

# LITERATURE – 1A

Lemuel Gulliver is a surgeon who works on ships. He has been travelling for six years when he decides to take one last job before going home. His last ship is the *Antelope* and they are in the East Indies when a violent storm comes.

## START THINKING ...

### 1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- How do you feel when you visit a new place or country for the first time?
- What can you do to 'fit in'?
- What can people learn from travelling that they can't learn from books or the internet?

## GULLIVER'S TRAVELS (1726) Jonathan Swift

On the fifth of November, which was the beginning of summer in those parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen **spied** a rock within half a cable's length of the ship; but the wind was so strong, that we were driven  
5 directly upon it, and immediately split. Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, made a shift to get clear of the ship and the rock. We rowed, by my computation, about three leagues, till we were able to work no longer, being already spent with  
10 labour, while we were in the ship. We, therefore, trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves; and, in about half an hour, the boat was overset by a sudden flurry from the north. What became of my companions in the boat, as well as those who escaped on the rock, or were left in the  
15 **vessel**, I cannot tell, but conclude they were all lost.

For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and was pushed forward by wind and tide. I often let my legs drop, and could feel no bottom; but, when I was almost gone, and able to **struggle** no longer, I found myself within  
20 my depth; and, by this time, the storm was much abated.

The declivity was so small that I walked near a mile before I got to the shore, which I conjectured was about eight o'clock in the evening. I then advanced forward near

half a mile, but could not discover any sign of houses or  
25 inhabitants; at least, I was in so weak a condition, that I did not observe them. I was extremely tired, and with that, and the heat of the weather, I found myself much **inclined to sleep**. I lay down on the grass, which was very short and soft, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to  
30 have done in my life, and, as I **reckoned**, about nine hours; for, when I awaked, it was just daylight. I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir: for as I **happened to** lie on my back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the ground; and my hair, which was long and  
35 thick, tied down in the same **manner**. I likewise felt several slender ligatures across my body, from my arm-pits to my thighs. I could only look upwards, the sun began to grow hot, and the light offended my eyes.

I heard a confused noise about me; but, in the **posture**  
40 I lay, could see nothing except the sky. In a little time, I felt something alive moving on my left leg, which, advancing gently forward over my breast, came almost up to my chin; when, bending my eyes downward, as much as I could, I **perceived** it to be a human creature, not six inches high,  
45 with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. In the meantime I felt at least forty more of the same kind (as I conjectured) following the first.

I was in the utmost **astonishment**, and roared so loud that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I  
50 was afterwards told, were hurt with the falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill, but distinct voice  
55 – *Hekinah degul!* The others repeated the same words several times, but I then knew not what they meant.

## Glossary

- |   |  |    |  |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | _____ wanting to do something  | 6  | _____ do something or be somewhere by chance |
| 2 | _____ very great surprise  | 7  | _____ notice something about someone         |
| 3 | _____ secretly collect and report information about others' activities | 8  | _____ think or believe                       |
| 4 | _____ a position in which someone stands, sits, etc.                   | 9  | _____ move somewhere with great effort       |
| 5 | _____ a large boat or ship   | 10 | _____ the way in which something is done     |

- 2 **▶▶1A.1** Read the text and listen.
- 3 Match the words in bold to the definitions to form a glossary.
- 4 Read the text again. Answer the questions.
- 1 What caused the accident on the ship?
  - 2 Which two units of distance are mentioned in the text?
  - 3 What happened to the other crew members?
  - 4 How well did Gulliver sleep once on land?
  - 5 How did Gulliver first become aware of the human creatures?
  - 6 What was strange about these human creatures?
- 5 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Answer the questions. Give reasons and examples from the text.
- 1 Is the Antelope in the Northern Hemisphere or the Southern Hemisphere? How do you know?
  - 2 How do we know the water is deep?
  - 3 What might Gulliver have thought was moving on his leg?
  - 4 What do you think the creature who speaks thinks about Gulliver?
- 6 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from the glossary.
- 1 After sailing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic, Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ find the Bahamas by mistake.
  - 2 The Mashco-Piro tribesmen first appealed to their neighbours for help in a cautious \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3 *U.S.S. Constitution* is a \_\_\_\_\_ which was built in 1797 and is now a museum in Boston.
  - 4 When an Amazon tribe saw a plane for the first time, they reacted with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5 Yoga, which is thought to have been developed 5,000 years ago, has many different \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 6 When the English found a monkey on a French ship in the 1800s, it was accused of being a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Underline five words in the text that are new to you. Look them up in a dictionary and then write each of them in a sentence.
- 8 **ROLE PLAY** Work in pairs. When Gulliver returns home, he tells his wife what happened after the creature shouted *Hekinah degul!* Student A is Gulliver, Student B is Gulliver's wife. Read the beginning of the conversation and then continue it with your own ideas.
- GULLIVER The creature turned out to be the chief. He couldn't speak English, but he understood when I mimed that I was hungry. ...

- 9 **LISTENING** **▶▶1A.2** Listen to the next part of the story where Gulliver describes how people live in Lilliput. Tick the two topics that are not mentioned.

- |                          |           |                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | education | <input type="checkbox"/> | funerals  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | work      | <input type="checkbox"/> | transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | childcare |                          |           |

- 10 **LISTENING** **▶▶1A.2** Listen again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Lilliputians write diagonally, from corner to corner.
- 2 The Lilliputians are buried with a lot of possessions.
- 3 They believe that the Earth is upside down.
- 4 Parents don't educate their own children.
- 5 Children are taught manners at school.
- 6 Boys and girls go to the same nursery.

## WRITING A letter

- 11 **WRITING** Imagine you are Gulliver writing from Lilliput. The owner of the Antelope wants to know what happened to you and his ship. Write a letter describing the events. Remember to start and end the letter appropriately.

- Paragraph 1: Describe the scene. Say where you are, what the weather is like, and what caused the accident.
- Paragraph 2: Say what you and the crew did. Describe your swim to the shore and say what happened to the rest of the crew.
- Paragraph 3: Describe Lilliput, the people and what has happened to you since you arrived.

## THINK STYLE

### Satire

Jonathan Swift uses satire as a way to criticise human behaviour, politicians or governments. At the time Swift was writing, it was dangerous to criticise the government, so he created fictional people and places to represent real people and places in England and Europe. When Gulliver describes the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu, the neighboring country, Swift is really expressing an opinion on the war between England and France that was happening at the time.

- 12 Do you know of any satirical novels or films? Choose a satire you know and explain why it is satirical. Present your ideas to the class.