

LITERATURE – 1B

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

- 2 **1B.1** Read the text and listen.
- 3 Match the words in bold to the definitions to form a glossary.
- 4 Read the text again. Circle the correct answer.

- The accident on the ship was caused by hitting a **rock** / another boat.
- A league is a unit of **time** / distance.
- The other men on the boat probably **lost their way** / died.
- Gulliver slept **well** / badly once on land.
- Gulliver **felt something move** / heard a noise first.
- The creature **looked** / didn't look human.

- 5 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Underline the sentence that cannot be true. Explain your reason.

- The *Antelope* was in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Gulliver fell into deep water.
- Gulliver might have thought insects were moving on his leg.
- The creature that spoke to Gulliver seemed impressed by him.

- 6 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from the glossary.

- James and Camilla _____ both be in the library at the same time.
- It's important to teach children to speak to people in a polite _____.
- The *Titanic* is the most famous _____ I know.
- She screamed in _____ when the magician disappeared.
- If you practise yoga, you'll improve your _____.
- He admitted he'd _____ on the government and was sent to prison.

- 7 **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. Describe what happens on Gulliver's first night there.

GULLIVER The creature turned out to be the chief. He couldn't speak English, but he understood when I mimed that I was hungry.

GULLIVER'S WIFE What did he do?

GULLIVER He brought me some meat. Then I mimed that I was thirsty ...

- 8 **LISTENING** **1B.2** Listen to the next part of the story where Gulliver describes how people live in Lilliput. Tick the topic that isn't mentioned.

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

- 9 **LISTENING** **1B.2** Listen again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- Lilliputians write diagonally, from corner to corner.
- The Lilliputians are buried upside down.
- They believe that the Earth is upside down.
- Parents don't educate their own children.
- There aren't any teachers at the school.
- Boys and girls go to the same nursery.

WRITING A letter

- 10 **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.

- 11 Do you know of any satirical novels in English or your own language? Choose a satire you know and explain why it is satirical. Present your ideas to the class.