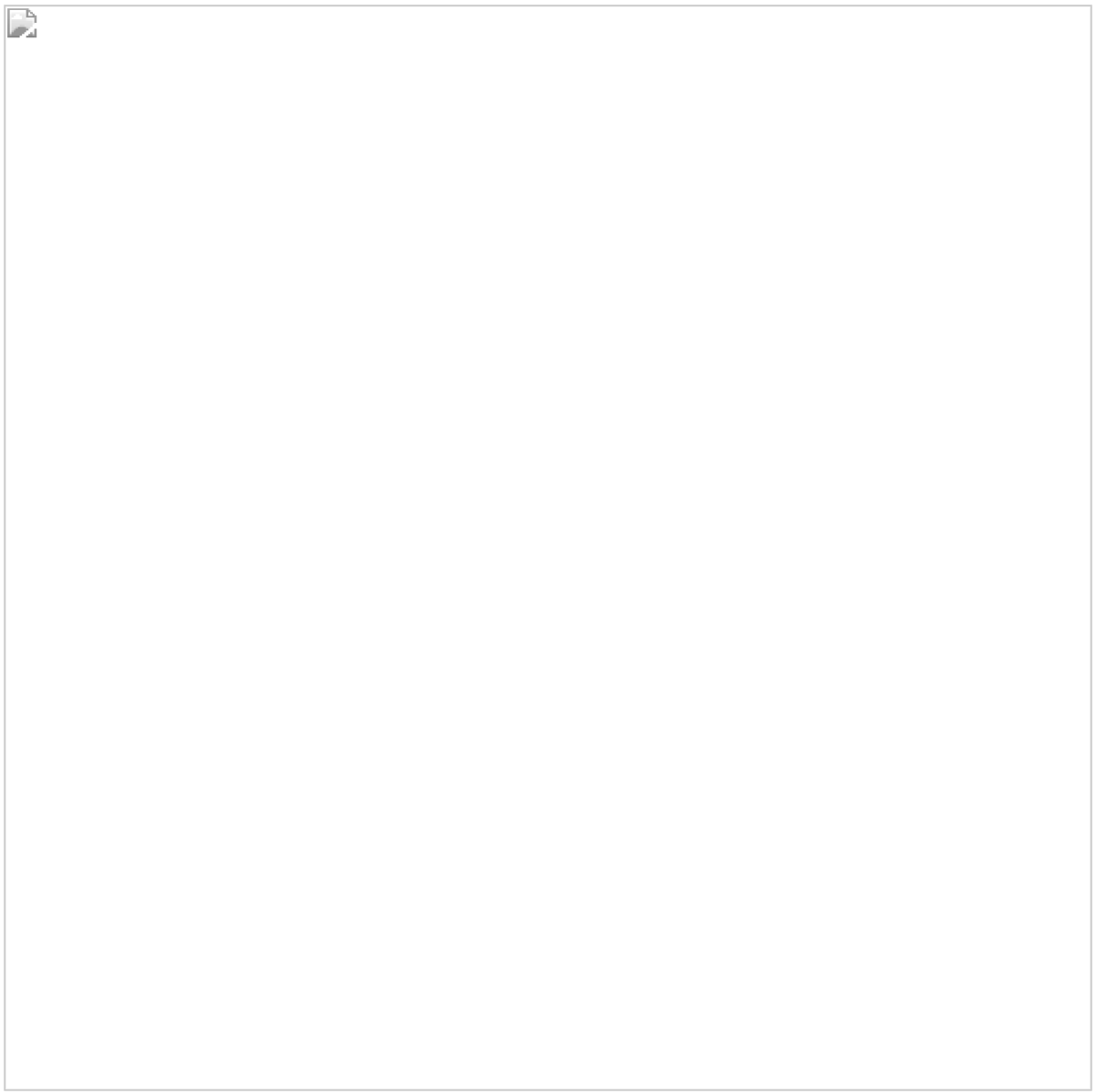
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Gulliver's Travels

Among the Tiny People of Lilliput and the Giants of Brobdingnag



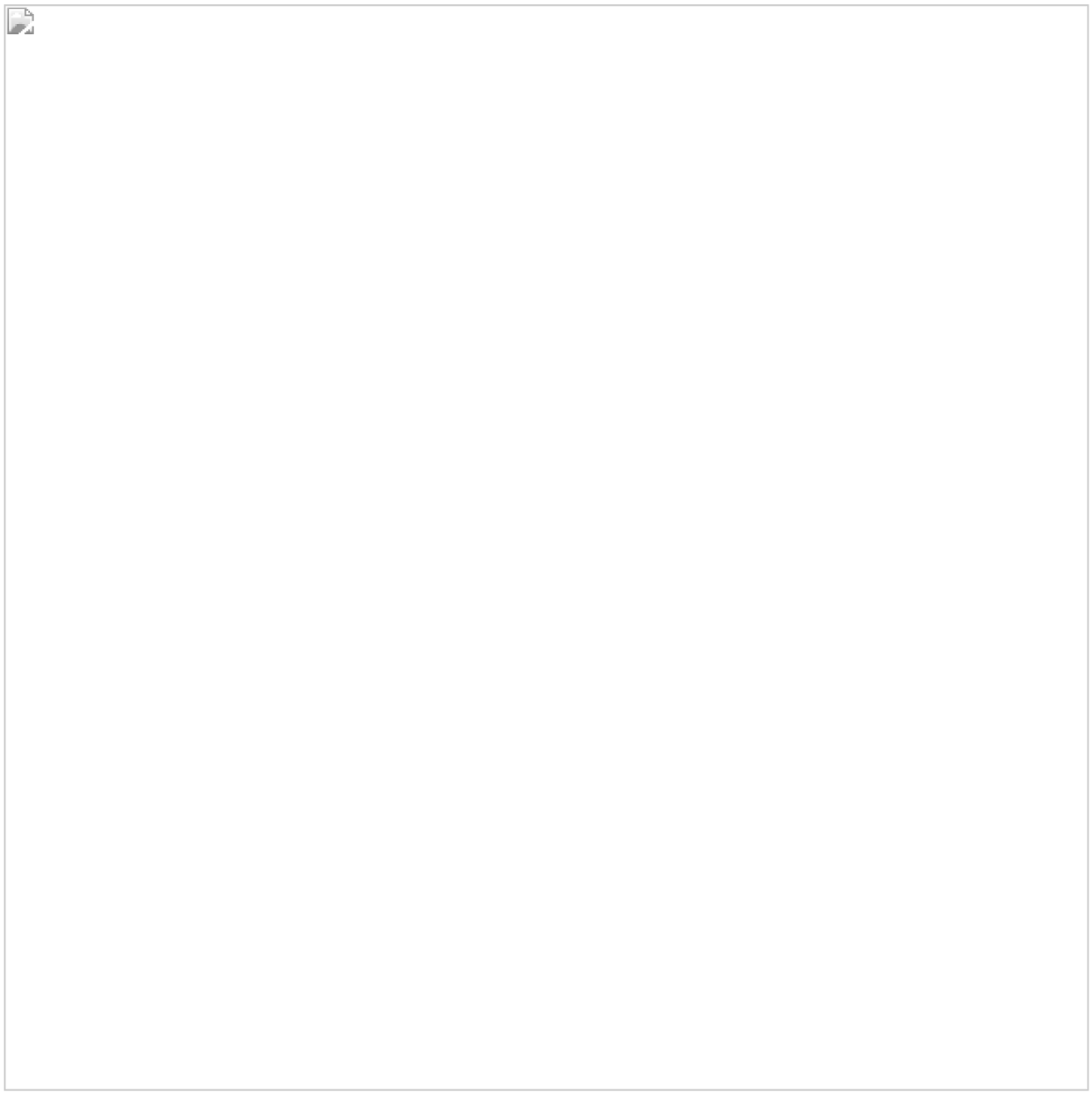
By Jonathan Swift

TALK ABOUT IT

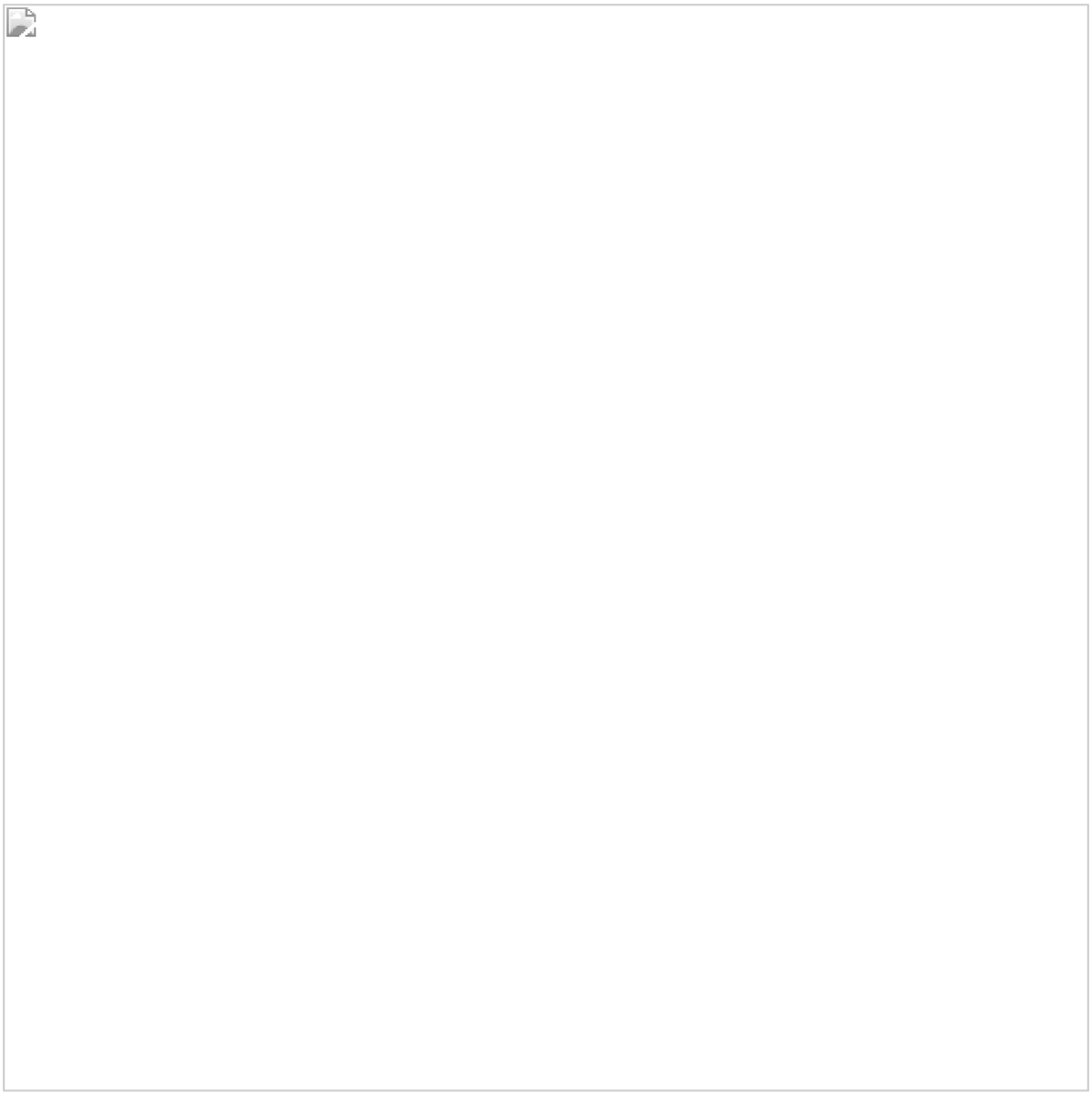
Would you rather be a hundred times smaller than everyone, or a hundred times bigger? Why?

This book belongs to _____

Gulliver's Travels · another picture



A Ship on the Rocks



Lemuel Gulliver was a ship's doctor, called a surgeon. In 1699 he sailed from Bristol in the Antelope. A great storm drove the ship off course, and one hazy day it struck a rock and split.

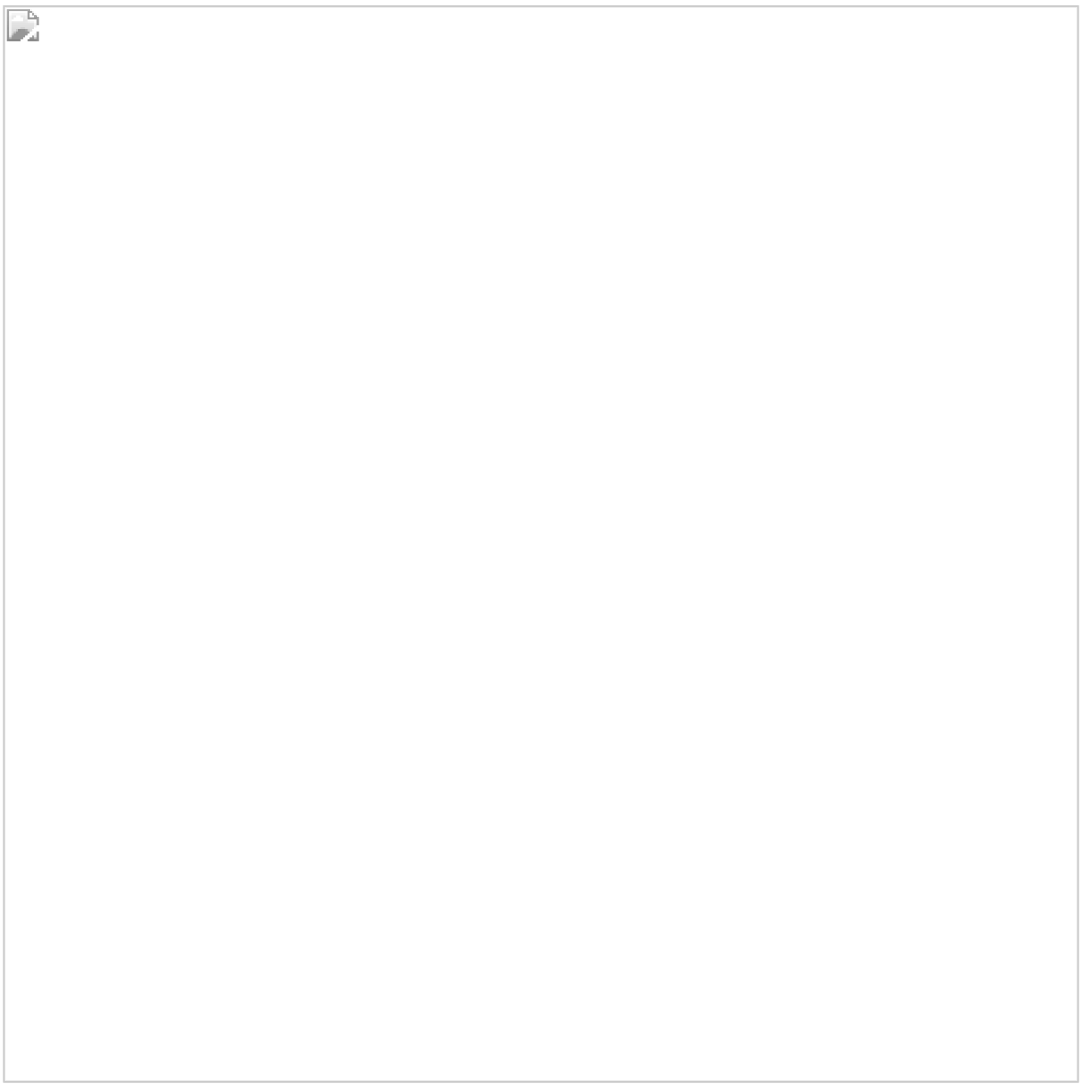
Six sailors, Gulliver among them, rowed away in a small boat until a sudden gust turned it over. Gulliver never learned what became of the others.

He swam until his feet touched bottom, waded to a strange shore, lay down on soft grass, and "slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my life."

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver was so tired he fell asleep the moment he lay down. When is the last time you were that tired?

