

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 45 (which corresponds to Litir 349). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha sinn fhathast a' toirt sùil air rannan. Rannan cloinne. Tha iad anns an leabhar "Air do bhonnagan a ghaoil". Nochd an leabhar sin an-uiridh. Seo rann air a bheil an t-ainm "Deich Balaich Bheaga Dhubha". Tha sin a' ciallachadh "ten small black-haired boys". Ach mar a chì sinn, chan eil deich ann aig an deireadh:

*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 fheadair –
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,” thuit 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.*

'S e deagh rann a th' ann, nach e? Tha e math do chloinn. Tha e math mar gheama. Seo an rann a-rithist. Cuimhnichibh gu bheil an leabhar anns na bùthan.

Deich Balaich Bheaga Dhubha etc...

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: tha sinn fhathast a' toirt sùil air: *we are still looking at;* rannan cloinne: *nursery rhymes;* nochd an leabhar sin an-uiridh: *that book appeared last year;* mar a chì sinn: *as we shall see;* chan eil deich ann aig an deireadh: *there are not ten there at the end;* nan suidhe [a-]muigh air being: *sitting outside on a bench;* thug an starrag leatha Seoc: *the crow took Jock with her;* 's cha robh ann ach naoi: *[then] there were only nine;* tobht[a]: *rùin;* thuit Fionn tro tholl nan cearc: *Fionn fell through the hens' hole;* ag iasgach le slait: *fishing with rods;* ghoid na giomaich Fearchar: *the lobsters stole Farquhar;* ag ithe am biadh: *eating their food;* thachd buntàta Coinneach crost: *a potato choked irritable Kenny;* a' cur a-steach an fheadir: *bringing in the hay;* thuit a' chruach air Ùisdean beag: *the haystack fell on little Hugh;* a' seòladh ann an eathar: *sailing in a boat;* shluig muc-mhara Donnchadh: *a whale swallowed Duncan;* nan cadal leis an sgìths: *sleeping with [the] weariness;* thuit Ragnall tron an leabaidh: *Ronald fell through the bed;* ag ithe mìr is càis: *eating bread and cheese;* mar sin leibh: *cheerio;* a' toirt a-steach a' bhùirn: *bringing in the water;* thuit Eachann dhan an tobair: *Hector fell into the well;* ruith esan a dh' Ameireagaidh: *he ràn [off] to America;* 's cha robh 'n còrr ann: *and there were none left;* 's e deagh rann a th' ann, nach e?: *it's a good verse, is it not?;* cuimhnichibh gu bheil an leabhar anns na bùthan: *remember that the book is in the shops.*