

English III Summer Work

Reading Assignment: *Gulliver's Travels* by Johnathan Swift

Welcome to your junior year of English Literature! I'm Mrs. Holler, and I'll be teaching your American Literature course next year. Your summer reading assignment is to read *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. *Gulliver's Travels* is a classic satirical novel. It's a fascinating journey through four distinct lands, each with its own peculiarities and inhabitants. Through the adventures of Lemuel Gulliver, readers are exposed to Swift's sharp criticisms of human nature, society, politics, and the institutions of his time. The novel offers plenty of opportunities for analysis and discussion, exploring themes such as power, morality, and the absurdities of human behavior. Overall, it's a thought-provoking read that continues to resonate with readers today.

In addition to being an entertaining read, *Gulliver's Travels* wrestles with several important issues concerning what it means to live as a human being. Some of the questions this book raises include:

1. Themes of Power and Control: Explore the theme of power dynamics in the novel. How do different societies exert control over their citizens, and what are the consequences of this control? Consider the role of governments, monarchs, and other authority figures in each land visited by Gulliver.
2. Human Nature and Identity: Reflect on the portrayal of human nature in the novel. How do the inhabitants of each land reflect different aspects of human behavior and society? What does Gulliver's interaction with these characters reveal about his own identity and humanity as a whole?
3. Morality and Ethics: Examine the moral dilemmas and ethical questions raised throughout the novel. How do characters in different lands justify their actions, and what moral codes do they adhere to? Are there universal principles of morality that Gulliver discovers, or is morality relative to each society?

There are several other questions and themes the story explores, but these are some of the most important ones we'll be discussing in class discussions!

I look forward to discussing the big ideas of *Gulliver's Travels* with all of you come August.

-Mrs. Holler

Writing Assignment

There will be an in-class writing assignment and a quiz within the first two weeks of school.