A Ship on the Rocks · another picture



Think about it

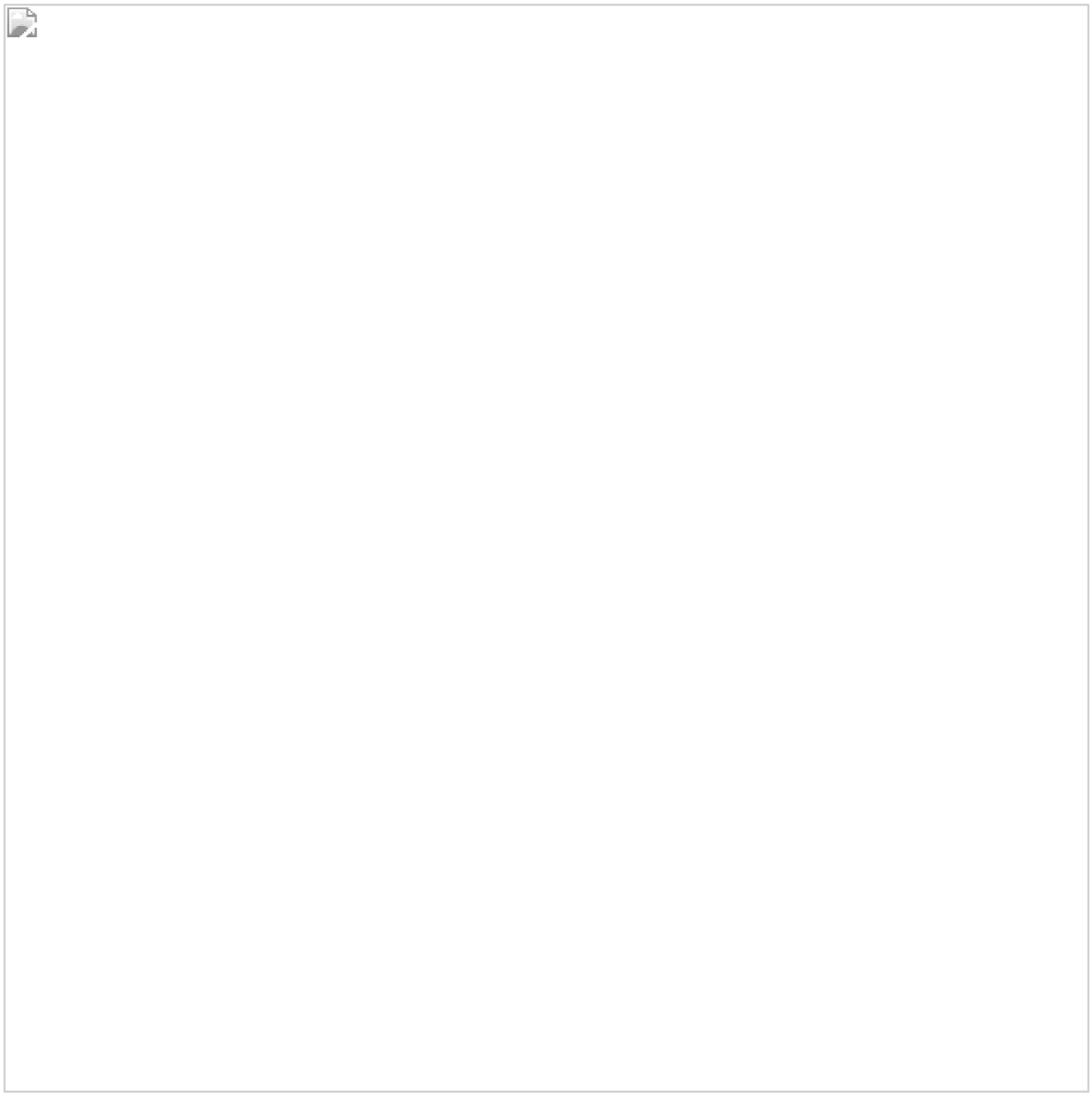
1. What was Gulliver's job?

- ○ A ship's doctor
- ○ A farmer
- ○ A king

2. What happened to the ship?

- ○ It struck a rock and split
- ○ It sailed home safely
- ○ It was lost in a snowstorm

Tied to the Ground



When Gulliver woke, it was just daylight, and he could not move. His arms, his legs and even his long hair were tied to the ground.

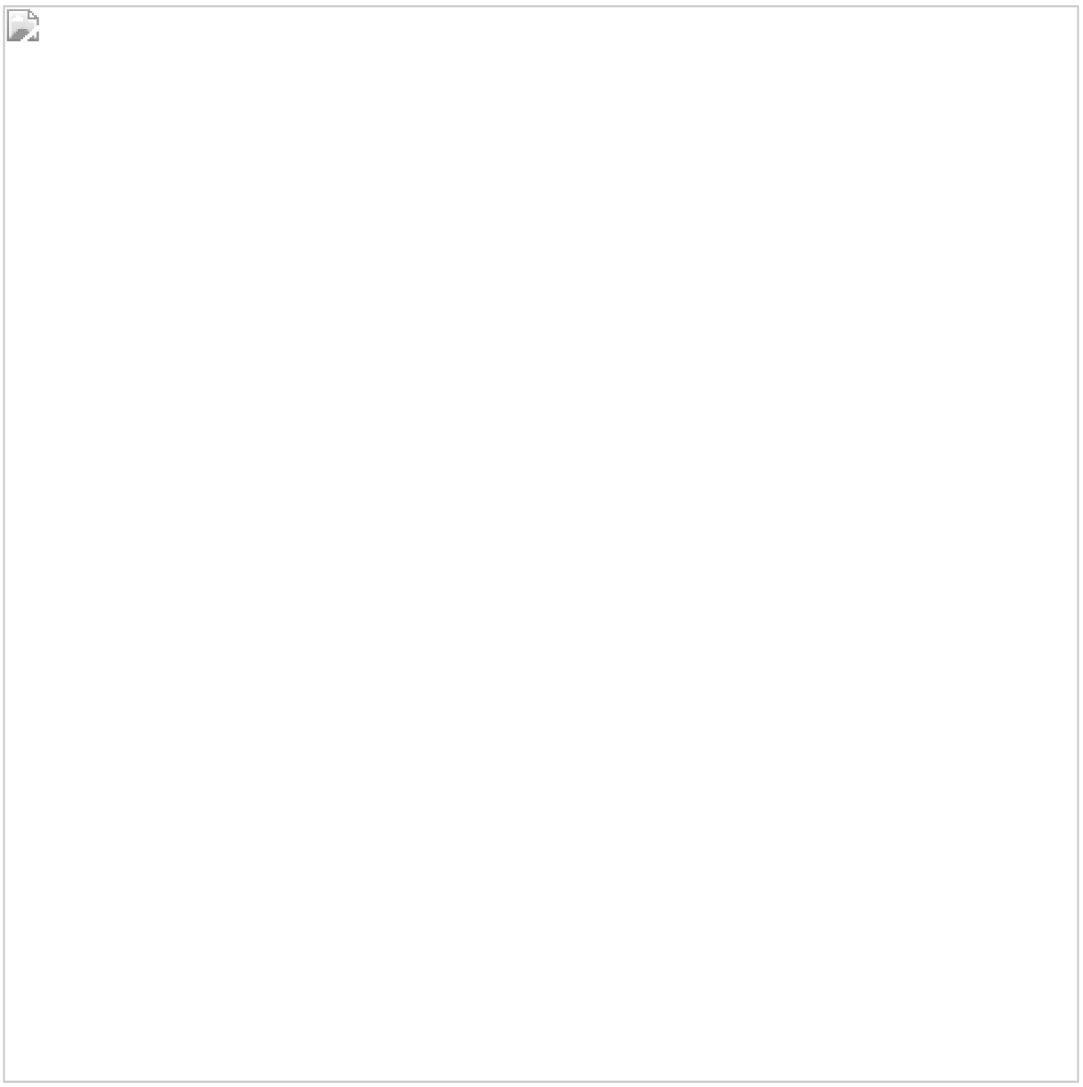
Something alive walked up his leg and onto his chest. He looked down and saw "a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands." Forty more were coming behind!

Gulliver roared, and the little people ran away. When he pulled one hand free, a cloud of tiny arrows pricked him "like so many needles." So he made up his mind to lie quite still.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you do if you woke up and found tiny people all over you?

Tied to the Ground · another picture



Think about it

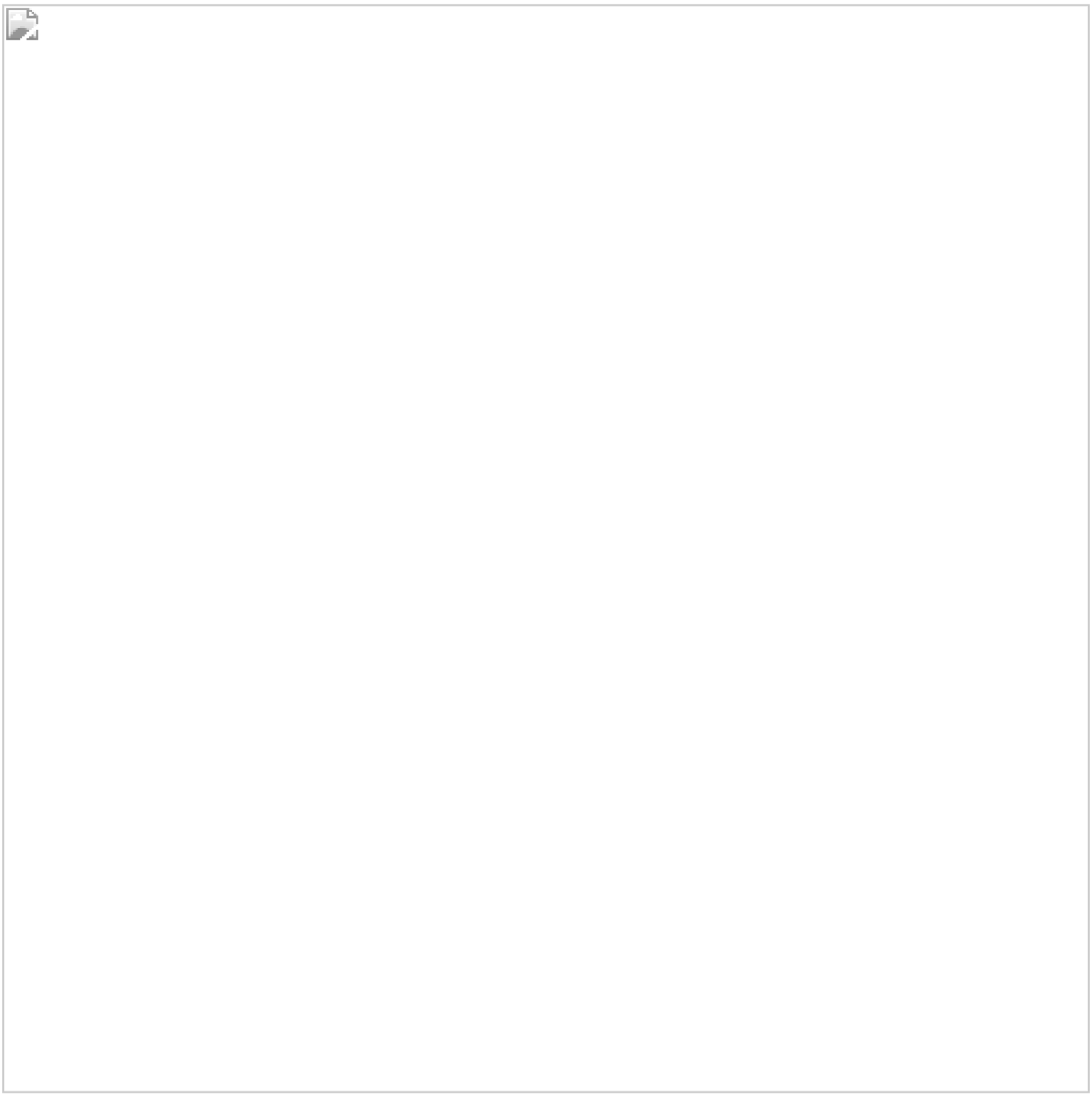
1. How tall was the little person on Gulliver's chest?

- ○ Not six inches high
- ○ As tall as a tree
- ○ As tall as Gulliver

2. Why did Gulliver lie still?

- ○ It seemed the wisest thing to do
- ○ He was asleep again
- ○ He wanted to be tied up

Dinner for a Giant



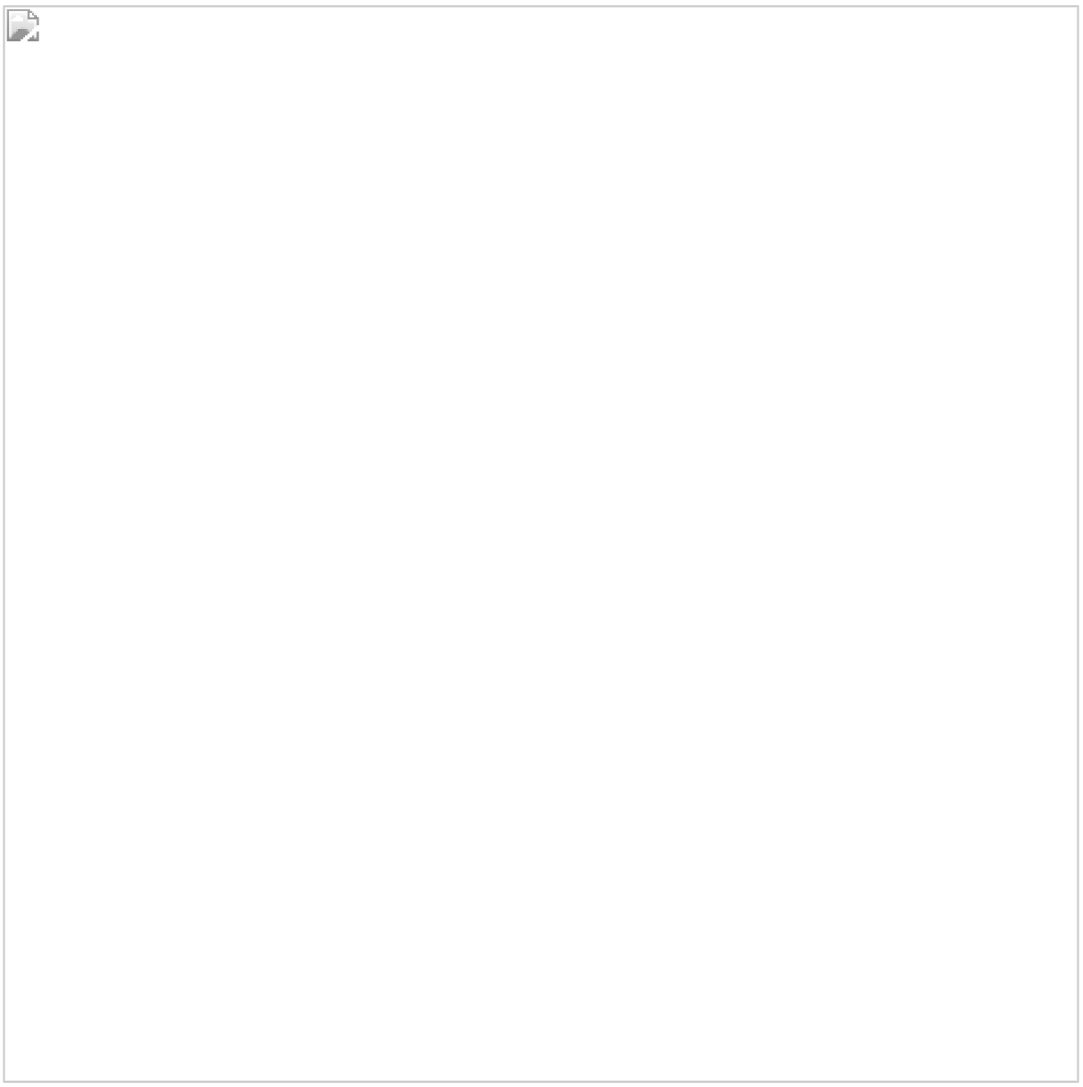
When Gulliver lay quiet, the shooting stopped. He pointed to his mouth to show he was hungry, and a hundred little people climbed ladders onto his chest with baskets of food.

They rolled up tiny barrels of wine, too. Gulliver was tempted to grab the little people, but he felt “bound by the laws of hospitality.”

The wine had a sleepy medicine in it. While he slept, they built a cart with twenty-two wheels, and fifteen hundred tiny horses pulled him toward their city. On the way a soldier tickled his nose with a spear, and he woke with a sneeze.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver was hungry and could have grabbed everything. Why do you think he was gentle instead?



Think about it

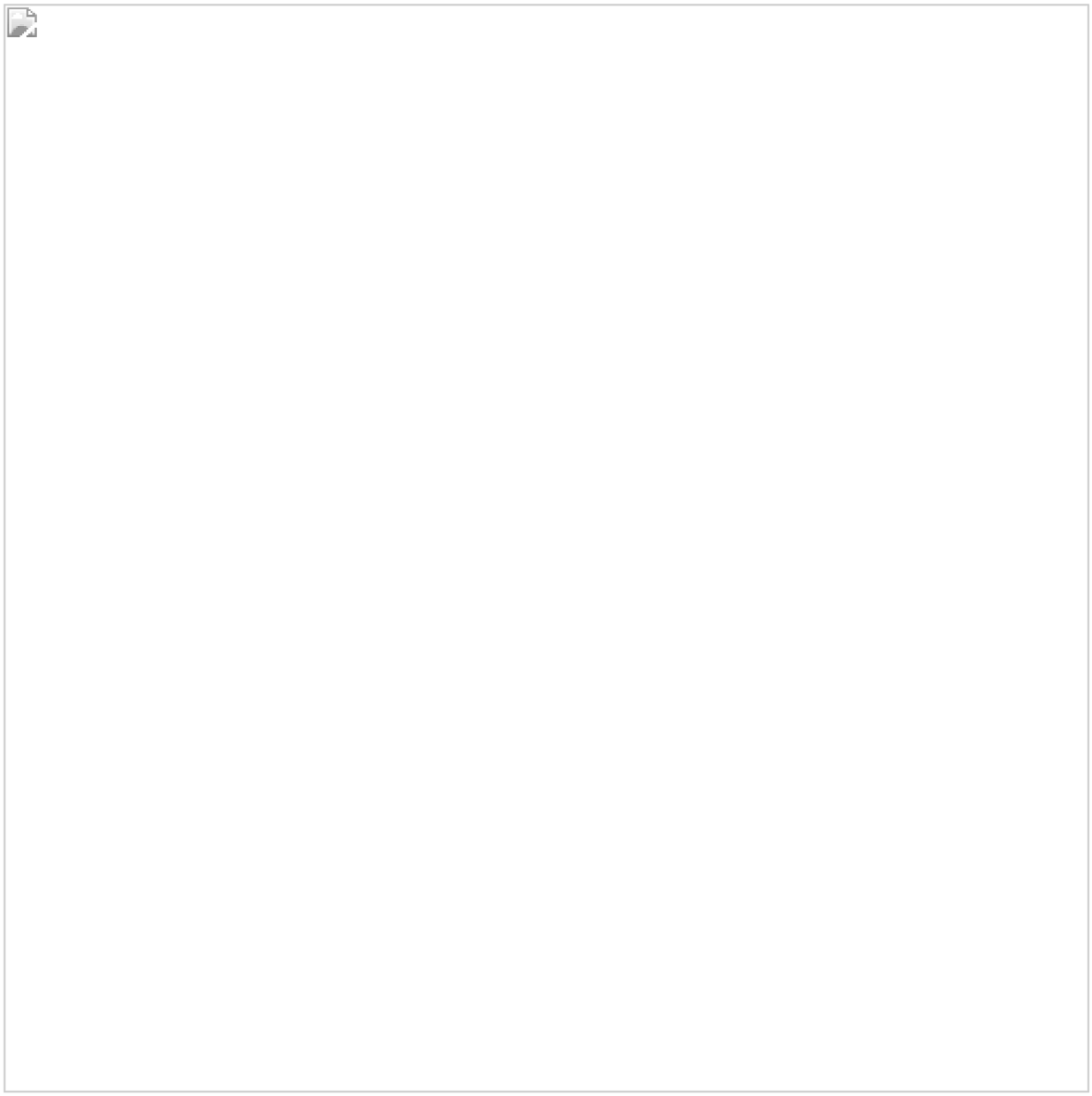
1. How many wheels did the great cart have?

