



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Which story do you think would be most interesting – someone visits a world where everything is very small, or a world where everything is very big?
- 2 What's the biggest room you have ever been in? Where was it? How big was it?
- 3 If you were only 15 centimetres high, in what ways would you be in danger?

Gulliver is a traveller who visits strange lands. In one land, he is like a giant because all the people are very small. In another, the people are like giants, and he is very small. This land is called *Brobdingnag*. He is found by a family and lives with them. He is also taken to meet the queen and spend time in her palace.

- 1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question. What emotions does Gulliver feel?

Gulliver's Travels (1726) Jonathan Swift

I slept about two hours, and dreamed I was at home with my wife and children, which made me sad when I woke, and found myself alone, in an enormous room about a hundred **yards** wide, and about two hundred high, lying in

- 5 a bed twenty yards wide. My **mistress** had locked me in. I didn't call her with a voice such as mine, at such a distance from the room where I lay to the kitchen where the family were. Suddenly, two rats climbed up the curtains and attacked me on both sides, but I used my knife before they could hurt me. One fell down at my feet; and the other ran away.
- 10 To me they were the size of big dogs. Soon after, my mistress came into the room and seeing me all **bloody**, ran and picked me up in her hand. I pointed to the dead rat, smiling, and making other signs, to show I was not hurt; and she was extremely happy.

But a more dangerous accident happened to me in the garden, when a little white **spaniel** that belonged to the head **gardener** came directly up to me, and took me in



- 20 his mouth and ran straight to his master **wagging** his tail, and put me gently on the ground. The poor gardener, who knew me well, and was very worried; he **gently** took me up in both his hands, and asked me if I was all right. We agreed not to say anything about this. He was afraid of the queen's **anger** and I thought it would not be good for my **reputation** that this story was repeated.

GLOSSARY

yards	units for measuring length, equal to 0.9 metres
mistress	(old-fashioned) a woman who has responsibility for someone or something
bloody	covered in blood
spaniel	a dog with long hair and long ears
gardener	someone who works with plants in a garden
wagging	the action of a dog moving its tail from side to side
gently	carefully so you don't hurt someone
anger	a strong feeling against someone, making you want to shout at them or hurt them
reputation	the opinion that people have about someone or something based on their behaviour or character in the past

