

CZESC II – ROZUMIENIE TEKSTU CZYTANEGO (Reading comprehension)

Zadanie II A – 5 punktów

Przeczytaj poniższy tekst na temat powieści 'Gulliver's Travels' J. Swifta, a następnie uzupełnij zdania 1-5 wybierając informacje zgodne z tekstem. Zakresl litere a, b lub c.

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) is best known today for his novel *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), one of English literature's greatest satires. Read in its shortened and censored form, it has been enjoyed by generations of children for its entertainment value alone. But the lasting importance of the book lies in its merciless analysis of the failings of human nature. In *Gulliver's Travels*, Swift holds up a mirror to the face of mankind and shows a degenerate reflection.

Born in Dublin, Swift's career was divided between literature and the Church: he became dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1713. He wrote poetry and political journalism, but it was in prose satire that his true genius was expressed, reaching its peak with *Gulliver's Travels*. Written, as he said to "vex the world rather than divert it", the novel nevertheless became immediately popular both in England and continental Europe. Composed in a form fashionable at the time, that of the fictitious voyage, the book uses the fantastic experiences of its hero as a means of commenting on human nature and society. At a distance from his own people, Gulliver sees them more clearly, and in time is able to penetrate to the heart of corrupt human nature.

In the first of his four voyages, Gulliver discovers the land of Lilliput, where the people are so tiny he can easily hold one in his hand. The inhabitants of this strange country are naturally terrified at first at the appearance of such a giant among them, but soon begin to appreciate the practical usefulness and entertainment to be had from such a creature. Gulliver faithfully follows all the Lilliputian's orders and requests, but in the end is deeply disappointed to find that his best efforts cannot stop certain politicians from hating him and plotting his destruction. In fear for his life, Gulliver escapes from Lilliput and returns to England, but it is not long before his thirst for travel sets him on his next voyage, to Brobdingnag. In this second part of his travel, the world of Lilliput is reversed, and Gulliver now finds himself a tiny creature in a land of giants. Though the people of Brobdingnag are kinder to him than the Lilliputians were, he is shocked to see human form magnified to such an extent that every imperfection is visible.

Throughout the book Swift comments on the animal part of our nature, creating a picture of humanity as depraved both morally and physically. Even when man ignores his bodily functions and concentrates instead on intellectual matters, Swift finds much to make fun of, as in Gulliver's encounters with the crazed academics of Balnibarbi in the third part of his travels. These respected scientists spend their lives engaged in such insane projects as trying to extract sunlight from cucumbers, building houses from the roof downwards, and 'reforming' language to the extent that there are no words left in it.

Only in the fourth and final part of Gulliver's odyssey does Swift allow his hero to come into contact with a truly advanced and admirable society. The inhabitants of this land are not men, however, but horses, or, as they call themselves, houghnhnms. Their country is also populated with creatures similar to humans, but of a very primitive nature – the Yahoos. The houghnhnms are noble and without vice, and easily control the dirty, uncivilized Yahoos. The houghnhnms learn to the surprise that Gulliver is a rational being, although he physically resembles the Yahoos in many ways. After spending some years in the company of these cultured horses, Gulliver hates the thought of other humans that, when he finally returns to his homeland, he can hardly tolerate the sight of even his wife and children.

Swift's pessimistic view of humanity in *Gulliver's Travels* has led many to view him as a complete misanthrope. But a misanthrope would be unlikely to include in his tale so much

humour and entertainment. Swift's mirror on mankind is not flattering, but not without hope for us poor Yahoos either.

J. P. Tobin *Human Zoo*, *The World of English* 1/2000

1. Jonathan Swift
 - a. approved of censorship
 - b. was not interested in politics
 - c. was a clergyman

2. The novel 'Gulliver's Travels'
 - a. was received well in Europe and overseas
 - b. was written in an innovatory form
 - c. has only entertainment value

3. Gulliver
 - a. was afraid he would get killed in Lilliput
 - b. went straight from Lilliput to Brobdingnag
 - c. was badly treated in the land of giants

4. In Balnibarbi
 - a. houses were built from the roof downwards
 - b. Gulliver concentrated on academic topics
 - c. The scientists concentrated on useless projects

5. in the land of houyhnhnms
 - a. all inhabitants looked like horses
 - b. Gulliver spent most of the time with the Yahoos
 - c. Gulliver started to dislike all people

Zadanie II C – 6 punktów

Przeczytaj poniższy fragment poradnika '*Managing Your Boss*'. Fragment zawiera dobre rady dla podwładnych dotyczące tego, jak efektywnie słuchać przełożonego. Dopasuj nagłówki **A-G** do fragmentów tekstu. W każde miejsce **1-6** wpisz literę, która oznaczono odpowiedni nagłówek. Jeden nagłówek nie pasuje do żadnej części tekstu.

- A. Hold your fire.
- B. Hear what is said.
- C. Take active part in the exchange.
- D. Capitalise on thought speed.
- E. Work at it.
- F. Resist distractions.
- G. Judge content, not delivery.

1. _____

Most people speak at rate of 125 words per minute, yet can listen at about 500 words per minute. Because of this, you might find that you sometimes daydream, interrupt your boss or only pretend attention. What you do with your 'extra' thinking time can make the difference between being an effective or poor listener.

2. _____

Many listeners focus only on a speaker's appearance or personality. Force yourself to concentrate on the message being communicated and how the information can help you.

3. _____

A good listener fights things that disrupt concentration. Sometimes they can be easily handled by closing the door, turning of the radio or asking your supervisor to talk more loudly. If you cannot eliminate disrupting factors, you may simply need to concentrate more. Take notes; this sends the message that your supervisor's ideas are important.

4. _____

If you are upset by something your boss said, the tendency is to ignore the rest of the message and concentrate on your disapproval. Sometimes, by listening to the remainder of your supervisor's message, your need to rebut will be eliminated. Do not interrupt until you've heard the whole message.

5. _____

People often fail to understand a message, even if they hear it directly, because they hear only what they want to hear. They employ selective listening.

You may listen selectively to a problem boss to validate your dislike and their lack of competence. By hearing and retaining only what you want to hear, you may be filtering out critical information.

6. _____

Listening is hard work and most of us have never been formally trained to do it. To be a good listener, you must be an active participant. Keep in mind that if you rearrange the letters in the word 'listen' you get 'silent'. You cannot listen when you are talking.

Patti Hathaway and Susan D. Schubert '*Managing Your Boss*'