- ○ Twenty-two
- ○ Two
- ○ Four

2. What woke Gulliver on the road?

- ○ A tickle in his nose
- ○ A loud bell
- ○ Cold rain

The Emperor of Lilliput



They put Gulliver in an old temple whose door was only four feet high, so he had to crawl in. They locked his left leg with ninety-one chains. When he stood up, the tiny people were amazed.

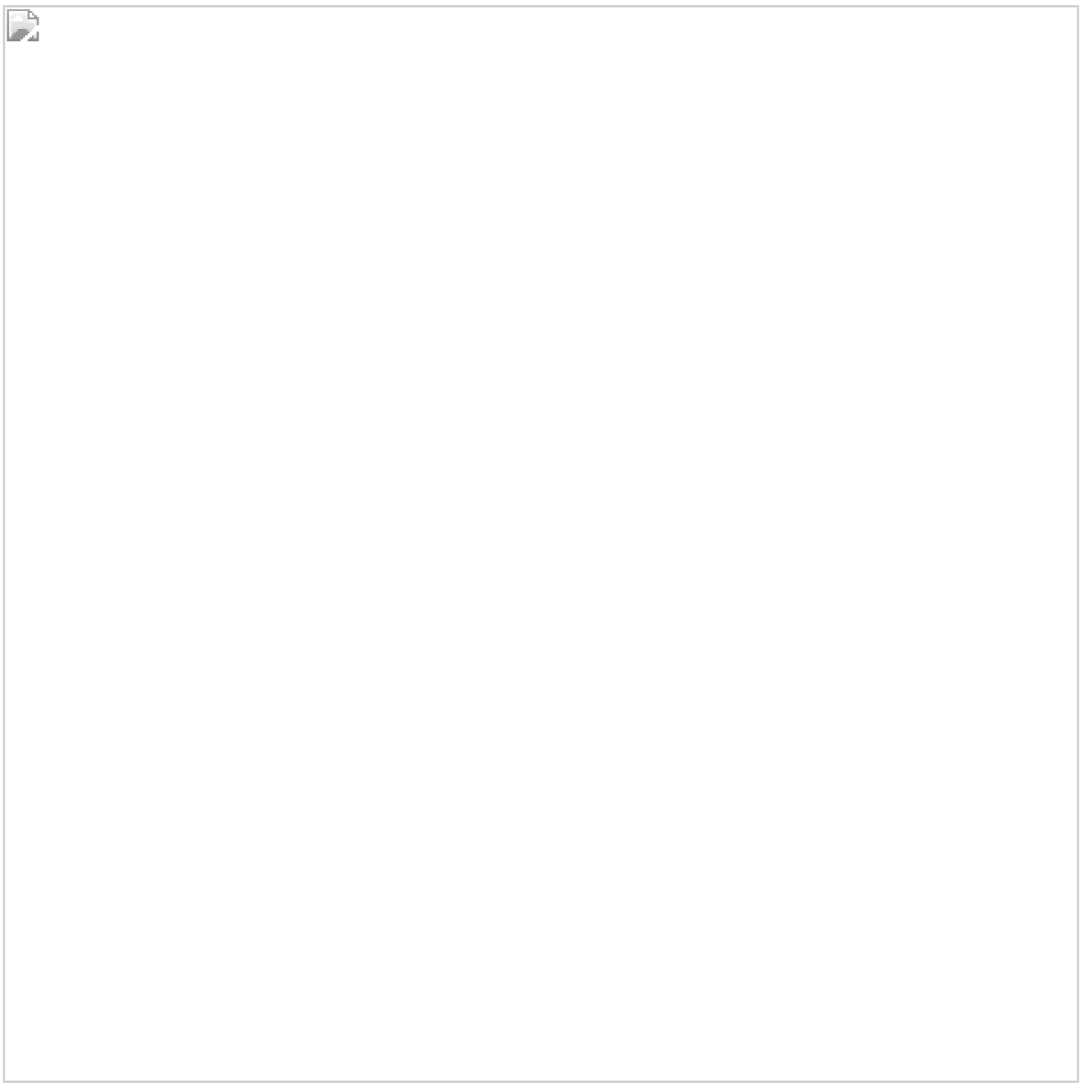
The emperor of Lilliput rode out to see him, wearing a golden helmet. Gulliver lay on his side so their faces could be level, but neither understood a word.

Some rude people shot arrows at Gulliver, and soldiers brought six of them to him, tied up. Gulliver took them in his hand. Then he cut the strings, and "I set him gently on the ground." The crowd was delighted.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver could have punished the six tiny men. Why do you think he let them go?

The Emperor of Lilliput · another picture



Think about it

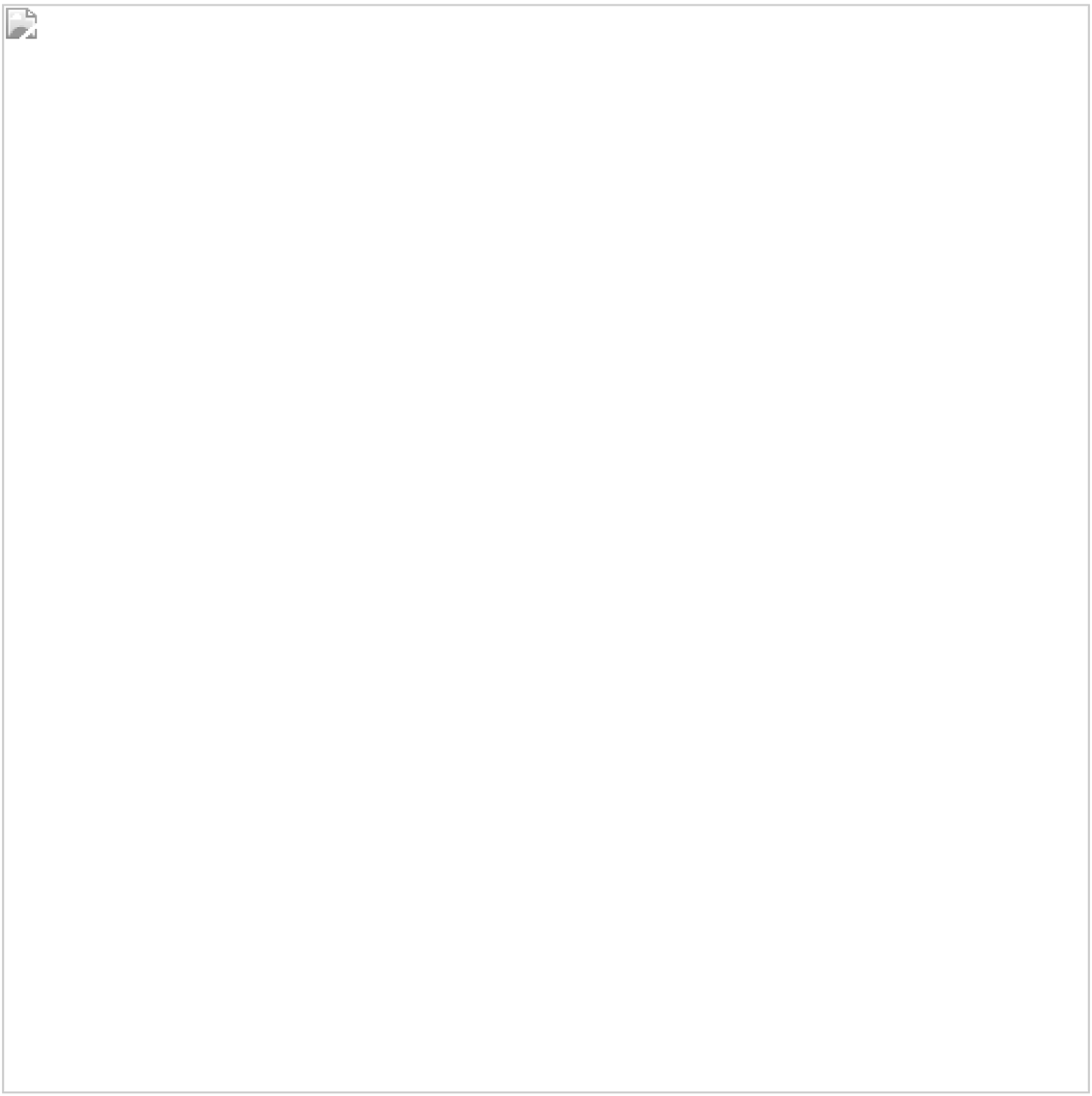
1. Why did Gulliver have to crawl into the temple?

- ○ The door was only four feet high
- ○ He was afraid of the dark
- ○ It was raining

2. What did Gulliver do when soldiers handed him six tied-up men?

- ○ Cut their strings and set them free
- ○ Dropped them in the sea
- ○ Locked them in the temple

What Was in His Pockets



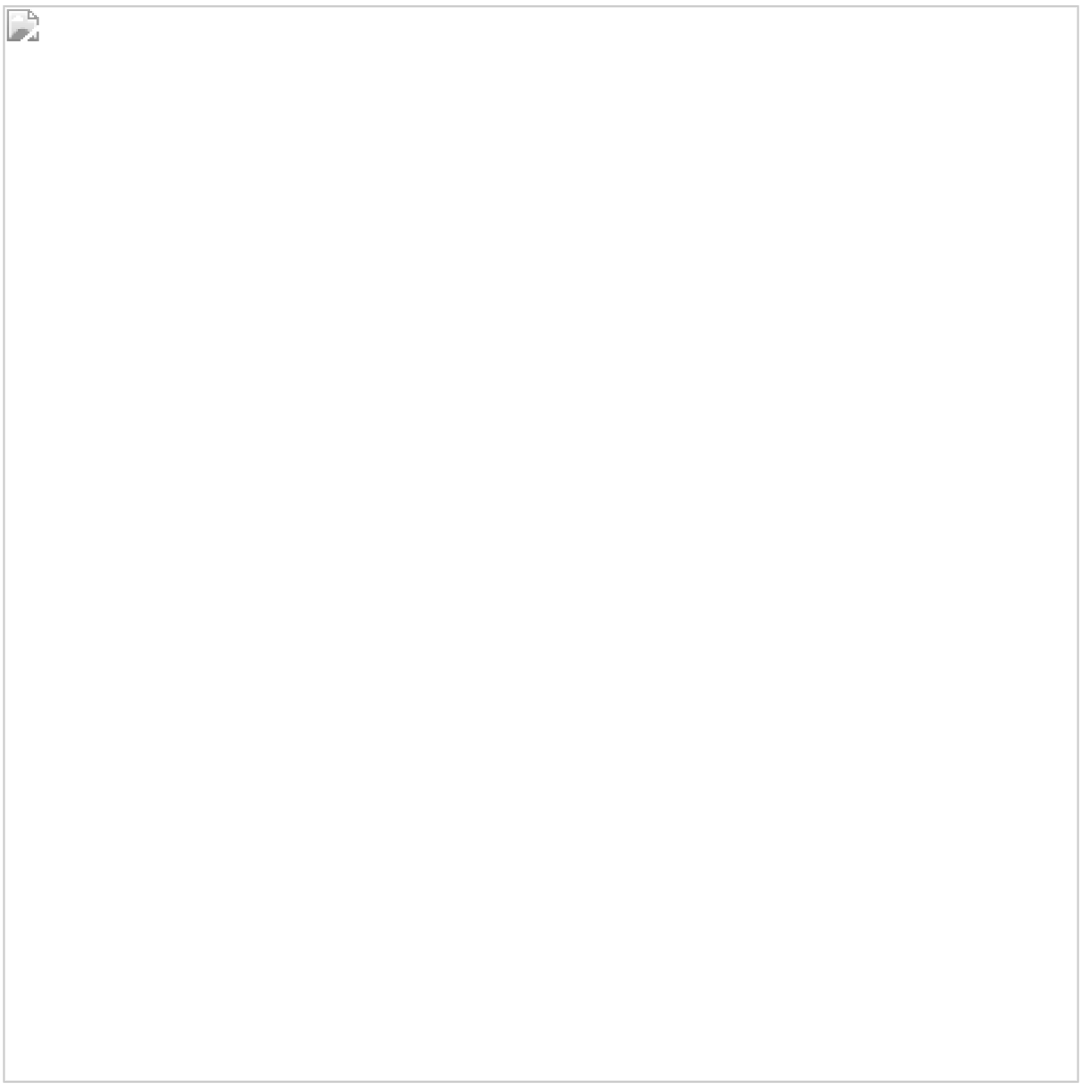
Two little officers climbed into Gulliver's pockets and wrote down everything they found for the emperor. They called him "the great man-mountain." His comb had twenty long poles, with which "we conjecture the man-mountain combs his head."

His watch made a noise "like that of a water-mill." Gulliver said he seldom did anything without looking at it, so they thought it was an animal or a god. "He called it his oracle."

Gulliver gave up his sword and pistols. But he kept one secret pocket that no one searched. In it was "a pair of spectacles" for his weak eyes.

TALK ABOUT IT

If tiny people searched your pockets, what would they find that they had never seen before?



Think about it

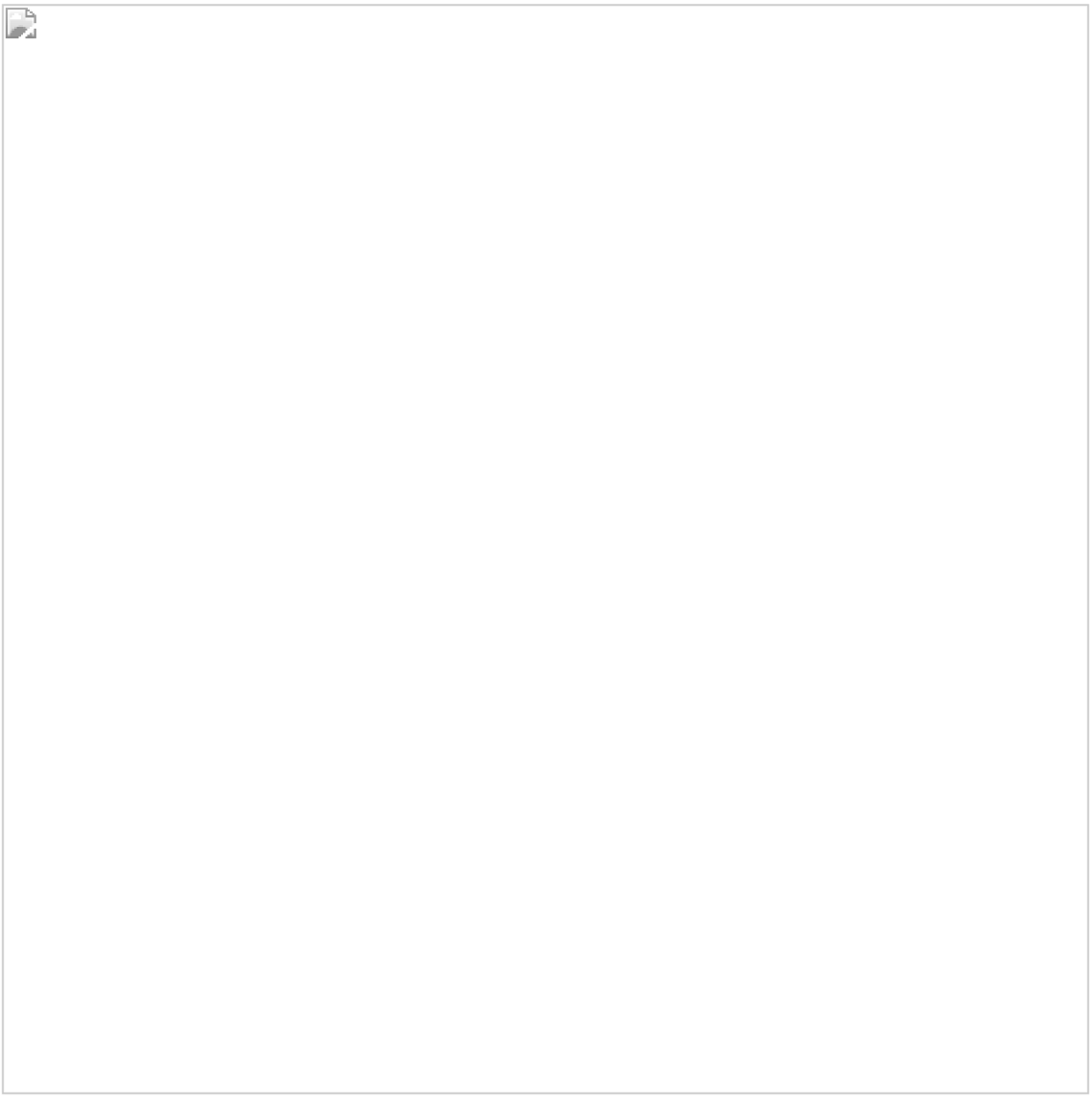
1. What did the tiny officers think Gulliver's watch might be?

