

# **An Litir Bheag**

## **le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

*An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 30 (which corresponds to Litir 334). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

Ràinig Tormod MacLeòid Baile Pheadair. Tha sin ann an ceann a deas Eilein Cheap Bhreatainn. Bha na daoine eile a' feitheamh ris. Tharraing iad na bàtaichean aca air tìr. Bha tairbeart eadar a' mhuir agus loch mòr. 'S e *Bras d'Or Lake* an t-ainm a th' air an loch. An-diugh tha canàl a' dol tron tairbeart. Tharraing iad na bàtaichean aca leth-mhìle don loch. Chuir iad na bàtaichean air an loch. Agus sheòl iad don dachaigh ùir aca. Bha sin anns a' Chèitean ochd ceud deug is fichead (1820).

Thagh na daoine fearann. Bha na bothain a thog iad fhathast nan seasamh. Leag iad craobhan. Chuir iad buntàta. Bha èisg gu leòr anns a' mhuir.

Bha dà cheud acaire aig gach duine. Cha robh rathaidean eadar na taighean. Bha na daoine a' cèilidh air cach a chèile sna bàtaichean aca. Bha iad ag adhradh còmhla air an t-Sàbaid. Bha sin ann an taigh Thormoid.

Thàinig daoine eile don sgìre. Bha iad à Alba Nuadh agus à Alba fhèin. Thog muinntir an àite sgoil. B' e Tormod an tidsear anns an sgoil.

Cha robh Tormod gu h-oifigeil na mhinistear. Cha robh cead aige càraidean a phòsadh. Chaidh e do na Stàitean Aonaichte. Bha e ann beagan mhìosan. Bha e ag iarraidh cead airson a bhith na mhinistear. Fhuair e sin anns na Stàitean Aonaichte.

Ann an sgoil Thormoid, bha a' chlann a' faighinn foghlam ann an Gàidhlig an toiseach. Bha iad ag ionnsachadh litreachadh is leughadh. Bha iad a' leughadh an Tiomnaidh Nuaidh. Bha iad an uair sin a' leughadh a' Bhìobaill air fad. An uair sin bha iad ag ionnsachadh na Beurla. Bha a' Ghàidhlig uabhasach làidir anns a' choimhearsnachd. Bha cuid de dhaoine aig nach robh cànan sam bith eile.

Bha a' chlann a' dol don sgoil sia là san t-seachdain. As t-samhradh, ge-tà, cha robh sin furasta. Bha cus obrach aca ri dhèanamh. Bha iad a' cumail sùil air a' chrodh. Bha iad a' cruinneachadh dhearcan sa choille. Bha iad ag iasgach. Bha iad uabhasach trang.

Fhuair Tormod tuarastal airson a bhith ag obair mar thidsear. Ach cha do ghabh e airgead bho na daoine. Innsidh mi dhuibh an ath-sheachdain ciamar a fhuair e a thuarastal.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Ràinig Tormod MacLeòid Baile Pheadair: *Norman MacLeod reached St Peter's*; a' feitheamh ris: *waiting for him*; tharraing iad na bàtaichean aca air tìr: *they dragged their boats onto the land*; tairbeart: *isthmus*; leth-mhìle: *half a mile*; sheòl iad don dachaigh ùir aca: *they sailed to their new home*; thagh X fearann: *X selected land*; bha na bothain a thog iad fhathast nan seasamh: *the bothies they built were still standing*; leag iad craobhan: *they felled trees*; chuir iad buntàta: *they planted potatoes*; acaire: *acre [of land]*; a' cèilidh air cach a chèile sna bàtaichean aca: *visiting each other in their boats*; ag adhradh còmhla air an t-Sàbaid: *worshipping together on the Sabbath*; thog muinntir an àite sgoil: *the people of the place built a school*; b' e Tormod an tidsear: *Norman was the teacher*; cha robh Tormod gu h-oifigeil na mhinistear: *Norman was not officially a minister*; cead: *permission, licence*; litreachadh is leughadh: *spelling and reading*; a' leughadh an Tiomnaidh Nuaidh: *reading the New Testament*; bha cuid de dhaoine aig nach robh cànan sam bith eile: *there were some who spoke no other language*; as t-samhradh, ge-tà, cha robh sin furasta: *in the summer, however, that was not easy*; bha cus obrach aca ri dhèanamh: *they had too much work to do*; a' cumail sùil air a' chrodh: *keeping an eye on the cattle*; a' cruinneachadh dhearcan sa choille: *collecting berries in the forest*; uabhasach trang: *terribly busy*; tuarastal airson a bhith ag obair mar thidsear: *a salary for working as a teacher*; ach cha do ghabh e airgead bho na daoine: *but he didn't take money from the people*; ciamar a fhuair e a thuarastal: *how he got his wages*.

*ends*