

Gulliver's Travels

Jonathan Swift

Why are the Academy's projects funny rather than merely unusual?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The Academy of Lagado
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Part III, Chapter V
START	The first man I saw was of a meagre aspect, with sooty hands and face
END	However it is not doubted, that this invention may be capable of great improvement.
PASSAGE ID	sec-gul-03

THE MOVE

Test innovation against evidence of usefulness

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The Academy's experiments are elaborate, ingenious, and often ridiculous because practical usefulness has become detached from intellectual effort. Swift repeatedly lets invention survive even when evidence of success is missing.

MARK

Choose two Academy projects. For each, underline the stated goal and circle the evidence of actual results. Write USEFUL?, beside the gap between effort and outcome.

NOTICE

- What makes the projects sound intellectually ambitious?
- What evidence would be needed to show that a project actually works?
- Why is continued confidence funny when usefulness remains unproven?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why are the Academy's projects funny rather than merely unusual? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why are the Academy's projects funny rather than merely unusual? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The Academy projects are funny because elaborate intellectual effort continues without useful results. The gap between ambition, labor, and actual evidence of success exposes innovation detached from practical testing.
EVIDENCE	Use two different projects, their stated goals, and what evidence is or is not offered that they work.
WATCH FOR	Do not label the inventions ridiculous based only on modern knowledge. Show how the text itself reveals the mismatch between effort and usefulness.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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Why are the Academy's projects funny rather than merely unusual?

START ANCHOR	The first man I saw was of a meagre aspect, with sooty hands and face
END ANCHOR	However it is not doubted, that this invention may be capable of great improvement.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Choose two Academy projects. For each, underline the stated goal and circle the evidence of actual results. Write USEFUL?, beside the gap between effort and outcome.
2. NOTICE - What makes the projects sound intellectually ambitious? What evidence would be needed to show that a project actually works? Why is continued confidence funny when usefulness remains unproven?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why are the Academy's projects funny rather than merely unusual?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.