

# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

1 On the 5th of November, which was the beginning of summer in those parts,  
2 the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock within half a cable's  
3 length of the ship; but the wind was so strong, that we were driven directly  
4 upon it, and immediately split. Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having  
5 let down the boat into the sea, made a shift to get clear of the ship and the  
6 rock. We rowed, by my computation, about three leagues, till we were able to  
7 work no longer, being already spent with labour while we were in the ship. We  
8 therefore trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves, and in about half an  
9 hour the boat was upset by a sudden flurry from the north.

10 What became of my companions in the boat, as well as of those who escaped  
11 on the rock, or were left in the vessel, I cannot tell; but conclude they were  
12 all lost. For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and was pushed  
13 forward by wind and tide. I often let my legs drop, and could feel no bottom;  
14 but when I was almost gone, and able to struggle no longer, I found myself  
15 within my depth; and by this time the storm was much abated.

16 I then advanced forward near half a mile, but could not discover any sign  
17 of houses or inhabitants; at least I was in so weak a condition, that I did  
18 not observe them. I was extremely tired, and with that, and the heat of the  
19 weather, and about half a pint of brandy that I drank as I left the ship, I found  
20 myself much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very short  
21 and soft, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my  
22 life, and, as I reckoned, about nine hours; for when I awaked, it was just day-  
23 light.

24 I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir: for, as I happened to lie on my  
25 back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the  
26 ground; and my hair, which was long and thick, tied down in the same manner.  
27 I likewise felt several slender ligatures across my body, from my arm-pits to  
28 my thighs. I could only look upwards; the sun began to grow hot, and the light  
29 offended my eyes. I heard a confused noise about me; but in the posture I lay,  
30 could see nothing except the sky. In a little time I felt something alive moving  
31 on my left leg, which advancing gently forward over my breast, came almost  
32 up to my chin; when, bending my eyes downwards as much as I could, I  
33 perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow

34 in his hands, and a quiver at his back.

35 In the mean time, I felt at least forty more of the same kind following the first.  
36 I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud, that they all ran back  
37 in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterwards told, were hurt with the  
38 falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon  
39 returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my  
40 face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill  
41 but distinct voice, *Hekinah degul*: the others repeated the same words several  
42 times, but then I knew not what they meant.



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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- 1** What caused the crew to spot the rock late?
- A** Fog caused low visibility
  - B** The rock was submerged by water
  - C** The wintry weather hid the rock
  - D** The rock was too small
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- 2** How did the narrator and the crew get away from their ship?
- A** They dropped into the sea and swam
  - B** They took rowing boat into the sea
  - C** They managed to redirect their ship just in time
  - D** Some stayed to navigate the ship while the others were in the water
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- 3** What do you think the phrase ‘spent with labour’ (line 7) means?
- A** Spending money instead of labour
  - B** Spending labour instead of money
  - C** Using up all your energy from work
  - D** Being able to continue working
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- 4** What line in the first paragraph means they did nothing but wait and see?
- A** trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves
  - B** The boat was upset by a sudden flurry
  - C** We were able to work no longer
  - D** The wind was so strong, that we were driven directly
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- 5** Which of these statements is true?
- A** Everybody that was on the boat eventually died
  - B** The narrator and one other swam to shore
  - C** The sea was too deep for the narrator to stand
  - D** The wind and tide was stopping the narrator from swimming to shore
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- 6** What word would best replace the word 'abate' (line 15) ?
- A** Strengthened
  - B** Destructive
  - C** Calmer
  - D** Clearer
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- 7** What was the reason for the narrator not spotting any houses?
- A** He did not observe them
  - B** He was too drunk
  - C** He was too weak
  - D** They were hidden
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- 8** What was not mentioned as a reason for being so tired?
- A** Drinking alcohol
  - B** The temperature
  - C** The ground being comfortable
  - D** Being up all night
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**9** What word best replaces the word 'stir' (line 24)

- A** Mix
  - B** Toss
  - C** Move
  - D** Scream
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**10** Which one of these statements is true?

- A** The narrator was lying on their back
  - B** The narrator's arms and legs were tied together
  - C** The narrator felt movement crawling up their back
  - D** The narrator had thick hair
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**11** How tall were the tiny human creatures?

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**12** What season was it during the story?

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**13** How far did the crew row?

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**14** How far did the narrator walk in the water?

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