- ○ An animal or a god
- ○ A kind of bread
- ○ A little boat

2. What did Gulliver keep in his secret pocket?

- ○ A pair of spectacles
- ○ A pet mouse
- ○ A silver spoon

Big-Endians and Little-Endians



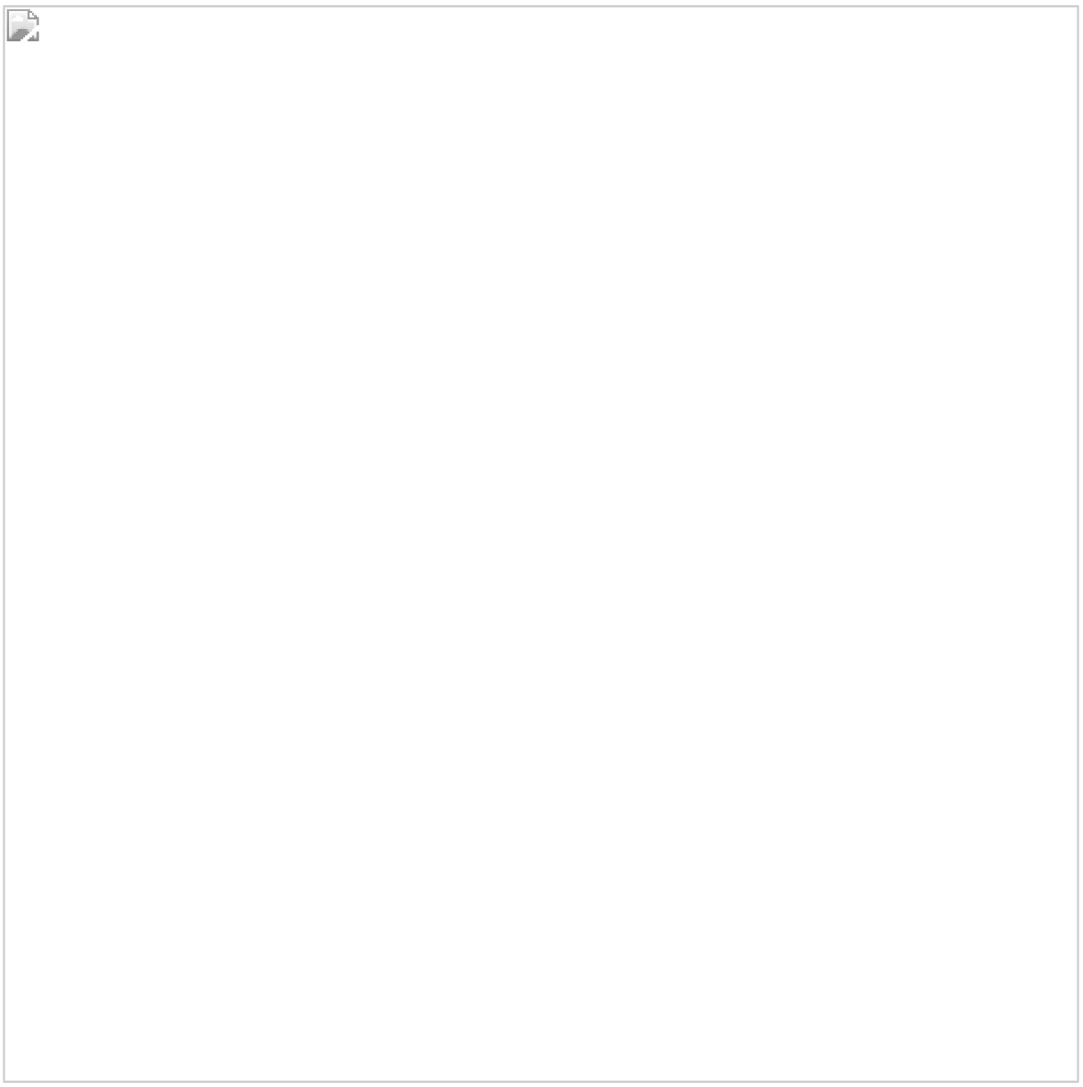
Once free, Gulliver learned from a friendly lord, Reldresal, of a long war between Lilliput and Blefuscu, the empire across the sea. It had begun over eggs.

Long ago, everyone broke eggs at the bigger end. Then the emperor's grandfather cut his finger breaking one that way, and his father ordered everyone to break "the smaller end." Those who refused were called Big-Endians, and many fled to Blefuscu.

Their holy book said "that all true believers break their eggs at the convenient end." Now Blefuscu was readying a fleet, and the emperor asked Gulliver's help.

TALK ABOUT IT

The tiny people fought a war over which end of an egg to break. Have you ever seen people argue over something very small?



Think about it

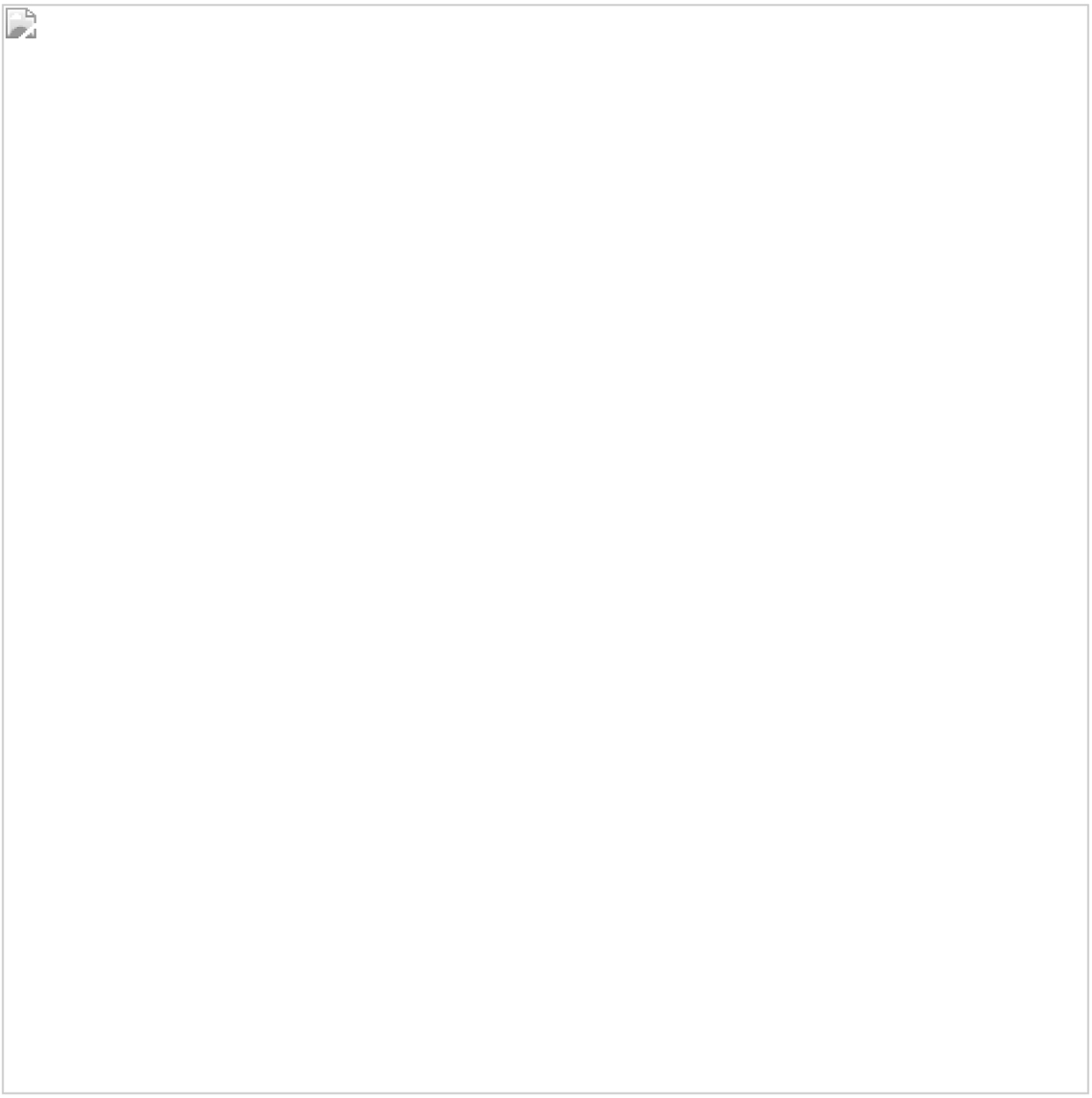
1. How did the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu begin?

- ○ An argument about which end to break an egg
- ○ A fight over a dog
- ○ A race between two ships

2. Who were the Big-Endians?

- ○ People who broke their eggs at the bigger end
- ○ People who lived on a mountain
- ○ A band of musicians

Pulling the Fleet



Gulliver made a plan. He twisted the Lilliputians' strongest cable, thick as packthread, with iron bars like knitting needles, and bent them into fifty hooks.

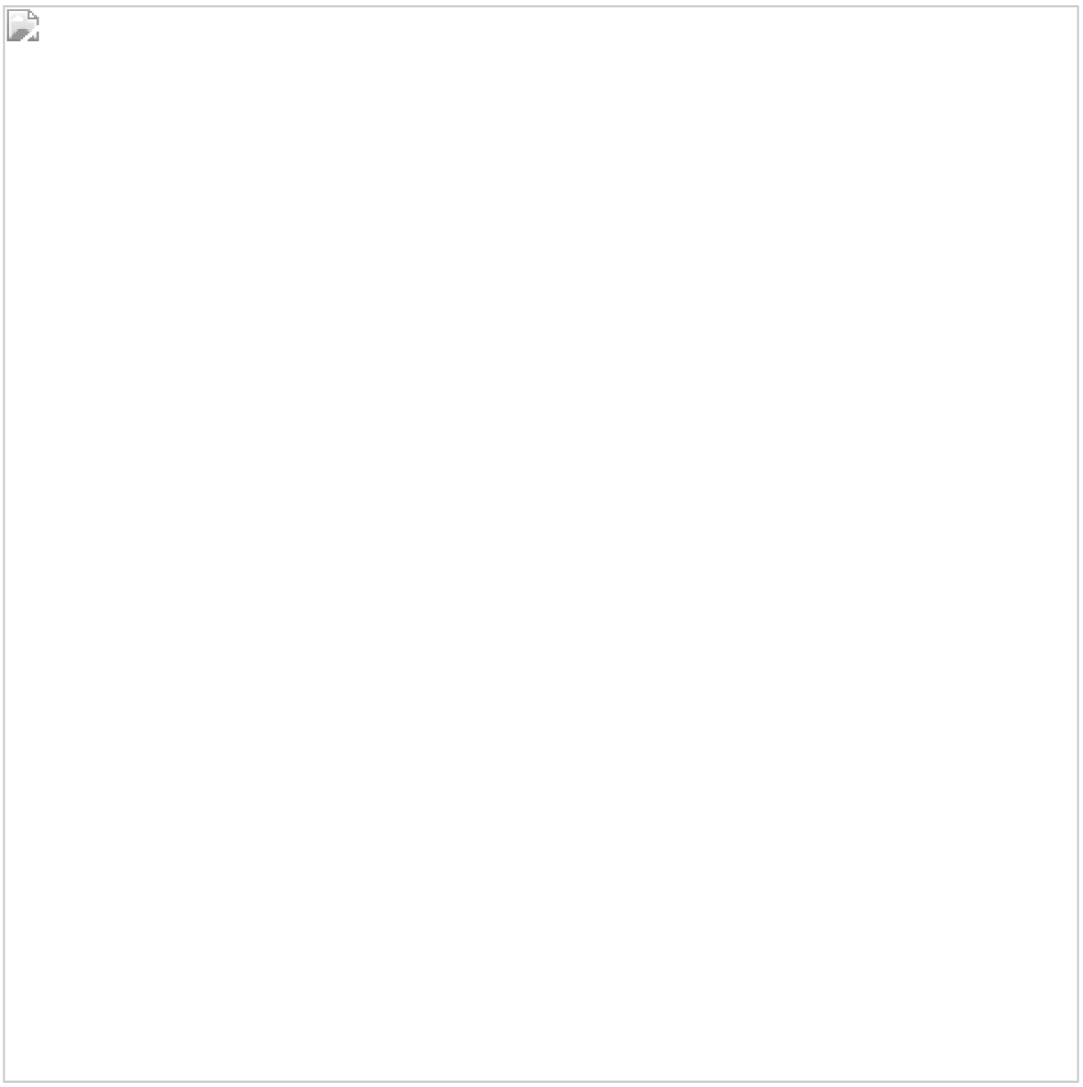
He waded and swam across to Blefuscu. The enemy sailors jumped off their ships in a fright. Gulliver fastened a hook to each ship. Thousands of arrows flew at his face, but he put on his spectacles, and the arrows glanced off the glass.

He cut the anchor cables and walked home with fifty of the biggest ships behind him. Holding up the cable, he cried, "Long live the most puissant king of Lilliput!"

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver was clever to hide those spectacles. What small thing of yours might turn out to be useful someday?

Pulling the Fleet · another picture



Think about it

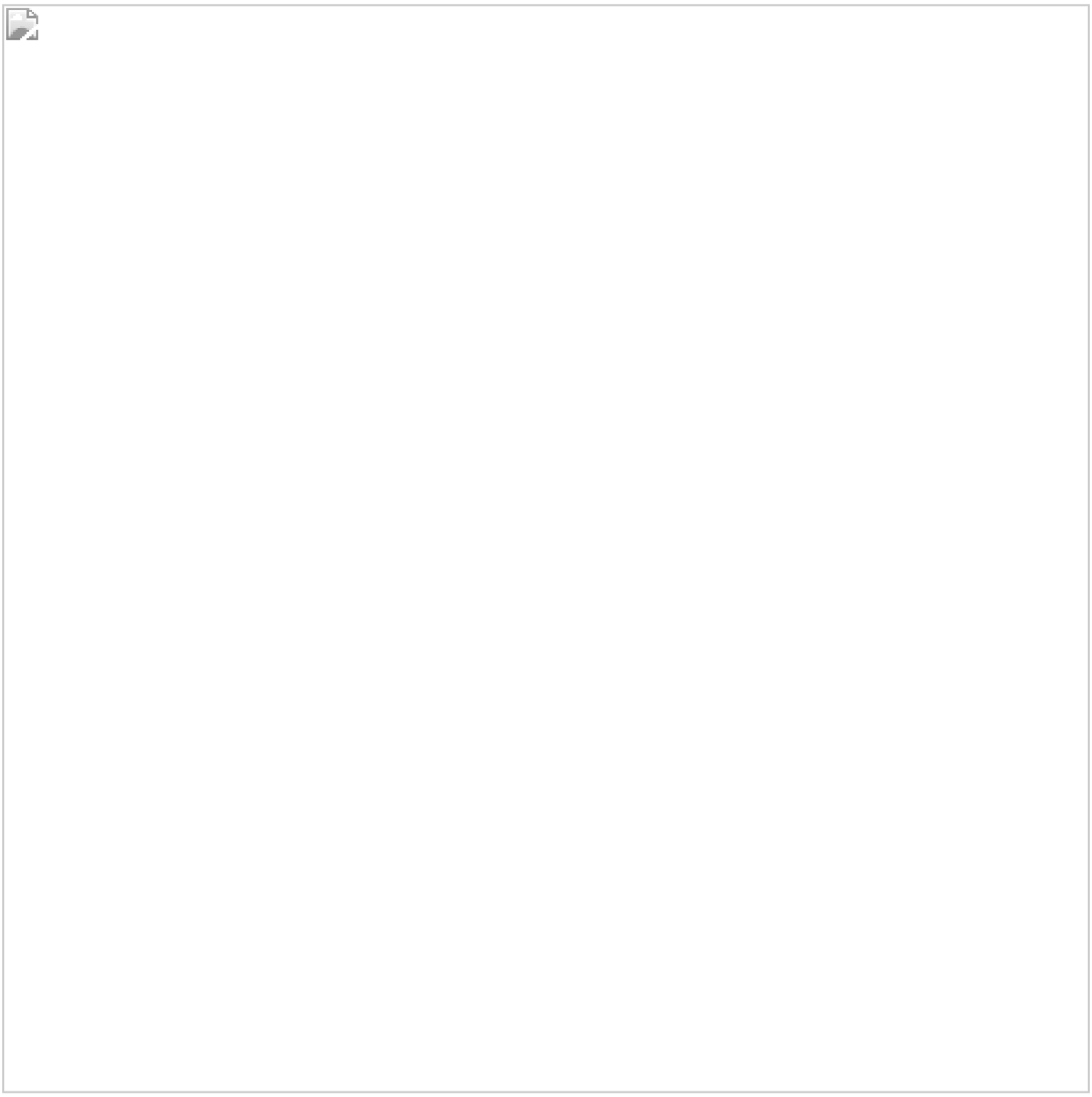
1. How did Gulliver save his eyes from the arrows?

