats too much, your Majesty! It is costing us a fortune and if we continue to feed him like this, we'll have a **famine** in Lilliput.

**King**

How do you suggest we kill him?

**Skyresh**

Starve him!

**Flimnap**

That's **barbaric**!

**Skyresh**

Or we could shoot him with poisoned arrows.

**King**

What do you think, Flimnap?

**Flimnap**

He is a giant and the **decay** of his body could cause a plague which could spread throughout the kingdom.

**King**

That's very true... He asks for his freedom every day.

**Skyresh**

It's too dangerous! He could kill all of us!

**Flimnap**

He has so far been gentle and well behaved towards the people of Lilliput. He could be useful to us...

We can give him his freedom with certain conditions...

**King**

...which would be?

**Flimnap**

He becomes our **ally** in our war against Blefuscu and destroys their **fleet**.

**King**

Flimnap, you're right! We are facing a grave danger and this giant Gulliver could save us!

**Gulliver narrator**

I had heard enough. Lilliput was **on the brink of** war. The King would not kill me whilst I was useful to him, but what if he changed his mind? I had to escape!

**Vocabulary****pricked**

pierced with small holes, causing pain

**fastened**

attached

**prodding**

pushing pointed objects against something

**miniature**

small copy of a larger object

**pegs**

small hooks or stick

**well and truly**

completely, without doubt

**prisoner**

someone who is kept somewhere against their will

**snapped**

broken

**morsels**

small pieces of food

**nodded off**

fell asleep

**courtiers**

people who work in a royal court

**pulleys**

pieces of equipment used to lift things

**scholars**

people who study

**famine**

situation when large number of people do not have enough food to eat

**barbaric**

very cruel

**decay**

rotting, what happens to a body after death

**ally**

friend, in a war

**fleet**

group of ships

**on the brink of**

about to