

Gulliver and the Little People-I

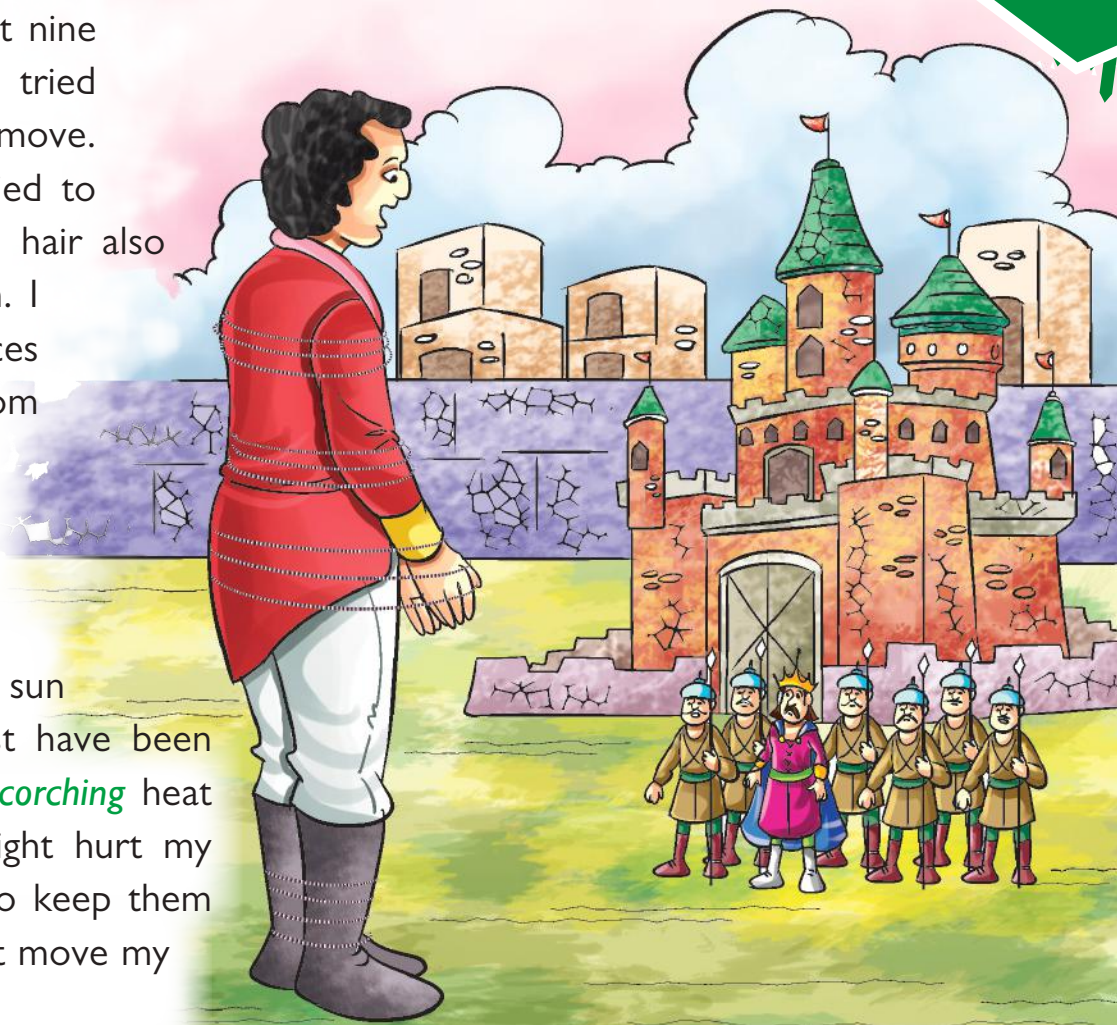
I slept, very well for about nine hours. When I woke up, I tried to stand, but I could not move. My arms and legs were tied to the ground. My long, thin hair also appeared to be tied down. I could feel several thin pieces of string across my body from my neck down to the top of my legs. The only part of my body that I could move was my eyes.

The sky was clear and the sun soon became hot. It must have been noon as I could feel the **scorching** heat on my face. The bright light hurt my eyes. It was very painful to keep them open, and since I could not move my head, I had to close them.

I could hear a lot of noise around me.

Many things were moving about, but I could not see what they were. When I opened my eyes, I was almost blinded by the light of the sun.

