

Gulliver and the Little People-II

There was silence for some time. Then I heard a knocking sound about four yards from my head. It sounded as if the little people were building something. My hair was loose on one side, so I could turn my head a little. I moved it very carefully because I did not want to frighten the soldiers again.

I saw that the little people had built a *platform*. They had used small pieces of wood, each one about the size of a ruler. The top of the platform was about eighteen inches from the ground.

Four people were standing on the platform. I turned my head a little more, so that I could see them easily. One of them began to speak. He was taller than the others and he seemed more important.

I could not understand anything he said, but it looked as if he was speaking to me.





Sometimes he sounded kind, sometimes angry. I tried to talk to him but we could not understand each other.

All this time I was uncomfortable because it was very hot. I lifted my hand to protect my face from the sun. Then I opened my mouth and pointed to it because I was hungry. The man who had been speaking to me understood.

He ordered the men to place *ladders* against my sides. They did this at once.

More than hundred men climbed up the ladders. They carried baskets of meat and bread. The meat in each basket seemed to be of a different animal. I did not even know the names of these animals. The pieces were in different shapes and each one was smaller than the wing of a little bird.

I ate two or three pieces in one mouthful. Their loaves of bread were as small as beans. I ate them three at a time and they fed me as fast as they could.

I indicated to them that I was thirsty. They thought about this for some time. Since they did not have any glasses big enough for me, they rolled a *barrel* close to my head and took off its lid. I could just about reach it with my free hand.

I lifted my head a little, opened my mouth, and drank. I thought the barrel would have water in it, but I was wrong. It held about half a *pint* of wine which had a very pleasant taste. I emptied the whole barrel in one big *swallow*.

The little men hurried to me with another barrel. I emptied that one too, as I was so thirsty. Then I moved my head to ask for another. But there wasn't any left. I had drunk all their wine!

The little people were very pleased because I had eaten their food. They shouted and danced with delight. Then they asked me to move the empty barrels for them. Everyone stood back, out of the way. With my left hand I threw the barrels to them. They all shouted with surprise and joy when they saw me throw the heavy barrels so easily.

Secretly I wanted to throw down the forty or fifty soldiers who were standing on me, but I did not do this as they had been so kind. Also, I remembered the pain I had suffered from their pointed arrows and spears.

I thought these little men were very brave. To them I must have looked dangerous. I was ten times larger than them, but they came close to me and were not afraid.

The king of this strange country sent one of his noblemen to see me. As soon as I had finished my meal, this nobleman came to talk to me. He climbed my foot and moved along my body with twelve men behind him. He was carrying orders from the king in his hand. When he had come close enough to my face he spoke to everyone in a loud voice. He waved his papers and pointed his fingers forwards. I later found out that he was pointing in the direction of the most important city in that country, their capital city, where I was meant to be taken.

He seemed to be asking me a question. I answered quickly but nobody understood my words. I pointed to the strings that held me down. I wanted him to tell the soldiers to untie them. I wanted to be free. But he shook his head. He placed his own hands and feet together to tell me that I was a prisoner. He *pretended* to eat and drink. At first I did not know what he meant. Then I understood. I could have food but I could not have my freedom. This made me angry.

(Adapted) Jonathan Swift

Word Treasure

platform : a place that is higher than the floor

barrel : a big container for liquids

pint : a measure of liquid (0.57 litres)

ladders : an equipment used to climb

pretended : showed falsely

swallow : to make food go down the throat



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. The little people had built a :

a. stone house

b. wooden house

c. platform

2. How many people were standing on the platform ?

a. nine

b. four

c. two

3. Gulliver tried to talk to the man but :

a. they could not understand each other

b. the man was angry

c. the man was dump

4. Were the little people _____ ?

a. angry



b. hospitable



c. cold



B. Fill in the blanks with the correct option :

very hot, hungry, eighteen, meat, bread, hand, sun

1. The top of the platform was about _____ inches from the ground.
2. All that time Gulliver was uncomfortable because it was _____.
3. Gulliver lifted his _____ to protect his face from the _____.
4. Gulliver opened his mouth and pointed to it because he was _____.
5. Little men carried baskets of _____ and _____.

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

1. The little people has built a platform that was twenty four inches from the ground.
2. The little people's loaves of bread were as small as beans.
3. Gulliver indicated to them that he was hungry.
4. Gulliver emptied the barrel in one big swallow.
5. Gulliver was ten times bigger than the little people.



D. Answer the following questions :

1. How high was the platform ?
2. Why did the little people feel Gulliver had a very large appetite ?
3. Why were the little people very pleased ?
4. Why did the little people shout with surprise and joy ?
5. What did the little men refuse to give Gulliver ?
6. Was Gulliver justified in being angry ? Why ?

Fun with words

E. Write the following :

1. a four- lettered word meaning the opposite of far : _____
2. a four- lettered word meaning the opposite of up : _____
3. a four- lettered word meaning the opposite of warm : _____
4. a four- lettered word meaning the opposite of light : _____
5. a five- lettered word meaning the opposite of full : _____

Essential Grammar

F. Read these sentences.

1. The doctor **has gone** home.
2. I **have locked** his clinic.
3. He **hasn't taken** the key with him.

The words in italics are in the present perfect tense.

The present perfect is formed by using have/has + the third form (the past participle form) of the verb.

I	have	seen a ghost written a poem.
You		
They		
We	has	lost a lot of money. bought a beautiful vase. gone to Canada.
Mr and Mrs Verma		
He		
That tall girl		
The teacher		
Ravi		

We use the present perfect tense to describe the effect on our present of an event that took place in the past. In other words, the speaker is not interested in the past when the event took place but is interested in its influence on the present.

G. Complete these sentences using the present perfect form of the verbs given in brackets.

1. I _____ (eat) a dozen strawberries.
2. The plumber _____ (repair) the taps.
3. The cobbler _____ (mend) my shoes.
4. My friends _____ (collect) all the dry leaves.
5. They _____ (put) them in a heap. The gardener will take them away.
6. My friend _____ (buy) a gas balloon.

Essential Speaking

Read the following carefully :

Pupil A : What's a conjurer?

Pupil B : I think he's a kind of detective, but I'm not sure.

Pupil C : I believe he's some kind of doctor, isn't he?

Pupil D : No, I think he's a magician.

Pupil E : Yes, you're right.

H. Work in groups. Make guesses and give opinions using the clues below. Use the above model verbs. Consult the dictionary to check your answers.

- What is saccharine ?
a medicine/a drink/a sweetener
- What is an octopus ?
a reptile/a fish/a sea-animal with eight long arms
- What is a lyric ?
a musical instrument/a play/a poem in which the poet expresses his feelings.

Essential Writing

I. Write a story on a quarrel that took place in a bus journey you went on. The story can be true or imaginary. Your teacher will help you with words you may want to use. You may also use these words and phrases :

angry, passengers, unlawful, sorry, upset, halt the bus, realise