- ○ He wore his spectacles
- ○ He closed them tight
- ○ He hid behind a rock

2. How many enemy ships did Gulliver pull home?

- ○ Fifty
- ○ Two
- ○ A thousand

A Free and Brave People



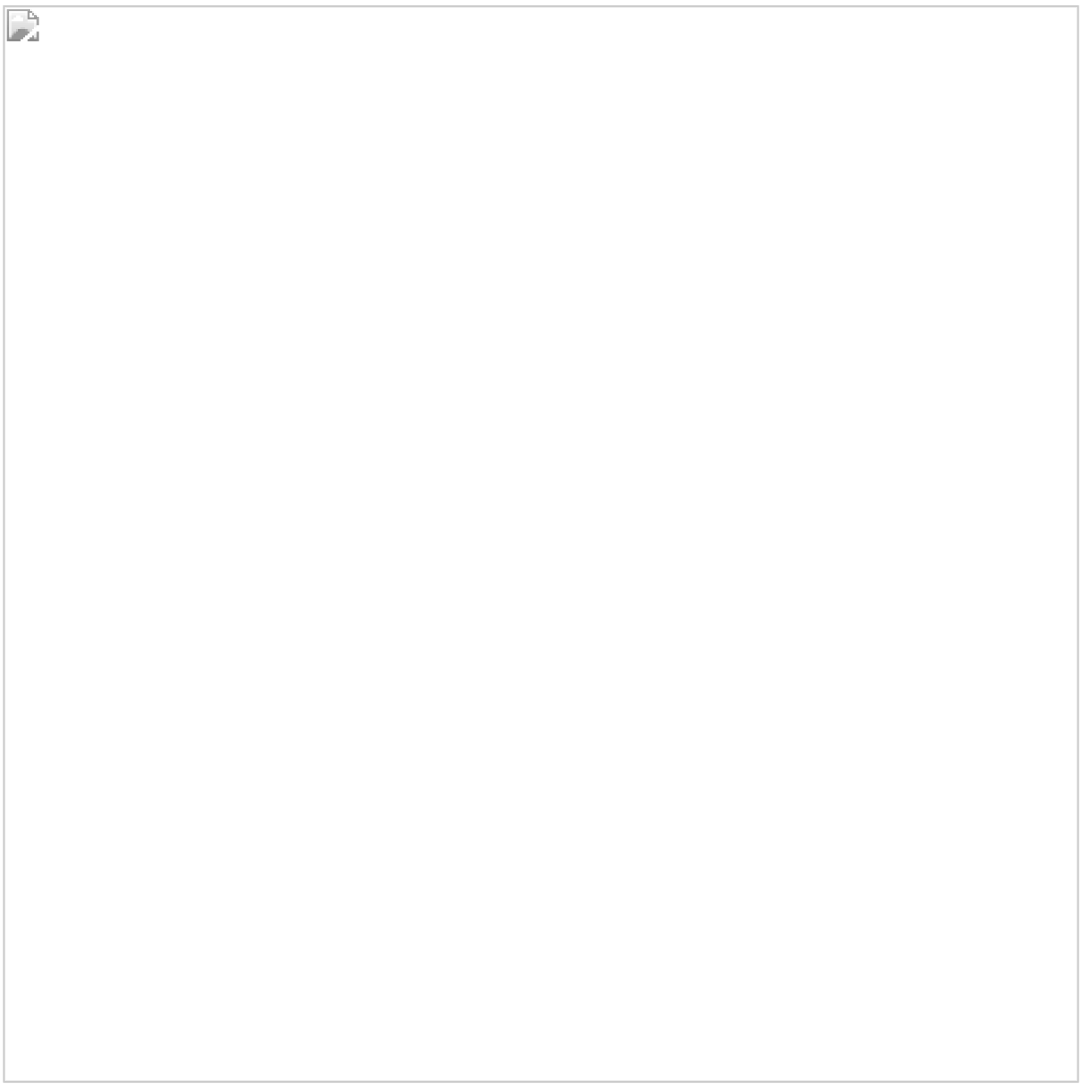
The emperor named Gulliver a nardac, the highest title in Lilliput. But the emperor wanted more. He wished Gulliver to bring every ship from Blefuscu, so that he could rule that whole land and make its people break their eggs the small way.

Gulliver said no. He told the emperor “that I would never be an instrument of bringing a free and brave people into slavery.” The emperor never forgave him.

Soon some ministers began making plans against Gulliver, and a kind friend warned him in secret. Gulliver waded across the channel to Blefuscu, where the emperor welcomed him kindly.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver told the emperor no, even though it cost him a friend. Is it ever hard to say no to someone powerful?



Think about it

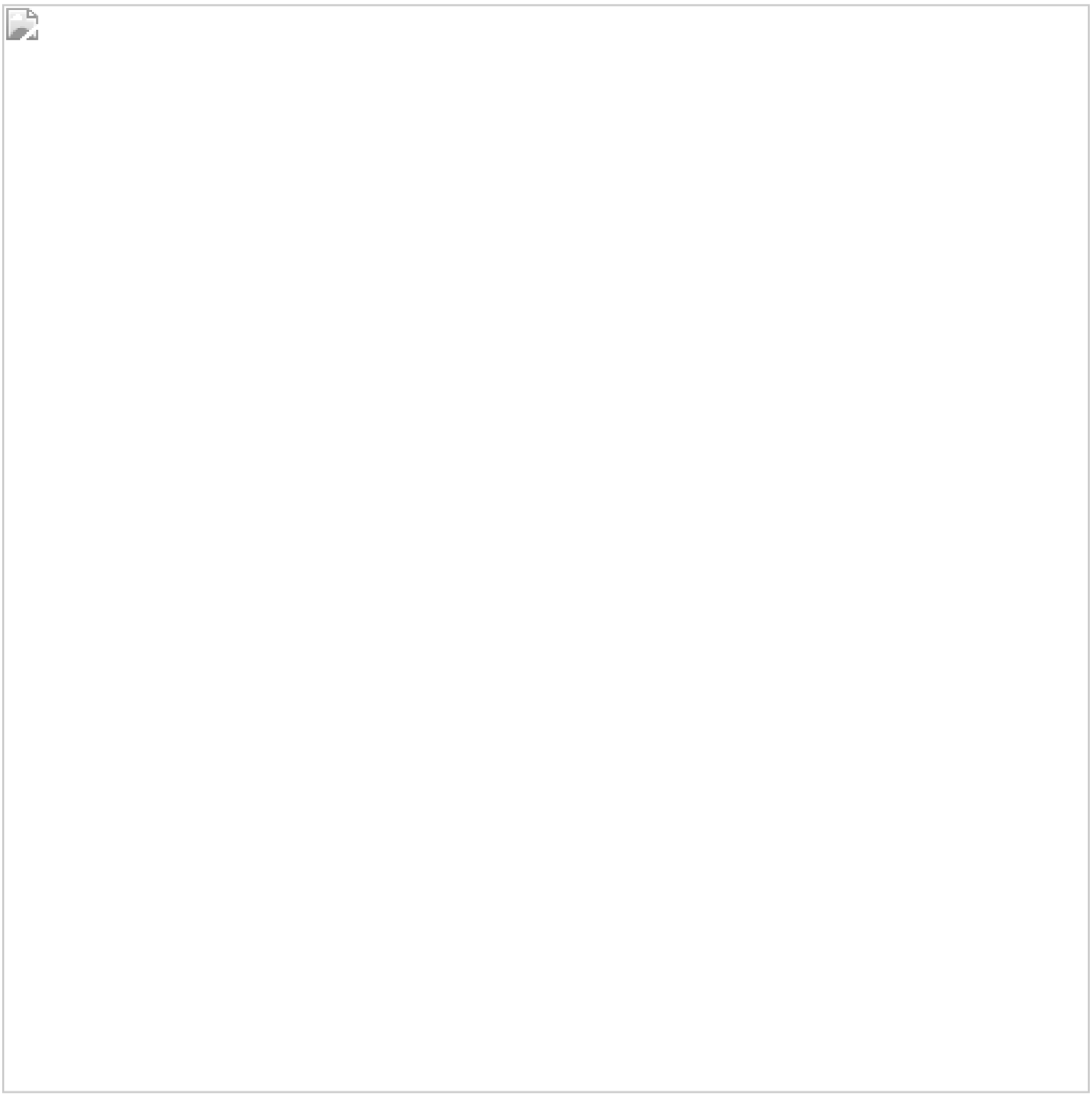
1. What did the emperor want Gulliver to do?

- ○ Help him rule all of Blefuscu
- ○ Build him a new house
- ○ Take him on a trip

2. Where did Gulliver go when he had to leave?

- ○ Blefuscu
- ○ Back to the sea
- ○ To the top of a mountain

A Boat on the Sea



Three days later, Gulliver saw a boat turned upside down, floating in the sea, big enough for him. The emperor of Blefuscu lent him sailors, and together they pulled it in.

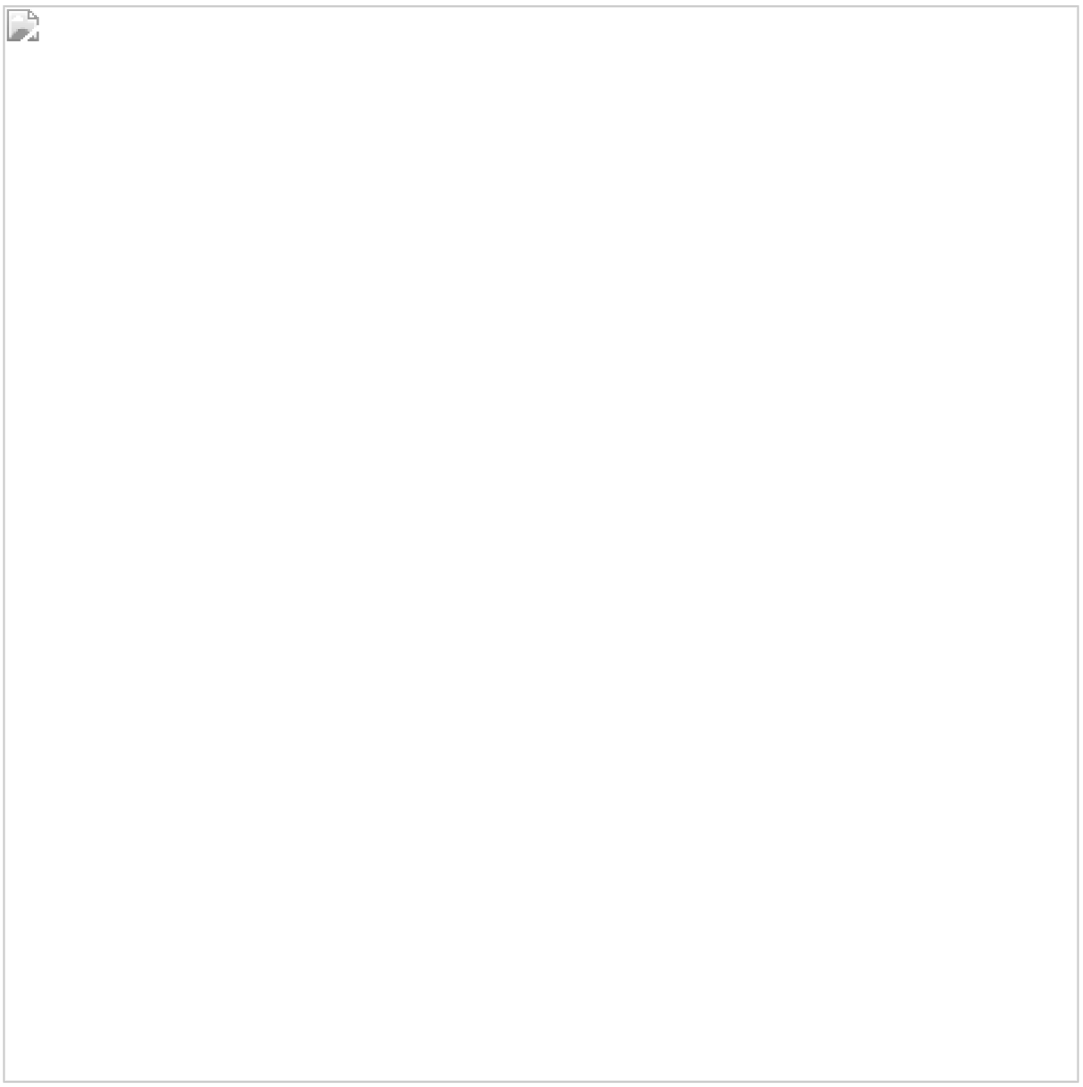
Workmen made sails of thirteen folds of strong linen, and Gulliver made an anchor from a great stone. He loaded food, six cows, two bulls and some sheep, to carry home.

In September 1701 Gulliver sailed away. Two days later he met an English ship. The captain thought he was raving, until "I took my black cattle and sheep out of my pocket," and the captain stared in wonder.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver was so happy to see an English ship. What does it feel like to come home after a long time away?

A Boat on the Sea · another picture



Think about it

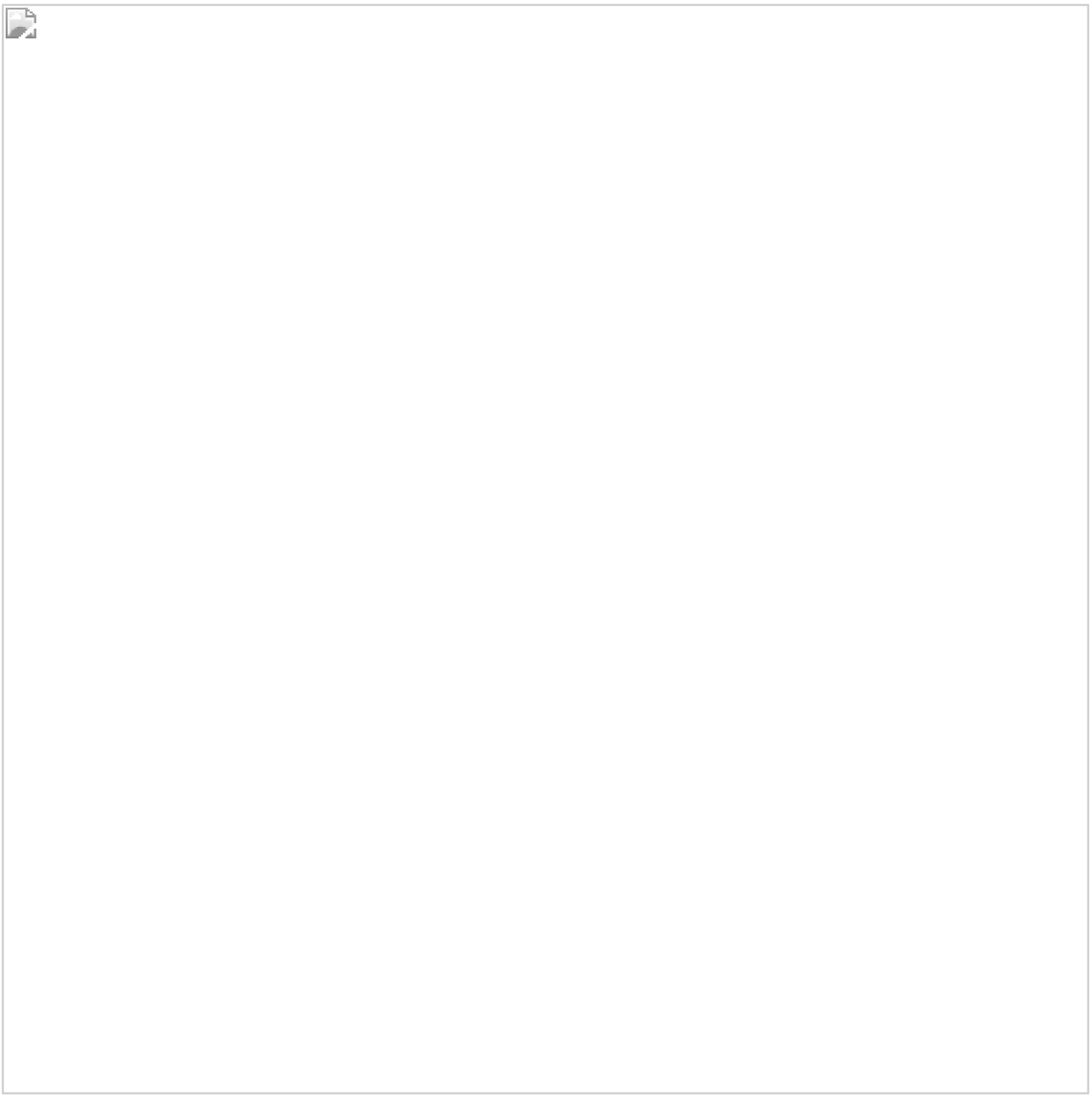
1. What did Gulliver find floating in the sea?