Then I felt something move on my left leg. It moved very gently over my body towards my chin. I tried to look down as far as I could. There, in front of me, was a very, very small man. He could not have been more than six inches tall. He was holding a bow with an arrow in it, and he had more arrows in a bag on his back. Then I felt at least forty more little people climb over me.



I was so surprised that I shouted very loudly, and all the little people ran away. Many jumped to the ground. Some of them were hurt badly as they fell from such a height. After recovering from the shock most of the little men came back. One of them came near my face and looked at me closely. He lifted his hands and eyes to show that I pleased him very much. Then he called out in a high and clear voice. The others repeated his words. I did not understand what they were saying. I began to feel more and more *uncomfortable*.

My arms and legs hurt because I could not move them. I tried hard to get free and managed to break some of the strings which had been tied to the stakes. My left arm was free! I pulled hard on the left side of my head. It was very painful but I loosened some more stakes that held down my hair. Now I was able to turn my head about two inches.

The little people had run away again while I was trying to free myself. I tried but I wasn't able to catch even one of them. Suddenly, I heard someone shout an order in a loud voice. At once, about a hundred arrows shot through the air at me. I did not feel the arrows that got stuck in my clothes, but I felt those that pricked my face and my left hand. These felt like sharp needles.

I *screamed* with pain, covered my face with my left hand and tried to break the strings. I wanted to break free



but the little men shot more arrows. Some of them tried to dig their *spears* into me. Luckily, my jacket was made of very strong cloth. Their spears were not sharp enough to go through it, so most of them did not hurt me.

I decided to lie still till night, despite their *attack*. As soon as it was dark, I would be able to *escape*. My left hand was not tied so I thought it would be easy to free myself. Once I was free I was sure that I could beat the little soldiers who were left to watch me.

But my plan was not needed. When the little people saw that I was lying still they stopped shooting.

(Adapted) Jonathan Swift

Word Treasure

scorching : very hot

screamed : to cry

escape : ran away safely

uncomfortable : restless

spears : a long pole with sharpened edges

attack : hit



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. Gulliver slept very well for about :

a. four hours

b. nine hours

c. two hours

2. Gulliver could move only his :

a. head

b. eyes

c. legs

3. Gulliver's jacket saved him from :

a. needles

b. arrows

c. spears

4. Gulliver slept for nine hours because he was :

a. tired

b. drugged

c. made prisoner

5. Gulliver felt the arrows like sharp :

a. knife

b. needles

c. spoon

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct option :

six inches, height, sea, shooting, uncomfortable, blind man

1. Gulliver's ship sank in a _____.
2. When Gulliver woke up, he found he is a _____.
3. The man near Gulliver could not have been more than _____ tall.
4. Some little people hurt badly as they fell from such a _____.
5. Gulliver began to feel more and more _____.
6. When Gulliver was lying, the little man stopped _____.

C. Write 'T' for true or 'F' for false statements :

1. Gulliver heard a lot of noise around him.
2. Gulliver tried to make free himself.
3. Little man shoot some arrows on the Gulliver.
4. Gulliver beat the little soldiers.
5. In the end the little man stopped shooting.



D. Answer the following questions :

1. How did the little people tie Gulliver ?
2. What did Gulliver do to get free ?
3. Most of the spears could not hurt Gulliver? Why ?
4. Why did the little people stop shooting ?
5. Why do you think the little men attacked Gulliver ?

Fun with Words

E. Match the name of the tool with the correct picture :



axe saw hammer tongs screwdriver

Essential Grammar

E. Read these sentences.

1. There are some sweet mangoes in my basket.
2. There aren't any sour mangoes in this shop.
3. Are there any raw mangoes in your bag ?

- 'Some' means 'a little' or 'a few'. 'Some' is usually used in positive statements as in (1).
- 'Any' is usually used in negative or interrogative sentences as in (2) and (3) above.

• Fill in the blanks with some or many :

1. Do you know _____ woman in this hall ?
2. There is _____ milk in the jug but there isn't _____ sugar in the pot.
3. I didn't buy _____ CDs yesterday.
4. There are _____ policemen in the canteen but there aren't _____ officers there.
5. The soldier has _____ cartridges but he hasn't got _____ pistols.

F. Work in pairs and complete the dialogue given below :

Passenger A	(waking up) Excuse me. How far is it to Sealdah Station?
Passenger	We passed Sealdah Station five minutes ago.
Pupil A	Oh dear, _____.
Passenger	Get off this bus. Cross the road _____.
Pupil A	Thank you _____.

Essential Writing

G. Imagine you are Gulliver. Write a diary entry telling your experiences with the little soldiers.

Dear Diary,

Date : _____
