

# **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 94 (which corresponds to Litir 398). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

An toigh leibh luchan? Is toigh leam fhìn iad. Bha tè gheal aig mo nighinn mar pheata. Tha seanfhaclan gu leòr againn ann an Gàidhlig co-cheangailte ri luchan. Mar eisimpleir, *is bean-taighe an luchag na taigh fhèin – the little mouse is mistress in her own house*. Is bean-taighe an luchag na taigh fhèin.

Tha claisneachd mhath aig luchan. Uill, tha cluasan mòra aca, nach eil? Canaidh daoine – *an rud a bhios sàmhach, cha chluinn na luchan e*. What is silent the mice won't hear. An rud a bhios sàmhach, cha chluinn na luchan e.

Bidh luchan a' nochdadh ann an samhraidhean, no *similes*, cuideachd. Mar eisimpleir, *cho umhal ri luch fo spòg a' chait*. As humble as a mouse beneath the cat's paw. Cho umhal ri luch fo spòg a' chait.

Seo agaibh a-nise rann do chloinn anns a bheil luch – agus cat. Bidh an cat a' sealg:

*Thuir an luch bheag, 's i san toll,  
Dè am fonn a th' air a' chat ghlas?  
Fonn math is deagh shaod  
Gum faodadh tusa tighinn a-mach.  
Is mòr m' eagal ron dubhan chrom  
A th' agad ann am bonn do chas,  
Mharbh thu mo phiuthar an-dè  
'S fhuair mi fhìn air èiginn às*

Canaidh mi an rann a-rithist. Tuigidh sibh gu bheil an luch bheag agus an cat glas a' bruidhinn ri chèile. Mharbh an cat piuthar na luchan an-dè. Cha mhòr nach do mharbh e an luch fhèin cuideachd.

*Thuir an luch bheag, 's i san toll,  
Dè am fonn a th' air a' chat ghlas?  
Fonn math is deagh shaod  
Gum faodadh tusa tighinn a-mach.  
Is mòr m' eagal ron dubhan chrom  
A th' agad ann am bonn do chas,  
Mharbh thu mo phiuthar an-dè  
'S fhuair mi fhìn air èiginn às*

Uill, bha freagairt aig a' chat. Seo na thuir an cat:

*Cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Iain Ruaidh  
A b' àbhaist a bhith a' ruagadh chearc,  
Ghoid i an càis' a bha sa chliabh  
'S dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa phreas.*

Seo e a-rithist.

*Cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Iain Ruaidh  
A b' àbhaist a bhith a' ruagadh chearc,  
Ghoid i an càis' a bha sa chliabh  
'S dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa phreas.*

Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** an toigh leibh luchan?: *do you like mice?*; bha tè gheal aig mo nighinn mar pheata: *my daughter had a white one as a pet*; is bean-taighe an luchag na taigh fhèin: *the little mouse is mistress in her own house*; claisneachd mhath: *a good sense of hearing*; an rud a bhios sàmhach, cha chluinn na luchan e: *what is silent, the mice won't hear*; cho umhal ri luch fo spòg a' chait: *as humble as a mouse beneath the cat's paw*; rann do chloinn: *a rhyme for children*; sealg: *hunting*; 's i san toll: *when she was in the [mouse]hole*; dè am fonn a th' air a' chat ghlas?: *what form is the grey cat in?*; fonn math is deagh shaad: *good form and good condition*; gum faodadh tusa tighinn a-mach: *that you might come out*; is mòr m' eagal ron dubhan chrom [the mouse is now speaking]: *great is my fear of the bent hook [claw]*; ann am bonn do chas: *at the bottom of your feet*; mharbh thu mo phiuthar an-dè: *you killed my sister yesterday*; fhuair mi fhìn air èiginn às: *I only just escaped myself*; tuigidh sibh gu bheil an luch bheag agus an cat glas a' bruidhinn ri chèile: *you will understand that the little mouse and the grey cat are speaking to each other*; mharbh an cat piuthar na luch: *the cat killed the mouse's sister*; cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Iain Ruaidh: *that wasn't me but red-haired John's cat*; a b' àbhaist a bhith a' ruagadh chearc: *that used to be chasing hens*; ghoid i an càis' a bha sa chliabh: *she stole the cheese that was in the creel*; dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa phreas: *she ate the fish that was in the cupboard.*

ends