- ○ A boat turned upside down
- ○ A giant fish
- ○ A house

2. How did Gulliver carry the tiny cows and sheep onto the English ship?

- ○ In his coat-pockets
- ○ On a cart
- ○ In a bucket

The Land of Giants



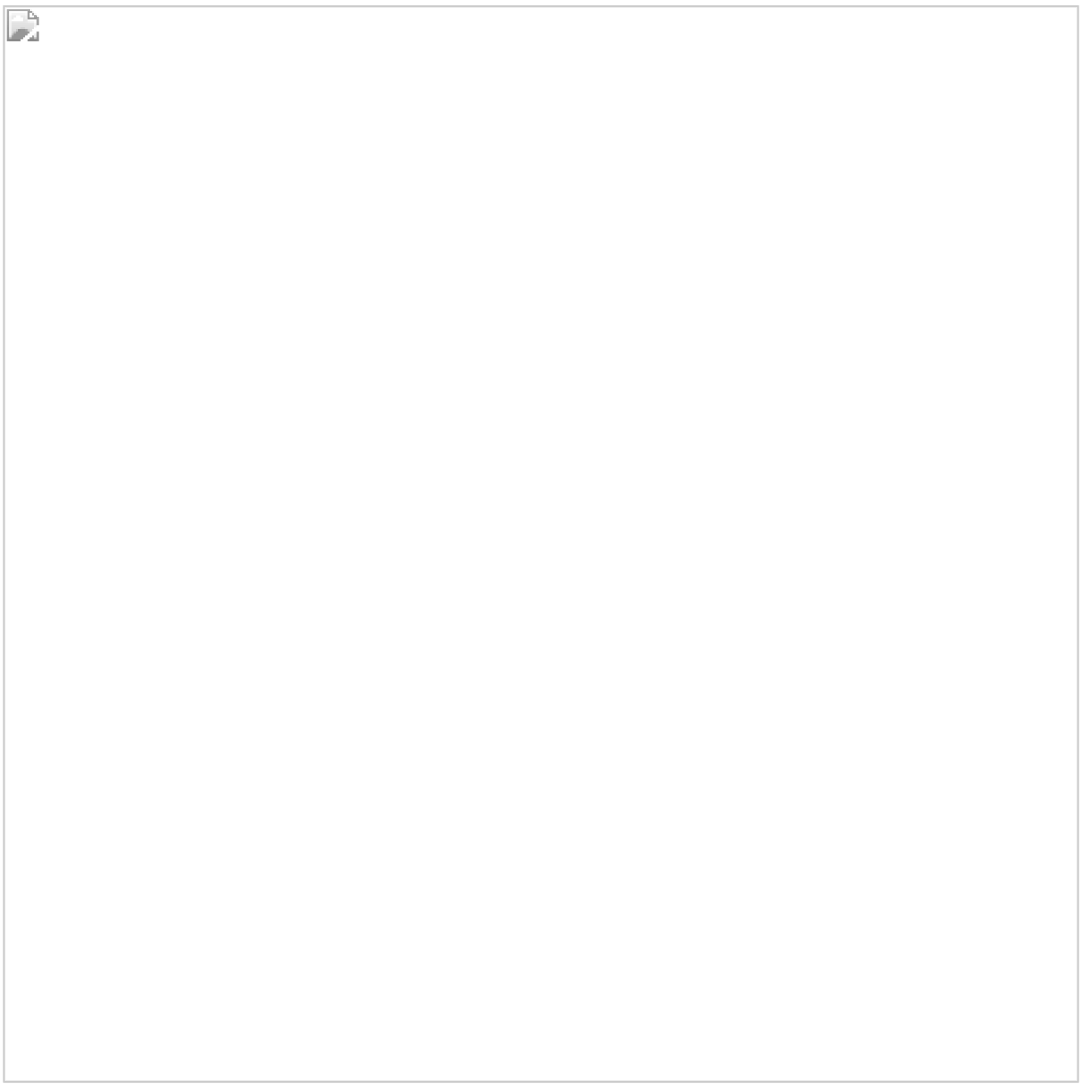
Two months later Gulliver was off to sea again. In 1703 a storm drove his ship to an unknown land. A huge creature came walking through the sea after the sailors, and they rowed for their lives, leaving Gulliver behind.

The grass there was about twenty feet high. Giants as tall as church steeples were reaping the field. One nearly trod on Gulliver, and he screamed. The giant picked him up between his finger and thumb, “with the caution of one who endeavours to lay hold on a small dangerous animal.”

Gulliver remembered: “nothing is great or little otherwise than by comparison.”

TALK ABOUT IT

In Lilliput, Gulliver was the giant. Now he is the tiny one. What do you think is the hardest part about being the smallest?



Think about it

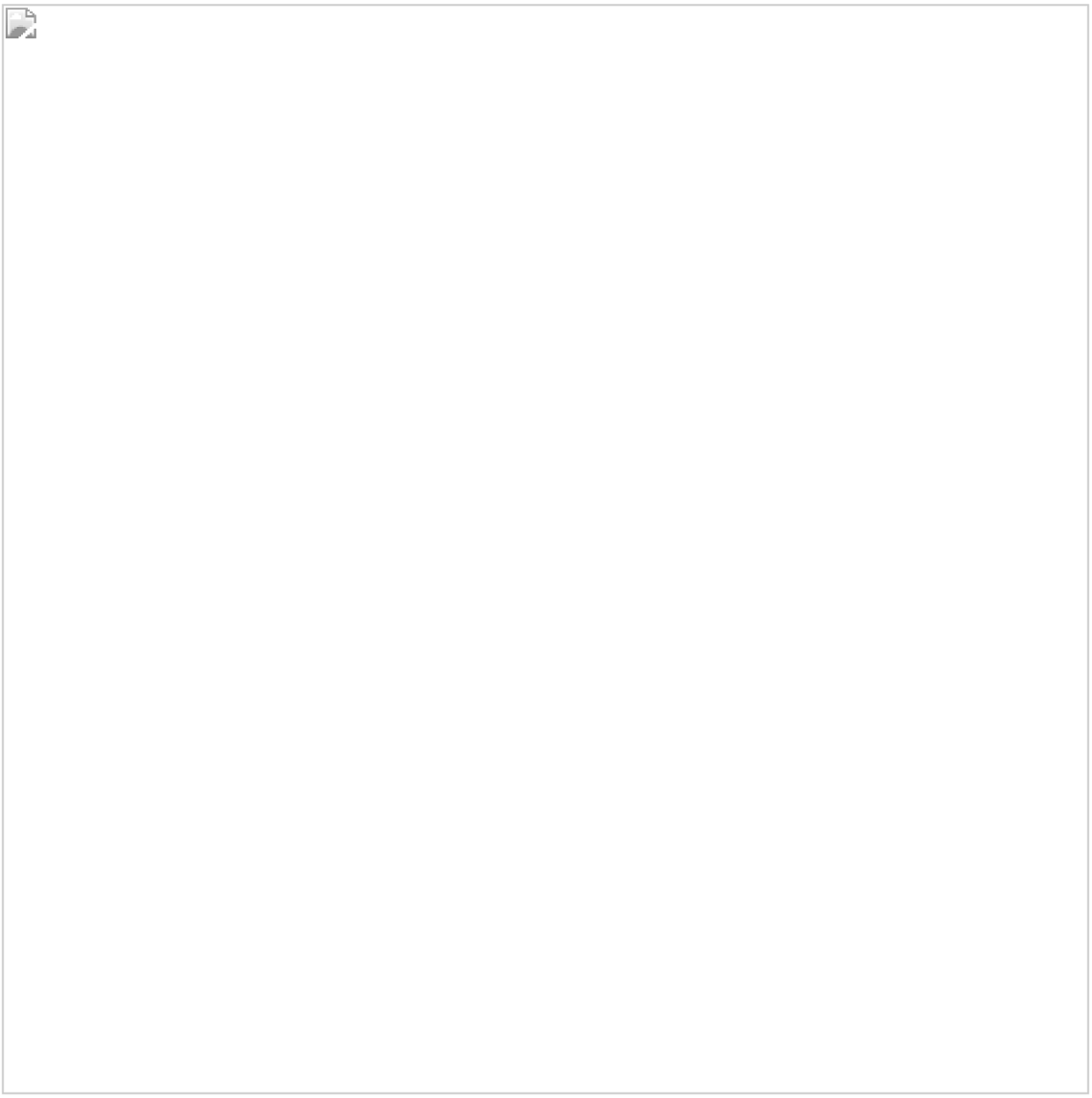
1. How tall was the grass in the giants' land?

- ○ About twenty feet high
- ○ Up to his ankle
- ○ Just like grass at home

2. How did the giant pick Gulliver up?

- ○ Between his finger and thumb
- ○ With a net
- ○ With a shovel

Glumdalclitch



The farmer took Gulliver home. His wife screamed when she first saw him, but soon grew “extremely tender of me.”

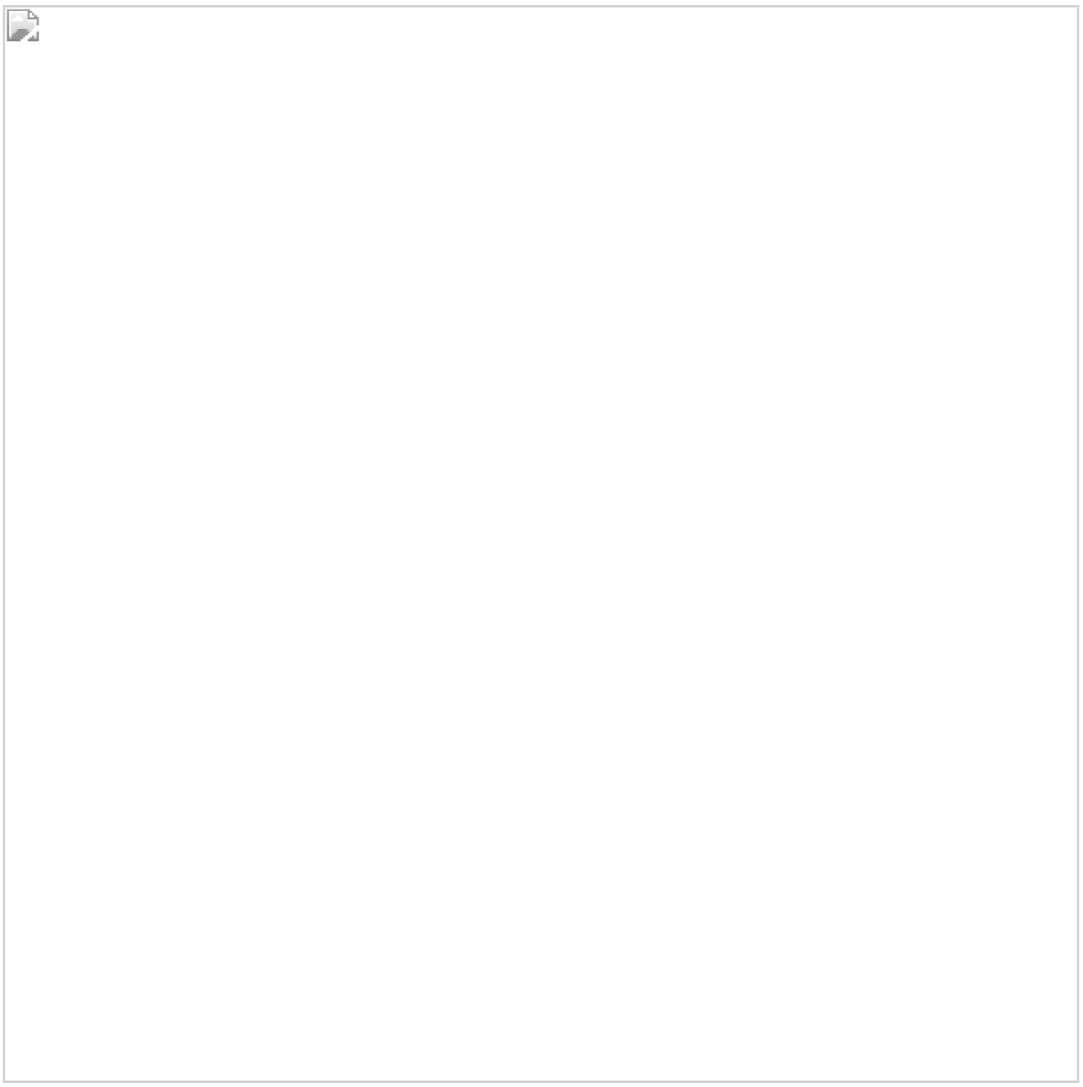
The farmer’s daughter was nine years old and only about forty feet high. She made Gulliver a bed in a drawer, sewed him shirts, and taught him her language by pointing at things and telling him their names. She called him Grildrig, which means a little man.

Gulliver called her “my Glumdalclitch, or little nurse.” He wrote, “To her I chiefly owe my preservation in that country.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Glumdalclitch took care of a tiny stranger she barely knew. How can you take care of someone who is new or smaller than you?

Glumdalclitch · another picture



Think about it

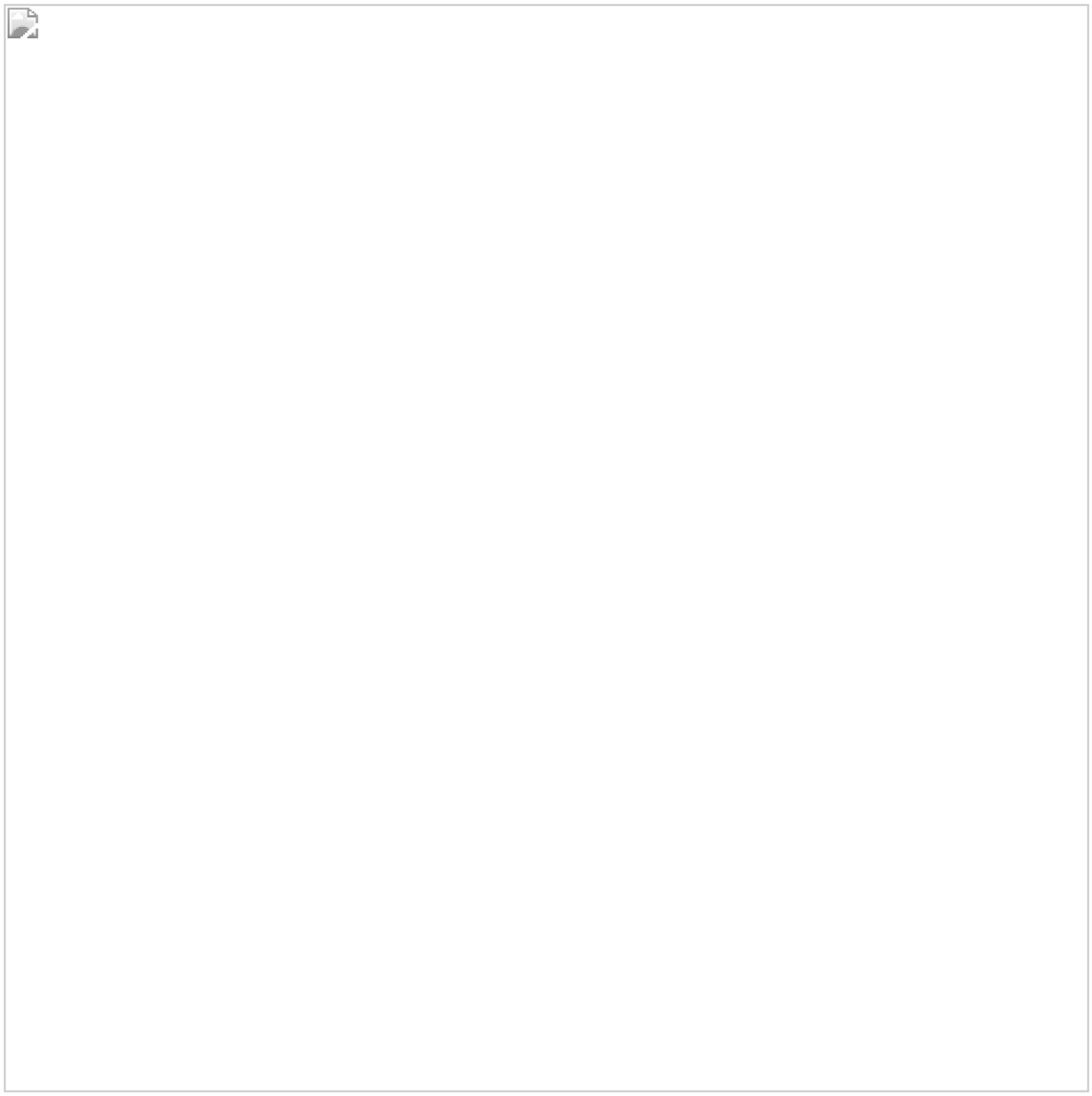
1. What did Gulliver call the farmer's daughter?

- ○ Glumdalclitch
- ○ Grildrig
- ○ Lilliput

2. How did Glumdalclitch help Gulliver learn her language?

- ○ She named things for him
- ○ She sent him to school
- ○ She sang him songs

Sold to the Queen



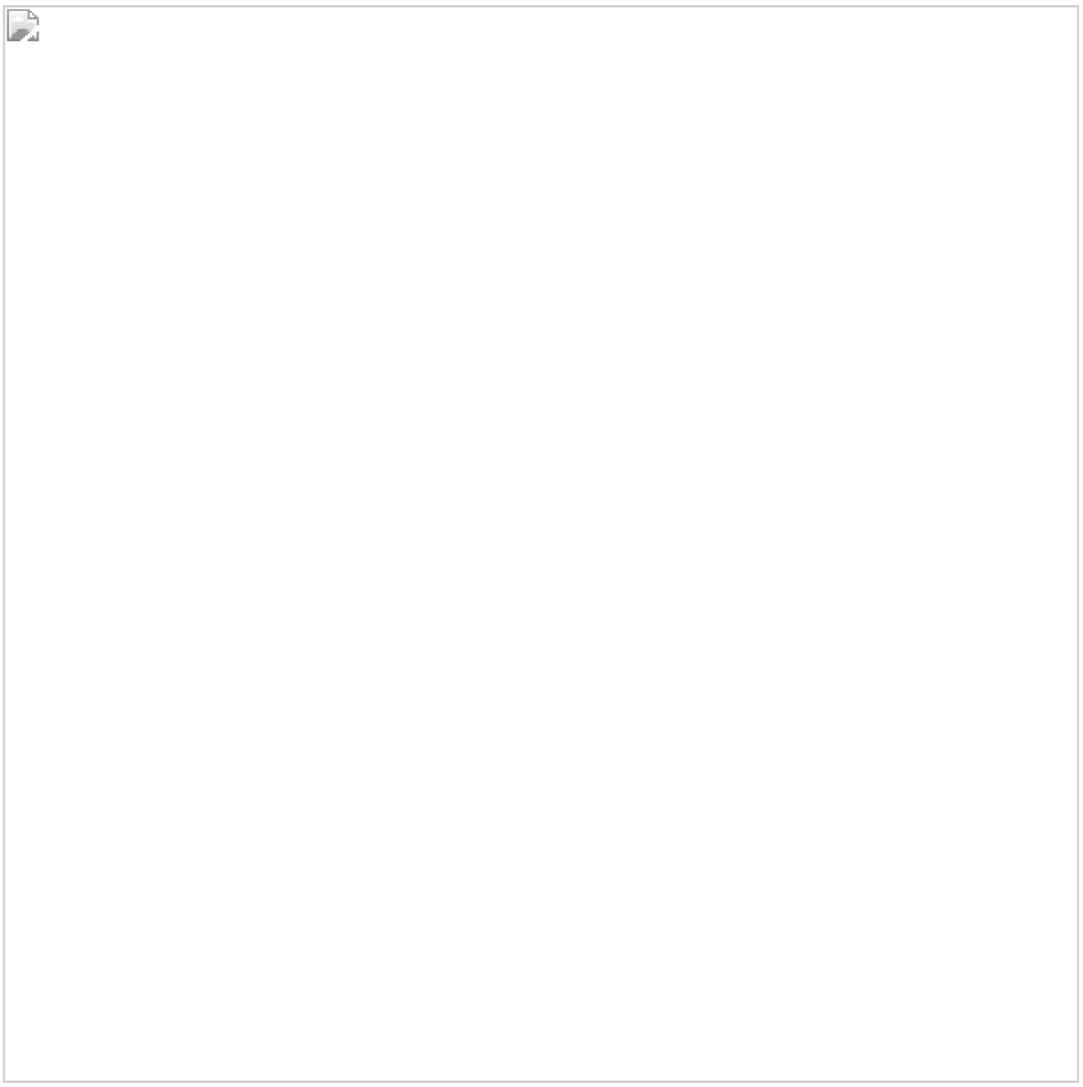
A neighbor told the farmer to show Gulliver at markets for money. Glumdalclitch “fell a weeping with shame and grief.” Gulliver had to perform ten times a day, and soon he was so thin the farmer feared he would die.

