



**CLASS - VI ENGLISH NOTES NOVEMBER**

**7. GULLIVER CAPTURES ENEMY'S SHIPS**

**I. ERC:**

1. "I had not yet seen it, and upon this notice of an intended invasion, I avoided appearing on that side of the coast."

a) Who is the speaker?

Gulliver is the speaker.

b) What is being referred to as "it"?

The empire of Blefuscu is being referred to as 'it'.

c) Who were the invaders?

The Blefuscuans, the people of the neighbouring kingdom of Lilliput were the invaders.

d) Why did the speaker avoid appearing on 'that' side of the coast?

The speaker avoided appearing on 'that' side of the coast as he did not want to get spotted by the enemy ships.

2. "I consulted the most experienced sailors about the depth of the channel, which they had often measured, who told me, that in the middle, at high tide, it was seventy glumgluffs deep."

a) Who consulted the sailors?

Gulliver consulted the sailors.

b) The depth of which channel had the sailors measured?

The sailors had measured the depth of the channel that separated the empire of Lilliput and Blefuscu.

c) Seventy glumgluffs are equal to how many feet?

Seventy glumgluffs is equal to six feet in European measure.

d) Give a word to replace 'consulted' in the above line.

Discussed

3. "These I took out and fastened as strongly as I could upon my nose, and, thus armed, went on boldly with my work."

a) What are 'these'?

Gulliver's spectacles are being referred to as 'these'.

b) Why did the speaker fasten 'these' strongly over his nose?

The speaker fastened the spectacles strongly over his nose to protect his eyes from the arrows.

c) What work was the speaker doing?

The speaker was trying to fasten a hook to the hole at the pointed front part of each ship and tying all the cords together at the end.

d) Why did the speaker carry on with his work boldly?

Gulliver continued with his work boldly because the enemy was shooting arrows at him to stop him.

4. "The emperor concluded that I had drowned, and that the enemy's fleet was approaching in a hostile manner."

a) Who is the emperor?

The emperor is the king of Lilliput.

b) Why did the emperor conclude that the speaker had died?

The emperor concluded that the speaker was dead as Gulliver was under water upto his neck.

c) Was the enemy's fleet actually approaching in a hostile manner?

The enemy's fleet was actually approaching in a hostile manner as they were all being dragged by Gulliver towards the royal port.

d) Give the antonym of 'hostile!'

Friendly

## II. Short Answers:

1. Write a few lines about the islands of Blefuscu and Lilliput. Who was going to invade whom?

The empire of Blefuscu was an island that was situated on the north east side of Lilliput and was only separated from it by a channel that was eight hundred yards wide. The Blefuscuans were going to invade Lilliputians.

**2. Which project did Gulliver discuss with the ruler of the island of Lilliput?**

Gulliver discussed his project of seizing the enemy's entire fleet with the ruler of Lilliput.

**3. Why did Gulliver have to treble the cables while preparing for his mission?**

Gulliver had to treble the cables while preparing for his missions because each cable was only as thick as a packthread.

**4. What was Gulliver's greatest apprehension while he was trying to capture the enemy's ships? Why?**

Gulliver's greatest apprehension when he was trying to capture the enemy's ships was that he would lose his eyesight if any of the enemy's arrows injured his eyes.

**5. Why were the Blefuscudians at first 'confounded with astonishment'?**

The Blefuscudians were 'confounded with astonishment' on seeing a man the size of Gulliver.

**6. How did the emperor of Lilliput reward Gulliver for successfully capturing the enemy's ships?**

The emperor of Lilliput rewarded Gulliver by making him a nardac upon the spot, which is the highest title of honour among them.

**7. Which 'open and bold' declaration of Gulliver was opposite to the schemes and politics of the emperor of Lilliput? Why?**

The 'open and bold' declaration of Gulliver that was opposite to the schemes and politics of the emperor of Lilliput was when he denied helping the emperor in capturing more of the Blefuscudian ships. The emperor wanted him to capture more ships and reduce Blefuscu to a province. Gulliver said he would never become an instrument in making slaves out of the free and brave Blefuscudians.

**8. Why had a group of representatives from Blefuscu come to Lilliput?**

A group of Blefuscudians had come to Lilliput to form a peace treaty with the emperor of Lilliput.

**9. Write a few lines about the interaction that Gulliver had with the representatives from Blefuscu.**

The representatives from Blefuscu complimented Gulliver on his valour and generosity and invited him to their kingdom. They also asked Gulliver to show them some proof of his prodigious strength of which they had heard wonders.

### III. Long Answers:

**1. Describe how Gulliver was able to capture the enemy's ships.**

Gulliver devised a plan to capture the entire fleet of the Blefuscudians. Using cables and bars of iron and fashioned them into hooks. Then he crossed the channel that was eight hundred yards wide and went to Blefuscu. He fastened the hooks to the hole at the front part of each ship, using which he pulled the fifty enemy ships towards the royal Lilliput port.

