

## BOOK REVIEW

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Title & Author:

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

Introduction :

I chose Gulliver's Travels because it's one of those classics I've always heard about but never actually read. The idea of strange lands and giant people sounded adventurous, but I also knew it had a deeper meaning. Honestly, I expected it to be a bit dry or old-fashioned, but I was pleasantly surprised. It turned out to be clever, funny, and surprisingly relatable in parts.

Summary :

Gulliver's Travels is a satirical travel tale that follows Lemuel Gulliver, an Englishman who voyages to several fantastical

lands. His first stop is Lilliput, where the people are tiny, and political arguments are even tinier—literally and metaphorically. Later, he finds himself in Brobdingnag, where he's the small one among giants. Gulliver also visits other unusual places, including a flying island (Laputa) and the land of intelligent horses called Houyhnhnms.

Each journey isn't just a wild adventure—it reflects human nature, politics, and society. Through Gulliver's changing experiences and perceptions, Swift questions what it means to be "civilised." Gulliver himself is both an observer and a participant, which makes his transformation across the story especially meaningful. The book blends fantasy with sharp social critique, wrapped in humor and absurdity.

### Analysis & Opinion :

What stood out most to me was how cleverly Swift used absurd settings to hold a mirror to real-life society. The petty arguments between the Lilliputians about which end of an egg to crack first seem silly—until you realise it's a jab at religious and political conflicts. I thought that was brilliant.

Gulliver's time in Brobdingnag was also fascinating. The giant king says, "I cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin," after

Gulliver describes European warfare. It's harsh, but it really makes you think. At another point, Gulliver mentioned that he believed European ways were superior, only to slowly start questioning everything he thought he knew.

The book is not perfect, though. Some parts, especially in the later voyages, felt a bit repetitive or too philosophical. And Gulliver's growing bitterness toward humanity by the end was kind of sad to watch. Still, it's this slow shift in his character that makes him feel real.

Gulliver, as a character, isn't heroic or bold—he's ordinary, even naive at times—but that's what makes his journey so relatable. He's us, just trying to make sense of a world that keeps surprising and disappointing him.

personal Connection :

Reading Gulliver's Travels really made me think about how easy it is to accept your own culture as "normal" without questioning it. Like Gulliver, I've sometimes jumped to conclusions or judged things too quickly when I was out of my comfort zone. His story reminded me that stepping into someone else's shoes—or land, in his case—can be eye-opening.

Two things really stuck with me: first, how we often take our values for granted, and second, how deeply our surroundings shape our views. The book encouraged me not to take things at face value and to keep an open mind. It hit home when Gulliver started losing faith in people. I've been in situations where I trusted too easily and then had to face the music. But I've learned it's better to see the world as it is, flaws and all.

Gulliver also taught me to hold on to my values and not just go along with the crowd, even when it's tempting. In the end, I guess he learned the hard way that not everything that glitters is gold. That's a lesson worth remembering.

Conclusion :

I'd definitely recommend Gulliver's Travels, especially to readers who enjoy stories that are both entertaining and thought-provoking. It's not just a fantasy tale—it's a clever, biting commentary on human nature and society. Anyone who enjoys satire, travel tales with a twist, or wants to see old classics in a new light will enjoy this book.

Thank you

