

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

*A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, written and compiled by Roddy Maclean, and specifically aimed at Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Roddy can be contacted at [rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk) \* This is Litir 349. Note that Roddy also broadcasts a simplified version – An Litir Bheag – on Monday evenings at 7.00 pm. This is also available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 45 corresponds to Litir 349.*

Tha sinn fhathast a’ toirt sùil air rannan a nochdas anns an leabhar “Air do bhonnagan a ghaoil”, a chaidh fhoillseachadh an-uiridh le Acair. An t-seachdain seo, tha mi a’ dol a thoirt sùil air dà rann. Seo a’ chiad tè, air a bheil “Aibidil”:

*A airson Adhamh  
Acrach sa ghàrradh.  
B airson bealach  
Bò chaol a’ tighinn gu baile.  
C airson Cailean,  
A cheann air clusaig, ’s e na chadal  
D airson dìgean,  
Dìgearan a’ sgrìobadh  
E airson Eachainn,  
Air each geal a’ dol seachad.  
F airson Fèis,  
'S fear na fideig aic' leis fhèin.  
G airson Goraidh,  
A ghoid aodach bean Sheonaidh.  
Eadar Hiort is na Hearadh  
Chailleadh Harry 's an eathar.  
Ann an Ì anns a’ chill  
Rìghrean Alba aig sìth.  
Tha siud gu leòr: tha sinn sgìth!*

Nise seo rann cunntaidh. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air “Deich Balaich Bheaga Dhubha”:

*Deich balaich bheaga dhubha  
Nan suidhe muigh air being –  
Thug an starrag leatha Seoc  
'S cha robh ann ach naoi.*

*Naoi balaich bheaga dhubha  
Nan suidhe muigh air tobht' –  
Thuit Fionn tro tholl nan cearc  
'S cha robh ann ach ochd.*

*Ochd balaich bheaga dhubha*

Ag iasgach le slait –  
Ghoid na giomaich Fearchar  
'S cha robh ann ach seachd.

Seachd balaich bheaga dhubha  
Nan suidhe 'g ithe 'm biadh –  
Thachd buntàta Coinneach crost  
'S cha robh ann ach sia.

Sia balaich bheaga dhubha  
A' cur a-steach an fheadir –  
Thuit a' chruach air Ùisdean beag  
'S cha robh ann ach còig.

Còig balaich bheaga dhubha  
A' seòladh ann an eathar  
Shluig muc-mhara Donnchadh  
'S cha robh ann ach ceithir.

Ceithir balaich bheaga dhubha  
Nan cadal leis an sgìths –  
Thuit Ragnall tron an leabaidh  
'S cha robh ann ach trì.

Trì balaich bheaga dhubha  
Ag ithe mìr is càis –  
“Mar sin leibh,” thuirt Alasdair  
'S cha robh ann ach dhà.

Dà bhalach bheag dhubh  
A' toirt a-steach a' bhùirn –  
**Thuit Eachann dhan an tobair**  
'S cha robh ann ach aon.

Aon bhalach beag dubh  
Na sheasamh 's car na cheann –  
Ruith esan a dh'Ameireagaidh  
**'S cha robh 'n còrr ann.**

Ma tha sibh ag obair le cloinn, nach biodh e math an rann sin a chluich mar gheam, le deichnear cloinne, agus iad a' falbh fear ma seach. Seo an rann a-rithist – agus bheir sin gu deireadh na Litreach sinn. Cuimhnichibh gun gabh an leabhar math brèagha seo ceannach. Dhèanadh e deagh phreusant co-là-breith!

*Deich Balaich Bheaga Dhubha etc...*

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**Faclan na Litreach:** giomaich: *lobsters*; cruach: *haystack*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** a ghoid aodach bean Sheonaidh: *who stole Seonaidh's wife's clothes*; chailleadh Harry 's an eathar: *Harry and the boat were lost*; ann an Ì anns a' chill: *in Iona in*

*the church; rìghrean Alba aig sìth: kings of Scotland at rest; deich balaich bheaga dhubha: ten small black-haired lads; thug an starrag leatha Seoc: the crow took Jock with her; thachd buntàta Coinneach crost: a potato choked irritable Kenny; a' cur a-steach an fheòir: putting in the hay; shluig muc-mhara Donnchadh: a whale swallowed Duncan; a' toirt a-steach a' bhùirn: taking in the water.*

**Puing-chànain na Litreach: Thuit Eachann dhan an tobair:** *Hector fell into the well. You might have expected dhan tobair or don tobair here, but in Ness and some other Gaelic-speaking areas the form is dhan an tobair. Similarly the Nisich say “dhan a' bhaile” where many would say “dhan bhaile” or “don bhaile”. GOC II (the recently published Gaelic Orthographic Conventions) confirmed the legitimacy of representing it in this way in print.*  
**Gnàths-cainnt na Litreach: cha robh 'n còrr ann:** *there was nobody left.*

*\* Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoineachadh le Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig.*