

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 41 (which corresponds to Litir 345). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha Sanndaidh MacLeòid a' dol a mharbhadh an tuirc. 'S e *Tad-Lozgann* an t-ainm a bh' air an torc. Bha an torc mòr is sanntach. Bha a h-uile teaghlach a' toirt bò don uachdaran. Bha sin airson an torc a bhithadh. Bha na daoine mì-thoilichte. Bha an t-uachdaran a' fuireach ann an Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid ann am Bràigh Mhàrr.

Bha Sanndaidh faisg air toll an tuirc. Bha e tràth sa mhadainn. Bha e fhathast dorch. Anns an dorchadas, chunnaic Sanndaidh freiceadan. Bha am freiceadan air bàrr balla a' chaisteil. Choimhead Sanndaidh a-steach don toll. Cha robh an torc ann. Bha e na chadal. Bha e ann an saobhaidh. Thog an gille an capall-coille marbh. Thilg e an t-eun a-steach don toll.

Thàinig an torc a-mach às an t-saobhaidh. Chaidh e gu far an robh an capall-coille. Bha Sanndaidh deiseil. Loisg e saighead. Chaidh an t-saighead tro chridhe an tuirc. Thuit an torc marbh. Cha do rinn e fuaim sam bith. Chaidh Sanndaidh dhachaigh agus chaidh e air ais a leabaidh.

Anns a' mhadainn bha na daoine cumanta toilichte. Bha an torc marbh. Ach bha an t-uachdaran feargach. Bha e ag iarraidh am boghadair a lorg. Thug e sùil air an t-saighead. Bha na h-itean annasach. Chuir e daoine a-mach gu gach taigh. Bha e ag iarraidh orra saighdean a lorg. Saighdean coltach ris an tè a mharbh *Tad-Lozgann*. Thill dithis. Bha Sanndaidh MacLeòid aca. Thilg iad Sanndaidh don toll-dhubh.

An ath mhadainn, chaidh Sanndaidh a thoirt a-mach. Bhruidhinn an t-uachdaran ris. Dh'innis an gille don uachdaran mar a mharbh e an torc. Bha e airson a' bhò aig a mhàthair a shàbhaladh. Ach cha robh tròcair aig an uachdaran. Bha Sanndaidh gu bhith air a chrochadh an ath mhadainn.

Bha màthair Shanndaidh, a' Bhantrach NicLeòid, troimh-a-chèile. Ach dè bha i a' dol a dhèanamh? Cha robh tròcair aig an uachdaran. 'S e duine cruaidh a bh' ann.

Chuala i gu robh an rìgh a' tighinn. Bha e gu bhith ann an Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid an ath-là. Rìgh Calum – Calum a' Chinn Mhòir. Bha a' bhantrach ag iarraidh coinneachadh ris an rìgh air an rathad – mus robh e aig a' chaisteal. Agus innsidh mi dhuibh mar a chaidh dhi anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan is abairtean: Bha Sanndaidh MacLeòid a' dol a mharbhadh an tuirc: *Sandy MacLeod was going to kill the [wild] boar*; sanntach: *greedy*; airson an torc a bhiathadh: *to feed the boar*; an t-uachdaran: *the landlord*; Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid: *Kindrochit Castle*; Bràigh Mhàrr: *Braemar*; chunnaic Sanndaidh freiceadan: *Sandy saw a sentry*; bàrr balla a' chaisteil: *the top of the castle wall*; bha e na chadal: *it was asleep*; saobhaidh: *animal den*; thog an gille an capall-coille marbh: *the lad picked up the dead capercaillie*; thilg e an t-eun a-steach don toll: *he threw the bird into the pit*; chaidh e gu far an robh an capall-coille: *he went to where the capercaillie was*; loisg e saighead: *he fired an arrow*; tro chridhe an tuirc: *through the boar's heart*; cha do rinn e fuaim sam bith: *he made no sound whatsoever*; bha e ag iarraidh am boghadair a lorg: *he wanted to find the archer*; thug e sùil air an t-saighead: *he examined the arrow*; bha na h-itean annasach: *the feathers [flights] were unusual*; saighdean coltach ris an tè a mharbh Tad-Lozgann: *arrows like the one that killed Tad-Lozgann*; thilg iad Sanndaidh don toll-dhubh: *they threw Sandy into the dungeon*; bha e airson a' bhò aig a mhàthair a shàbhaladh: *he wanted to save his mother's cow*; cha robh tròcair aig an uachdaran: *the landlord had no mercy*; bha Sanndaidh gu bhith air a chrochadh: *Sandy was to be hanged*; dh'èirich Sanndaidh tràth: *Sandy rose early*; troimh-a-chèile: *grossly upset*; dè bha i a' dol a dhèanamh?: *what was she going to do?*; 's e duine cruaidh a bh' ann: *he was a hard man*; chuala i gu robh an rìgh a' tighinn: *she heard the king was coming*; Calum a' Chinn Mhòir: *Malcolm Canmore*; bha a' bhantrach ag iarraidh coinneachadh ris: *the widow was wanting to meet him*; mus robh e aig a' chaisteal: *before he was at the castle*; mar a chaidh dhi: *how she got on*.

ends