Then the queen sent for him. She held out her little finger, and Gulliver hugged it. She was delighted by his manners. The farmer sold him to her for a thousand pieces of gold.

Gulliver asked one thing. He begged that Glumdalclitch “might be admitted into her service, and continue to be my nurse and instructor.” The queen agreed.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver’s first thought was to keep Glumdalclitch with him. Who would you ask for, if you could choose anyone to stay close?



Think about it

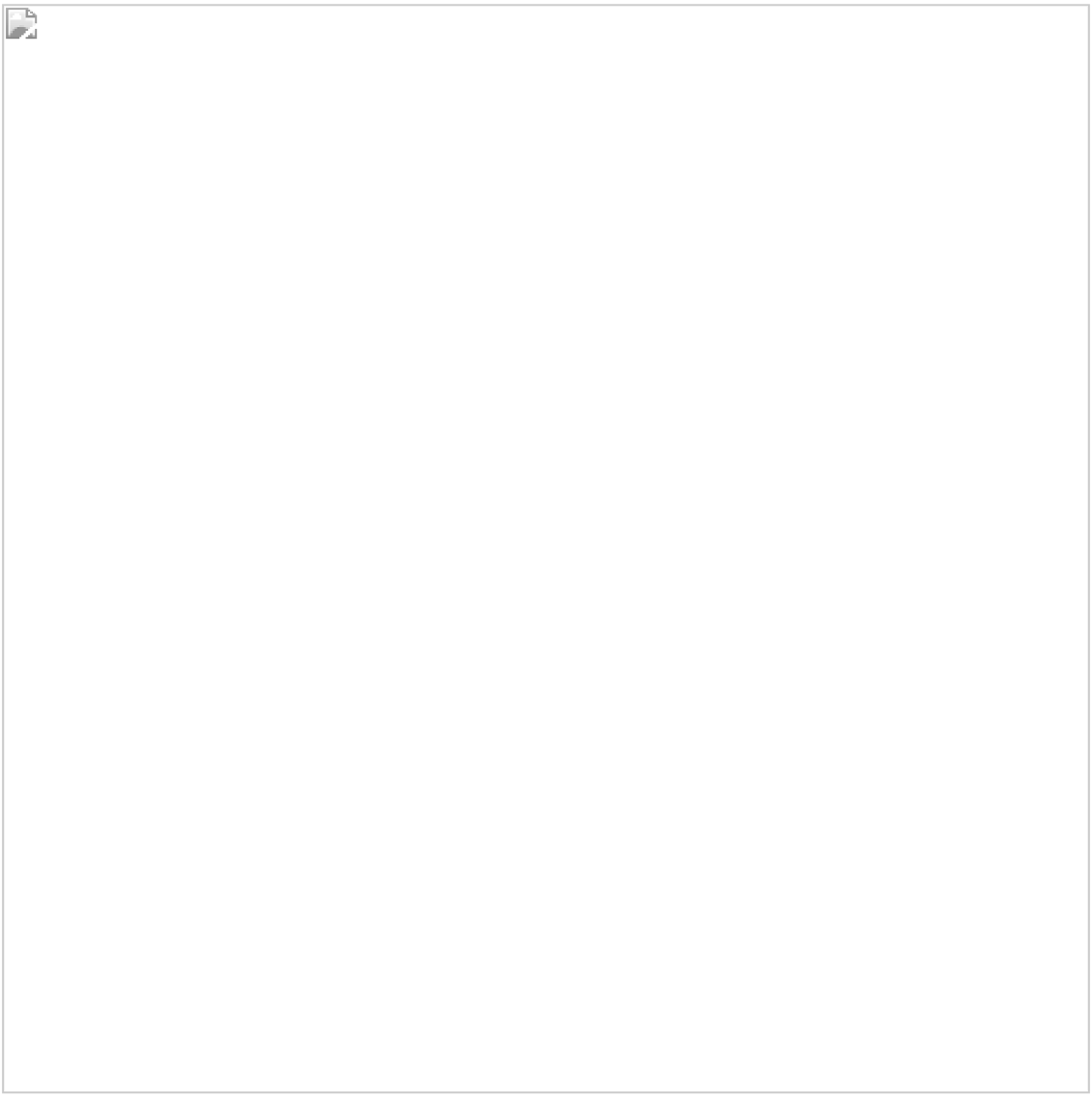
1. What did Gulliver ask the queen for?

- ○ That Glumdalclitch could stay with him
- ○ A bag of gold
- ○ A ride home

2. How did the queen greet Gulliver?

- ○ She held out her little finger
- ○ She laughed and walked away
- ○ She gave him a crown

A Room Made for Him



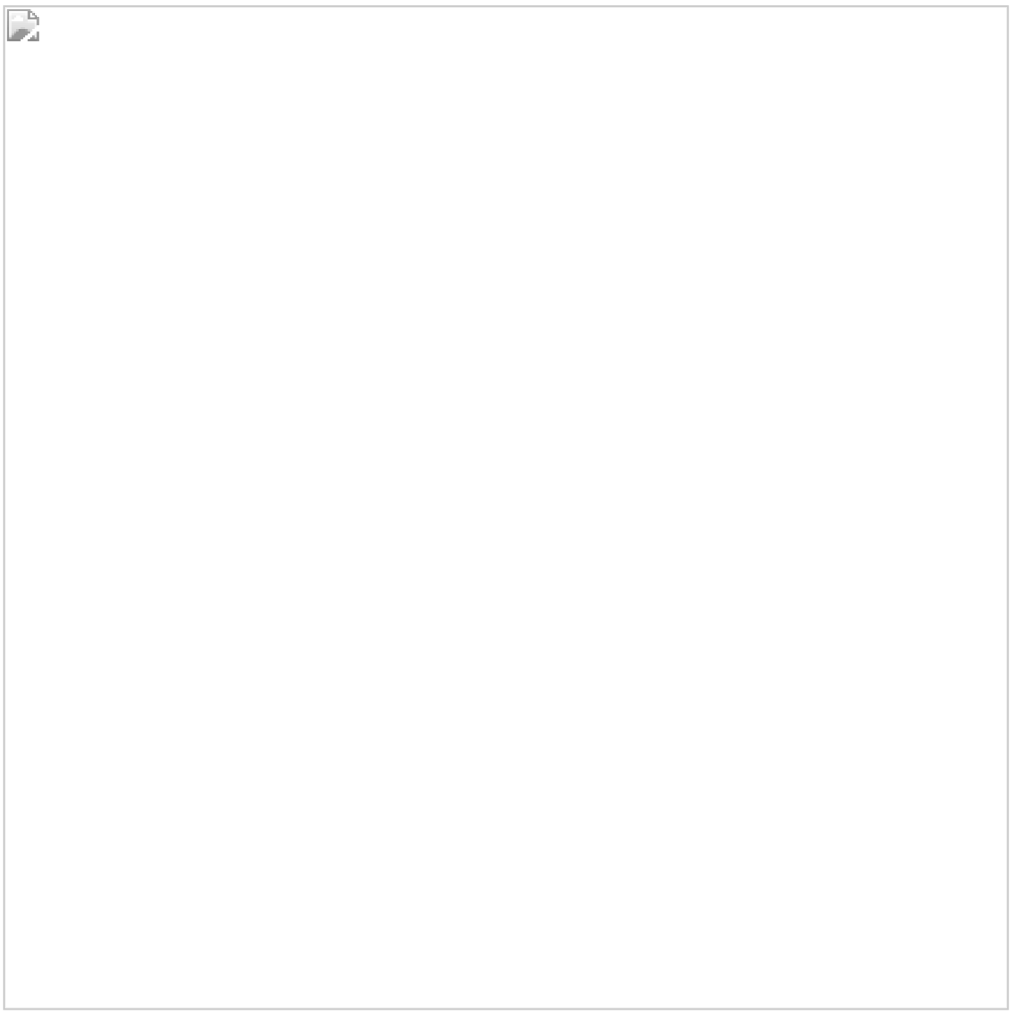
The queen's cabinet-maker built Gulliver a wooden room sixteen feet square, with windows and a door. Glumdalclitch made his bed every day and locked him in at night.

The queen's dwarf, thirty feet high, was cruel to Gulliver. One day he dropped Gulliver into a big silver bowl of cream. Gulliver swam until Glumdalclitch ran and pulled him out.

Another time the dwarf wedged Gulliver's legs into a hollow marrow-bone. The queen was about to send the dwarf away, but Gulliver was "so generous as to intercede," and asked her to go easy on him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver asked for the dwarf to be forgiven. Why do you think he did?



Think about it

1. What did the dwarf drop Gulliver into?

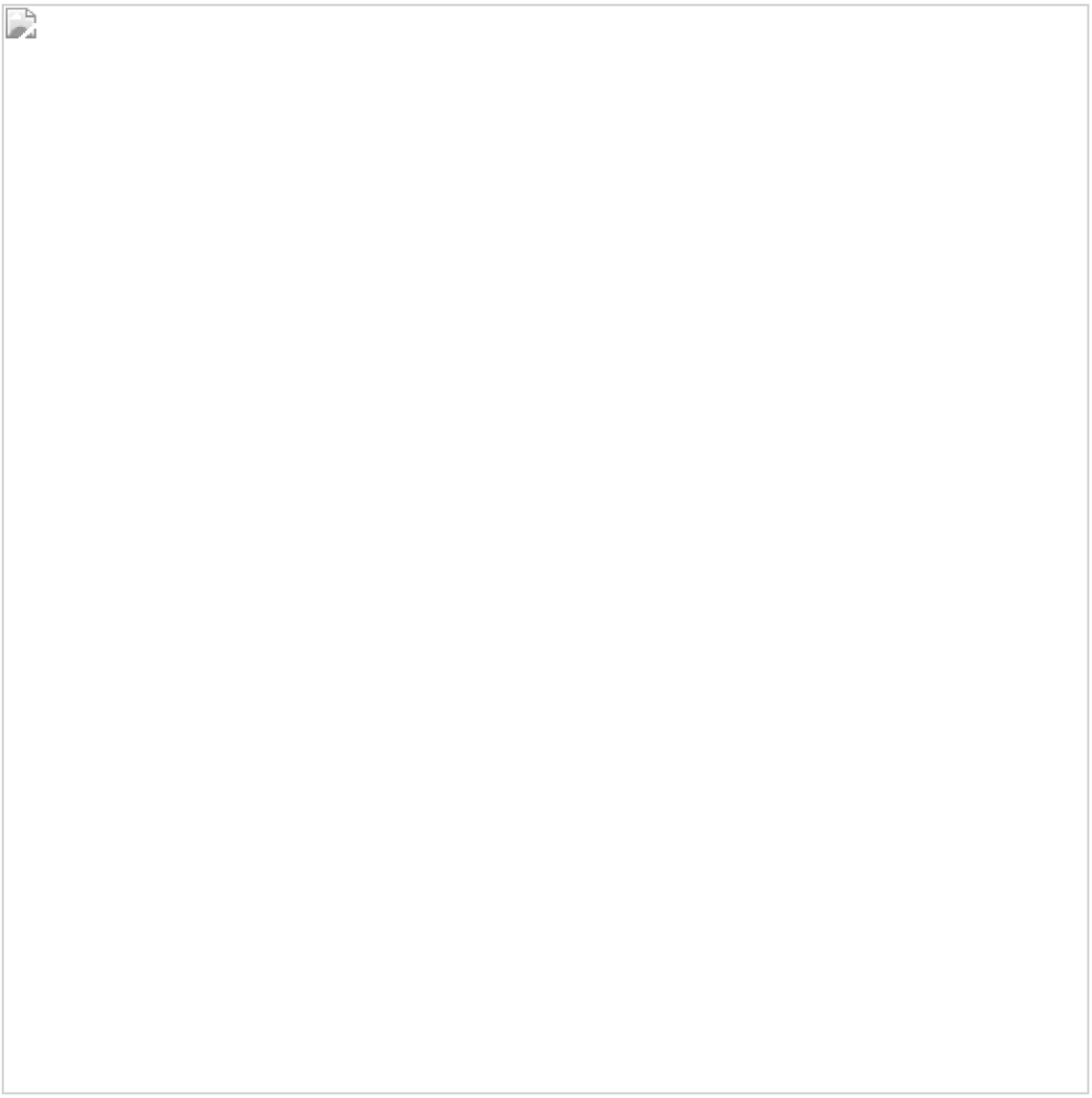
- ○ A silver bowl of cream
- ○ A river
- ○ A teapot

2. What did Gulliver do when the queen was angry with the dwarf?

- ○ Asked her to be gentle with him
- ○ Told her to send him far away
- ○ Laughed at him

3. Have you ever forgiven someone who treated you badly? What happened?

The Giant Wasps



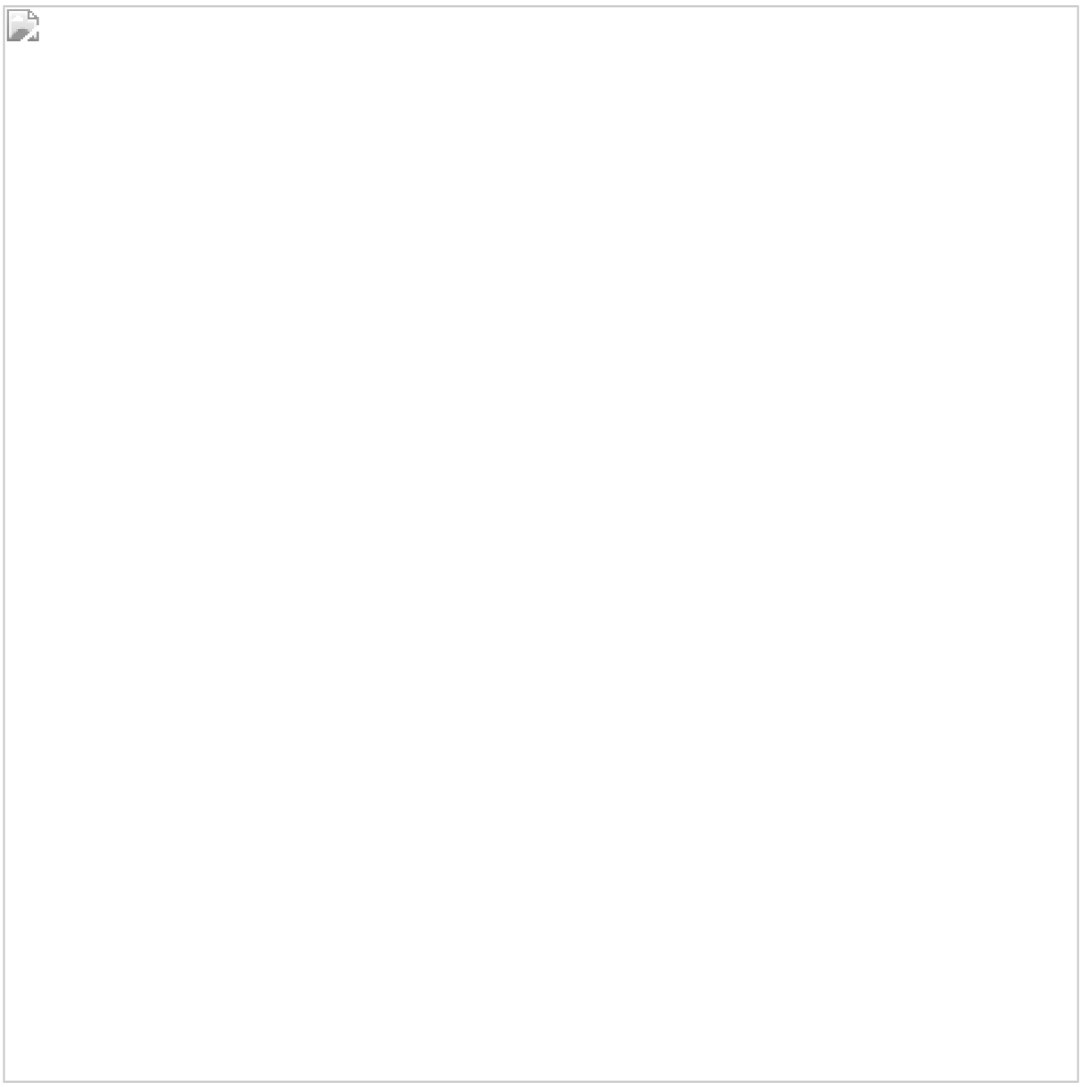
In summer the giants' country was full of flies as big as larks, and Gulliver cut them in the air with his little sword.

