

JONATHAN SWIFT

(1667 - 1745)

The greatest satirist Jonathan Swift was born 1667 in Dublin.

Living in Dublin he became involved in the struggle of the Irish people and became their leader.

Swift's literary work was closely connected with his political activity. It was his novel GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, however, that brought him **fame and immortality**.

GULLIVER 'S TRAVELS

This novel is the summit of the writer's work, one of the best in world literature. It is one of the books loved by children; however the author did not mean to amuse children. It was **an exposure of** all the evils and **the vices of the society**.

The book consists of four independent parts that tell about the adventures of Gulliver, a ship surgeon. The first part is the story of Lemuel's voyage to the land of LILLIPUT which is a satirical symbol of the England of Swift's time. The second is an account of Gulliver's adventures in Brobclingnag, a country inhabited by giants where Gulliver himself is no more than a Lilliput. The country of giants **is to some extent** Swift's ideal of what a state should be. The laws of the country are just; they **guarantee freedom and welfare** to all the citizens. The king of the country is modest, kind and wise. The third part tells of Gulliver's voyage to Laputa, a flying island and to some other islands. The citizens of Laputa are very fond of astronomy and mathematics but they cannot **apply** their knowledge of mathematics **to practical use**. In the fourth part Gulliver finds himself in the country of the Houyhnhnms and the Yahoos: intelligent horses and ugly-looking human beings. Gulliver admires the simple modest way of the horses and **is disgusted with** the others, who remind him very much his countrymen.

Swift's realism was different from Defoe's. Defoe presented extremely precise picture of bourgeois life. Swift used his favourite weapon-laugh to mock at bourgeois reality.

Swift's art had a great effect on the further development of the English and European literature.

Answer the questions

1. How many parts does the novel Gulliver's travels consist of?
2. What did Swift mock at in the part dedicated to Lilliputs?
3. What did Swift ridicule in Gulliver's third travel?
4. What is the difference between Swift's realism and the realism of Defoe?