**2. On the one hand, Gulliver came up with the idea of capturing the enemy's ships. On the other hand, he refused to help the emperor of Lilliput in his plans to subjugate the island of Blefuscu. What does this tell us about the character of Gulliver?**

Even though Gulliver wanted to help the Lilliputians in capturing the entire Blefuscudian fleet and defeating them, he did not wish to become an instrument in bringing the Blefuscudians into slavery. This shows that even though he wanted to show his loyalty to Lilliput, he did not wish to blindly support the emperor of Lilliput in his imperial plans. Gulliver thus wanted to help Lilliputians but not at the cost of the freedom of Blefuscu. He is hence a man of good judgement and character.

**3. Even though Gulliver's relations with the emperor of Lilliput were delicate, why did he accept the invitation to visit the island of Blefuscu?**

Even though Gulliver's relations with the emperor of Lilliput were delicate, he still accepted the invitation to visit the island of Blefuscu because he did not want to hurt the Blefuscudian representatives. He wanted them to feel his generosity and goodness.

**4. You are out for a vacation with your family. You go for a morning trek with your grandfather. While returning, you realise that you have forgotten your way back. How will you help your grandfather in finding your way back to the place where you are staying?**

Answers may vary. Accept all relevant answers.

## 8. THE LITTLE BLACK BOY

### I. ERC:

1. And I am black, but O! my soul is white  
White as an angel is the English child:  
But I am black as if bereav'd of light

**(a) Who is the speaker?**

The little black boy is the speaker.

**(b) Who is the English child?**

The English child is the fair-skinned boy.

**(c) What does the speaker mean by saying 'my soul is white'?**

The speaker means that his soul is pure.

**(d) What is the comparison being made here by the speaker?**

The comparison being made is between the white child and the black child—the colour of their skin.

**(e) Which words indicate that the speaker feels he is deprived of something?**

'bereav'd of light'

**2. And we are put on earth a little space**

**That we may learn to bear the beams of love .**

**And these black bodies and this sunburnt face**

**Is but a cloud, and like a shady grove,**

**(a) Who is the speaker of these words and who is being spoken to?**

The speaker is the mother of the little black boy and she is speaking to her son.

**(b) Why, according to the speaker, are we put on this earth?**

According to the speaker, we are put on this earth to be able to prepare for and bear the love that God will shower on us.

**(c) Whose beams of love do we have to bear?**

We have to bear God's love.

**(d) What are the two things that the black bodies are compared to?**

The black bodies are compared to a cloud and a shady grove.

## **II. Short Answers:**

**1. What is the little black boy confused about?**

The little child is confused because he wonders why the skin colour of the white boy and his own is different. He says that he may be black but his soul is pure, so why does he have black skin?

**2. From whom did the boy learn his lessons of life?**

He learnt his lessons of life from his mother.

**3. Why, according to the boy's mother, have we been put on earth?**

According to the black boy's mother, we are sent to earth for a short period so that we may prepare ourselves for the future. She says that we will finally meet God who will shower his powerful love on us and we may not be able to bear it as it is very strong. So we learn to bear it on earth by loving each other till we meet God after death.

**4. What does the mother compare their bodies to?**

The mother compares their bodies to clouds and shady groves which are temporary in nature

**5. What will happen when we have learned to bear God's love?**

Once we are united with God, we will play around him like lambs and be happy and carefree.

**6. What does the black boy say to the white boy?**

The black boy says to the white boy that when they are free of their bodies and they are with God, then the black boy will shade the other till he too is ready to bear God's love. He says that then they will become equal and the white boy will also learn to love the black boy.

**7. I'll shade him from the heat till he can bear to lean in joy upon our father's knee. What does this line mean? Who is being referred to as 'our father'?**

This line means that the black boy will provide shade to the white boy from the heat of God's love till the latter is able to bear the love and play around God joyfully. 'Our father' refers to God

**III. Long Answers:**

**1. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?**

The rhyme scheme of each stanza of the poem is: abab.

**2. All poems have a theme. A them is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly. A poet may write on any theme, and some common themes are: nature, children, love, war, honesty, humour, and so on.**

**What is theme of the poem you just read?**

The theme of the poem is love between human beings and between God and human beings. The poem also focuses on the physical differences between human beings. The black boy wonders why he is different from the white boy although his heart is white or pure. His mother explains to him that when their souls leave their bodies eventually, they will stand equal before God and He will embrace them and shower the same love on both of them.

3. A simile is a group of words that compares two different things to bring out their similarities. It makes a direct comparison and uses the words 'like' or 'as' to make the comparison. Some example of similes are:

- His beard is white as snow.
- Her cheeks are like red roses.
- He is as slow as a snail.

Write and poets use similes and other such figures of speech to make their work more interesting rich.

Pick out at least two similes used in the poem.

Two similes: 'like a shady grove' and 'like lambs rejoice'