

Eighth Grade Summer Reading and Journal Assignment

Gulliver's Travels (unabridged, 1996)

By Jonathan Swift

Dover Publications (Thrift Edition)

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Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) is regarded as the one of the English language's leading satirist. His masterpiece *Gulliver's Travels* ironically portrays man relying on himself alone as foolish and pompous.

The story describes four remarkable journeys of a ship's surgeon Lemuel Gulliver. One journey is to the land of Lilliput, where six-inch-high inhabitants bicker over unimportant things. Another journey is to Brobdingnag, a land where giants reduce man to insignificance.

Gulliver's Travels, originally published in London in 1735 as *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, by Lemuel Gulliver*, is a timeless classic of enchanting fantasy, yet a parody of wit of the political life in Swift's 18th century England.

While reading this work, students are to journal in two-column entries each of the four parts of the story. Use a bound composition journal. Place your name on the Front Cover of the journal only. Fold each page vertically (hot dog style). Briefly summarize the story on the left hand side and place your thoughts, questions, opinions, analysis, evaluations etc. on the right hand side. The number of pages for each part of the story is at your discretion—four to five pages would be typical of what I am looking for with each of the parts for a total of about 18 to 20 pages when you are through. (see back to get an idea of how to write in 2-column entry format.)