



Sailor

Dr Gulliver! I see a ship coming toward us.

Gulliver

Let me look... Pirates! Quick - fill the sails... full speed ahead!

Gulliver narrator

Yes, pirates. They caught us. Luckily, they spared my life but set me **adrift** in a small canoe with paddles and enough food for only three days.

I'm Gulliver - and this is my third voyage - to the mysterious land of Laputa.

Once again a voyage I'd begun full of hope ended in **misfortune**. My luck ran out when the pirates arrived, so here I was, **floating** in a canoe.

For three days I saw nothing and no one - just mile upon mile of water and sky. Then I came upon a tiny rocky island and survived there by roasting birds' eggs, eating dried seaweed and drinking from pools of water. My situation seemed hopeless. But one morning... a black shadow crossed the sun and the air went cold. I looked up and there... in the sky, to my amazement, was what looked like a huge mountain slowly **moving** towards me...

Gulliver

It's an island, **floating** in the air!

Gulliver narrator

It was about two miles deep, smooth and flat at the bottom. Through my telescope I could **make out** people moving up and down green slopes...

Near me, a long line of rope **dangled** from its edge all the way down to the sea...

Gulliver

They're fishing! ...

Hey! Hello! Over here! Here... Come and rescue me! Hello, hey!

Gulliver narrator

A fisherman leaned over and peered at me. He shouted and more people arrived and pointed at me.

Not long after, a long chain was **winch**ed down with a seat. I climbed in and was gently pulled up. I felt on top of the world.

I was greeted by some of the strangest-looking **mortals** I'd ever seen... they had a dreamy, faraway look as if they were thinking about anything but what was in front of them.

Gulliver narrator

I was **escorted** to the King, though this took a while as my guides kept forgetting where we were going.

Gulliver

Where am I?

Laputian

Where are... oh, you're... sorry? What did you ask?

Gulliver

Where am I?

Laputian

Why, Laputa, of course.

Gulliver narrator

The King, too, was deep in thought, seated in front of a table with all kinds of mathematical and astronomical objects. He looked up, but after acknowledging me, then ignored me. It was an hour before he remembered I was there.

But now, it seemed, it was finally time to join the king for supper.

King

Our food? Does it please you?

Gulliver

It's... um, delicious...

Gulliver narrator

Actually, it was the oddest-looking food I'd ever seen - the meat was cut in the shape of triangles, the bread was shaped like cones and cylinders and the puddings, like flutes.

King

The dish you are eating is my favourite - it's like a beautiful **symphony**. I hope you are enjoying our music... Is your music **harmonious** like ours?

Gulliver

It is... different. So this land is called, Laputa?

King

Oh yes. It is the only part of my kingdom that can fly. We float continuously from one part of the country to the other. We are currently passing over Lagudo, our capital city...

Gulliver narrator

The king told me they were on their way to the Grand Academy of Science and Research in their capital city... He told me the Laputians are great mathematicians and musicians. I had already realised this.

King

Would you like to visit the academy? Come with me.

Gulliver narrator

We went onto the balcony and from there I looked down onto the huge city of Laguda. Badly constructed houses with **crooked** roofs leant to one side. The people were poorly dressed and looked miserable. In the distance I could see a huge building with smoke and strange substances rising from it. This was the famous Academy.

King

I have no more time to entertain you. I have to get back to my... thinking.

[bell]

Laputian

Yes, your Majesty.

King

Send for Lady Monodi.

Lady Monodi will take you to the Academy and be your guide. She is not very intelligent and is quite unfashionable, but she is from Laguda **visiting** and is very welcoming...

Laputian

[announcing] Lady Monodi.

Lady Monodi

How can I help you, Your Majesty?

Gulliver narrator

I have to admit that I wasn't really looking forward to visiting Laguda and its crooked Academy guided by an ignorant, unfashionable woman. But when Lady Monodi entered, I quickly changed my mind. She was **stunning**! Her eyes were bright, intelligent and sparkling, full of curiosity and humour, not vague like those of everyone else on Laputa.

Suddenly I was glad to be leaving this floating island with its dreamy mathematicians. It was time to explore the Academy. I had no idea what I would find.

Vocabulary**adrift**

(of a boat) moving on the water not controlled by anyone

misfortune

bad luck

floating

staying on the surface of water

make out

see, with difficulty

dangled

hung

winched

pulled using a machine with a rope or chain

mortals

an ordinary person (not a god)

escorted

taken somewhere by someone

symphony

music played by many instruments

harmonious

(of music) having a good tune

crooked

not straight

stunning

very beautiful