

# 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 42 (which corresponds to Litir 346). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Bha sinn ann am Bràigh Mhàrr an t-seachdain sa chaidh. Bha aona bhò aig a' Bhantrach NicLeòid. Bha i a dol ga call. Bha an t-uachdaran ag iarraidh na bà. Bha sin airson an torc mòr a bhithadh. Ach mharbh mac na bantraich, Sanndaidh, an torc. Fhuair Sanndaidh binn bàis.

Chuala a' Bhantrach NicLeòid gu robh an rìgh gu bhith ann an ath-là. Dh'fhàg i an taigh aice. Bha i ag iarraidh coinneachadh ris an rìgh air an rathad. Bha i ag iarraidh taic bhon rìgh. Chaidh i suas an gleann. Chuir i seachad an oidhche ann. Thàinig a' mhadainn. Cha robh an rìgh ann. Bha i fuar. Feasgar, thàinig an rìgh. Dh'iarr a' bhantrach air an rìgh am mac aice a shàbhaladh.

Dh'iarr an rìgh air a' bhantraich dhol còmhla ris gu Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid. Nuair a bha e anns a' chaisteal, bhruidhinn an rìgh ris an uachdaran.

Thug an rìgh cothrom do Shanndaidh. Chuir iad a mhàthair air leac air taobh thall Uisge Chluainidh. Bha Sanndaidh na sheasamh air drochaid-thogalach a' chaisteil. Chaidh fàd mònach a chur air ceann a mhàthar. Dh'iarr an rìgh air Sanndaidh am fàd a bhualadh le saighead.

Bha an t-eagal air a' ghille. Dh'iarr e am bogha aige fhèin fhaighinn. Dh'iarr e cuideachd an dà shaighead aige. Bha iad sin aige nuair a chaidh a chur an grèim.

Air taobh thall Uisge Chluainidh, bha màthair a' ghille. Bha i na seasamh le fàd mònach air a ceann. Dh'amais Sanndaidh gu cùramach. Leig e sreang a' bhogha. Bhuail an t-saighead anns an fhàd. Thuit am fàd far ceann a mhàthar. Bha a h-uile duine toilichte.

Dh'iarr an rìgh air Sanndaidh tighinn air a bheulaibh. "Is math a rinn thu, 'ille," thuir e, "ach carson a dh'iarr thu dà shaighead?"

"Nan robh mi air fàilneachadh leis a' chiad tè," fhreagair an gille, "agus nan robh mi air mo mhàthair a mharbhadh, bha mi air an dàrna tè a chur annaibh fhèin." Bha an t-uabhas air an t-sluagh. Ach rinn an rìgh gàire mhòr. Leig e an gille ma sgaoil. Thill Sanndaidh agus a mhàthair don taigh aca. Dh'fhuirich iad ann an sin airson a' chòrr dhem beatha.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Bha sinn ann am Bràigh Mhàrr: *we were in Braemar*; bha aona bhò aig a' Bhantrach NicLeòid: *the Widow MacLeod had one cow*; bha i a

dol ga call: *she was going to lose it [fem.]*; bha an t-uachdaran ag iarraidh na bà: *the landlord was wanting the cow*; airson an torc mòr a bhiathadh: *to feed the big boar*; fhuair Sanndaidh binn bàis: *Sandy received a death sentence*; gu robh an rìgh gu bhith ann an ath-là: *that the king was going to be there the next day*; bha i ag iarraidh taic bhon rìgh: *she wanted help from the king*; chuir i seachad an oidhche ann: *she spent the night there*; dh'iarr a' bhantrach air an rìgh am mac aice a shàbhaladh: *the widow asked the king to save her son*; dhol còmhla ris gu Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid: *to go with him to Kindrochit Castle*; cothrom: *opportunity*; chuir iad a mhàthair air leac air taobh thall Uisge Chluainidh: *they put his mother on a rocky ledge on the other side of Clunie Water (a burn)*; bha Sanndaidh na sheasamh air drochaid-thogalach a' chaisteil: *Sandy was standing on the castle's drawbridge*; fàd mònach: *a peat*; am fàd a bhualadh le saighead: *to hit the peat with an arrow*; am bogha aige fhèin: *his own bow*; dh'iarr e cuideachd an dà shaighead aige: *he also requested his two arrows*; nuair a chaidh a chur an grèim: *when he was arrested*; dh'amais Sanndaidh gu cùramach: *Sandy aimed carefully*; leig e sreang a' bhogha: *he released the bowstring*; far ceann a mhàthar: *from his mother's head*; air a bheulaibh: *in front of him*; is math a rinn thu, 'ille: *you did well, lad*; carson a dh'iarr thu dà shaighead?: *why did you request two arrows?*; nan robh mi air fàilneachadh leis a' chiad tè: *if I had failed with the first one*; nan robh mi air mo mhàthair a mharbhadh: *if I had killed my mother*; bha mi air an dàrna tè a chur annaibh fhèin: *I would have put the second one in you*; bha an t-uabhas air an t-sluagh: *the people were horrified*; rinn an rìgh gàire mhòr: *the king gave a great laugh*; leig e an gille ma sgoil: *he released the lad*; airson a' chòrr dhem beatha: *for the rest of their lives*.

ends