One morning Glumdalclitch set his box on a windowsill. Gulliver sat eating a piece of sweet cake when above twenty wasps, allured by the smell, flew in, humming "louder than the drones of as many bagpipes."

Gulliver was afraid of their stings, but he took up his sword and fought. He killed four, and the rest flew away. "These insects were as large as partridges." Their stingers were an inch and a half long.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver was scared of the wasps but still stood up and fought them. Have you ever done something while you were scared?



Think about it

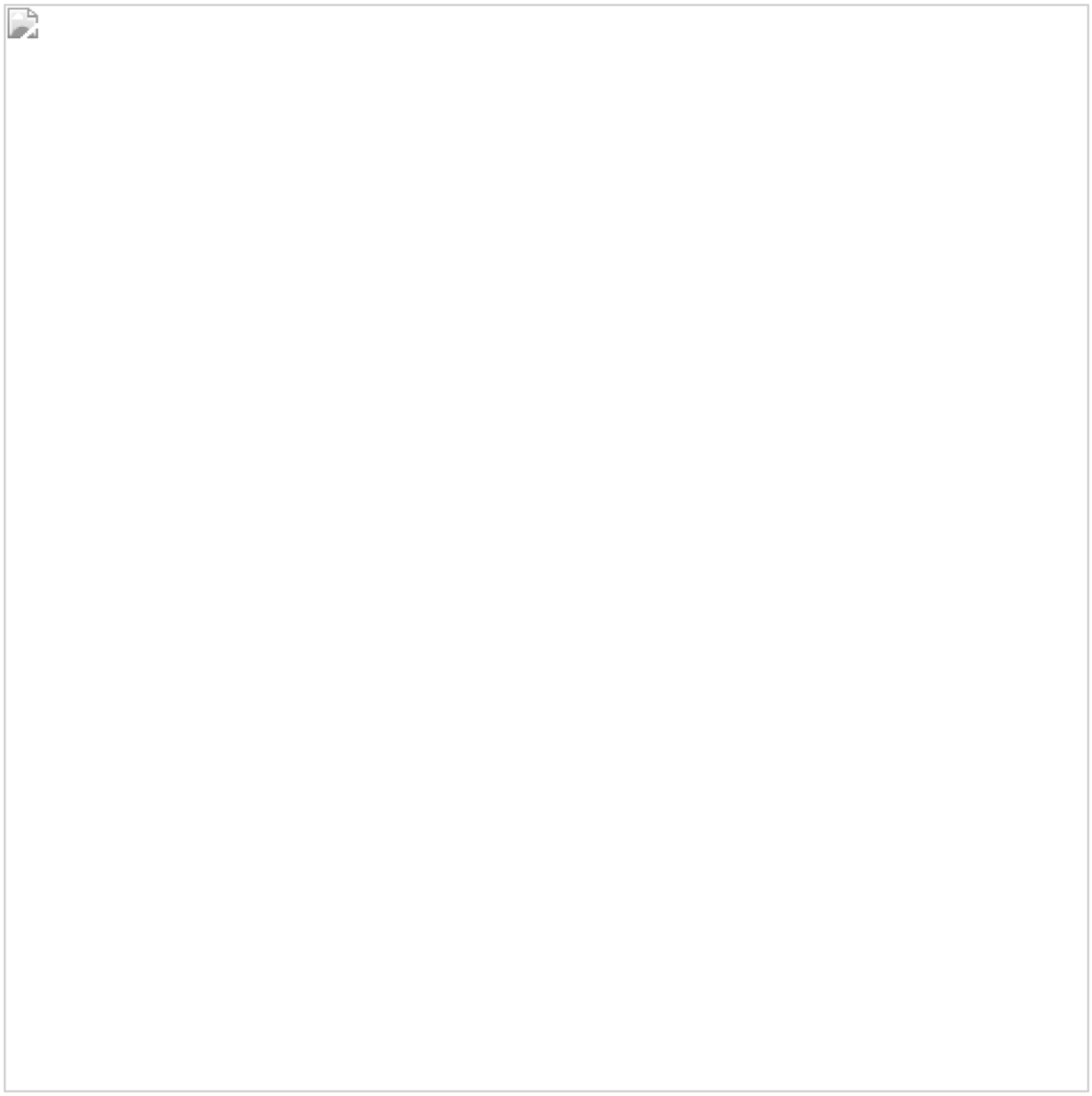
1. What brought the wasps into Gulliver's room?

- ○ The smell of his sweet cake
- ○ A bright light
- ○ A loud song

2. How big were the wasps?

- ○ As large as partridges
- ○ As small as ants
- ○ As big as horses

Carried Off by an Eagle



After two years with the giants, Gulliver still longed for home. One summer the court traveled to the coast. Glumdalclitch was ill, so a page carried Gulliver's box to the shore. She let him go in tears.

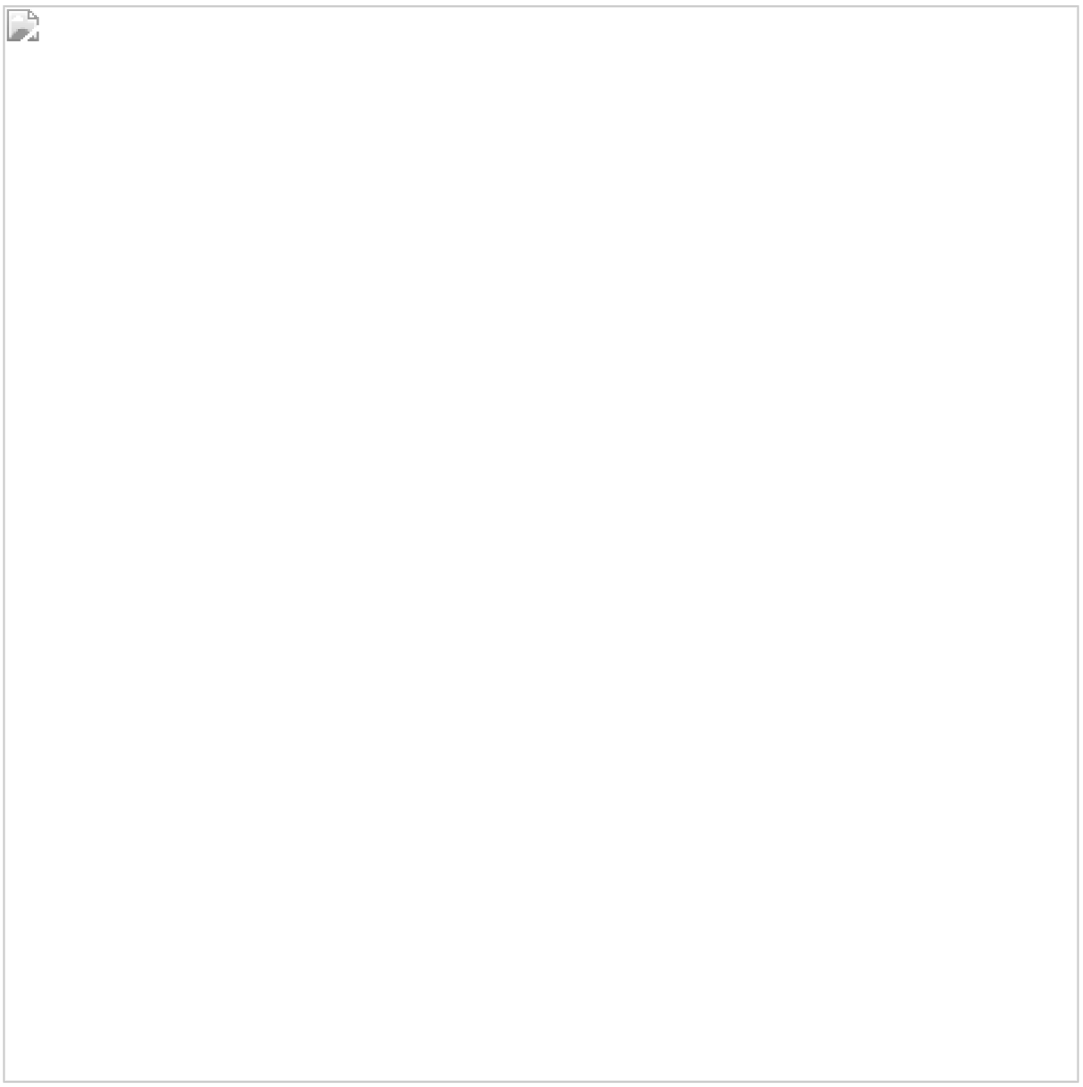
The page set the box on the rocks and went looking for birds' eggs. Gulliver fell asleep. Suddenly his box rose high into the air! He understood that "some eagle had got the ring of my box in his beak."

Then came a noise of more wings. All at once the box fell, and landed with a splash. "I now perceived I was fallen into the sea."

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver was far from home and far from Glumdalclitch. Who do you wish were with you when you are scared?

Carried Off by an Eagle · another picture



Think about it

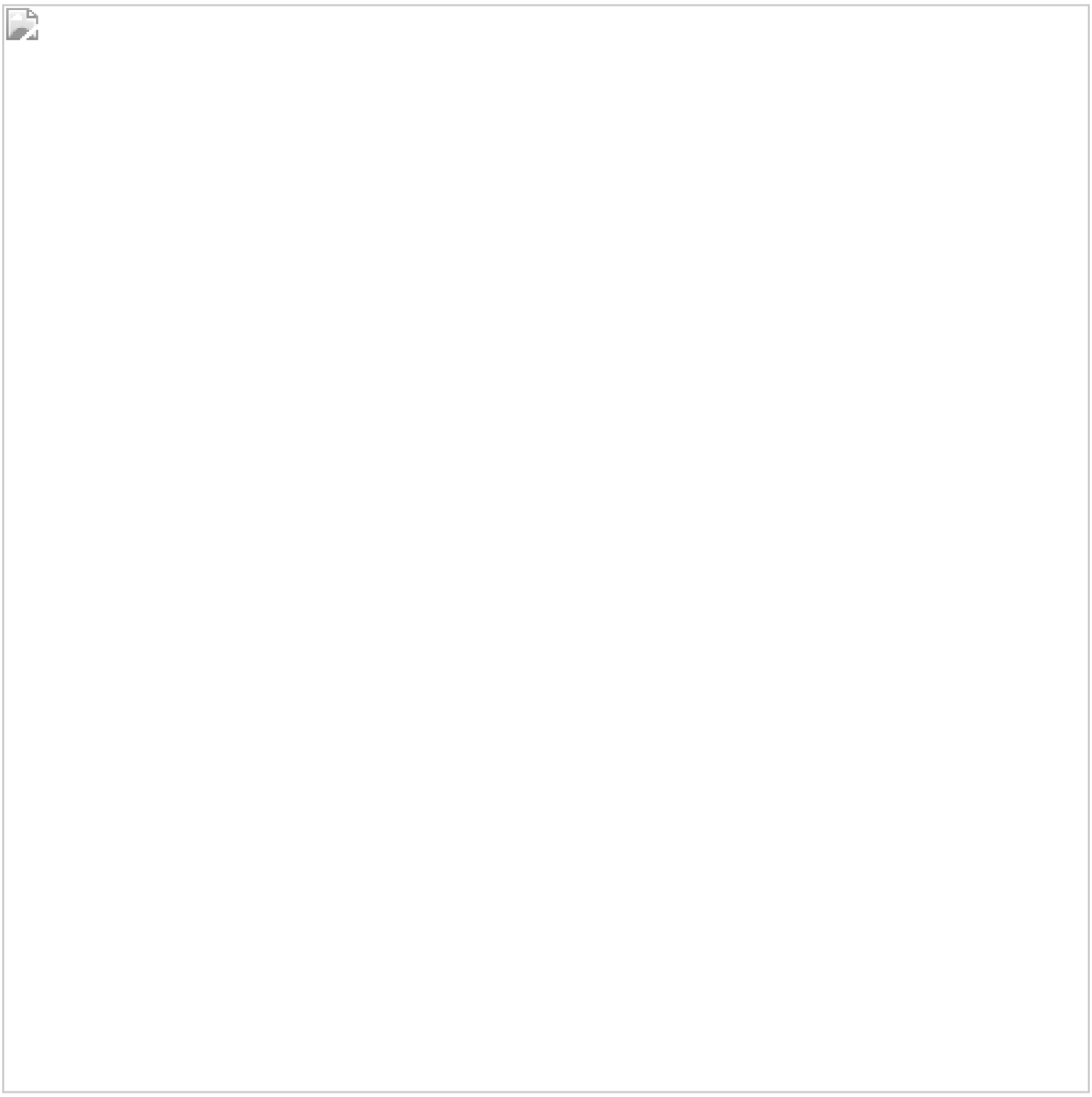
1. What carried Gulliver's box into the sky?

- ○ An eagle
- ○ A kite
- ○ A hot-air balloon

2. Where did the box land?

- ○ In the sea
- ○ On a rooftop
- ○ In a tree

Rescued at Sea



The box floated, but water crept in at the cracks. For four hours Gulliver expected every wave to be his last. He tied a handkerchief to a stick, waved it through the hole in the roof, and called for help.

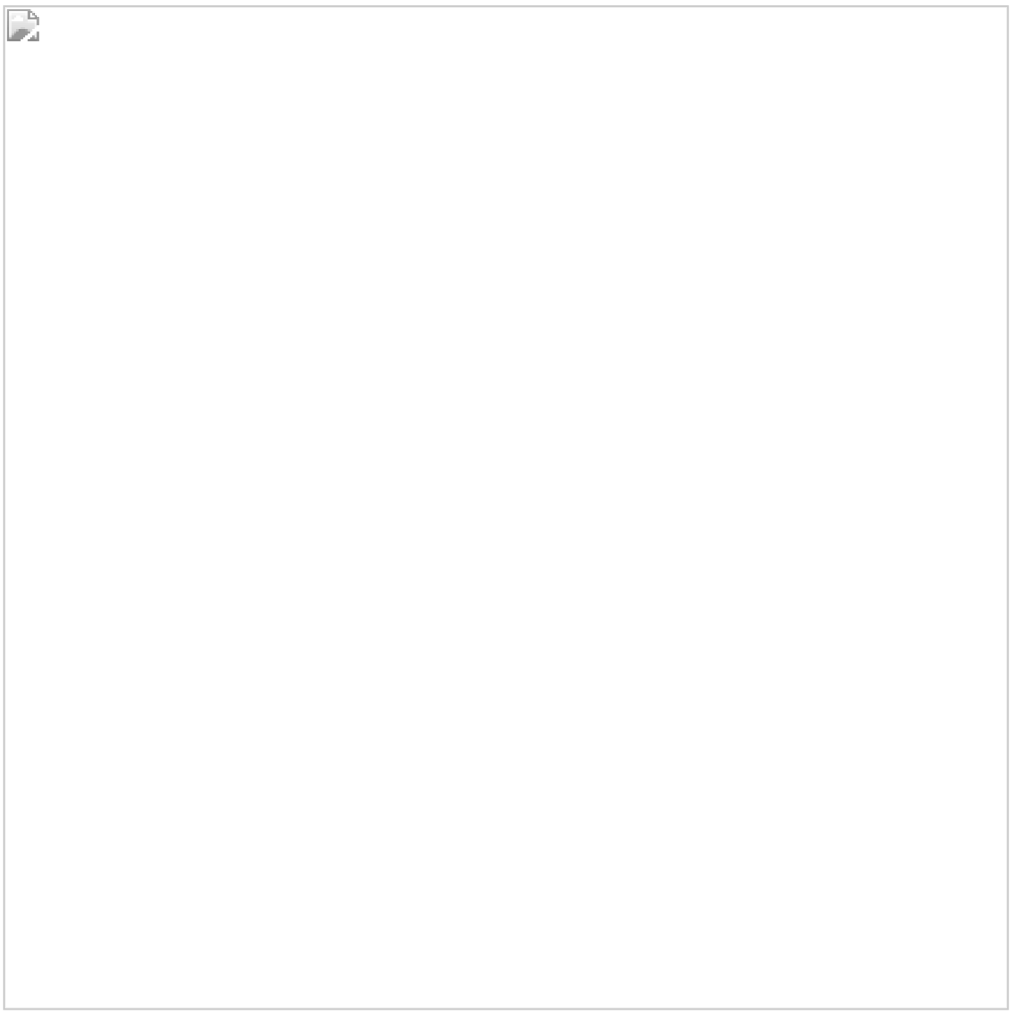
A voice in English called down, “If there be any body below, let them speak.” It was a ship! The sailors had thought the box was “a swimming house,” and towed it.

The carpenter cut a hole and helped Gulliver out. The kind captain gave him a bed, and in time heard the whole tale, and believed it, “as truth always forces its way into rational minds.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Gulliver called and waved for hours until someone heard. What helps you keep going when you are waiting for help?

Rescued at Sea · another picture



Think about it

1. What did Gulliver wave through the hole?

- ○ A handkerchief on a stick
- ○ A candle
- ○ A red scarf

2. What had the sailors thought the box was?

- ○ A swimming house
- ○ A big fish
- ○ A treasure chest

3. Who has believed you when your story seemed too big to be true?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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