

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 96 (which corresponds to Litir 400). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha Fionn agus a laoch ann an Taigh a' Bhlàir Bhuidhe. Ach cha robh comas aca èirigh. Lean am màsan ris na h-àitean-suidhe. Lean an casan ris an ùrlar. Lean an dromannan ris na ballachan. Bha druim is falt Chonain a' leantainn ri leac an teine.

Cha tuirt Fionn guth. Chuimhnich e air a dheud-fios – *no knowledge teeth*. Chuir e a mheur fon dheud-fios. Fhuair e a-mach mun ghnothach. Airson faighinn saor, bha iad feumach air fuil. B' e sin fuil triùir mhac Rìgh Innis Tìle.

Chuimhnich Fionn gun robh a charaidean Laoghaire agus Oscar saor fhathast. Bha fideag aige. Fideag shònraichte. Shèid e an fhìdeag trì uairean. Tràth an ath mhadainn bha Oscar taobh a-muigh an taighe.

"A bheil thu ann, Fhinn?" thuirt e. "Tha mise, Oscar, an seo, agus Laoghaire còmhla rium. Dè nì sinn?"

Dh'innis Fionn dhaibh an suidheachadh anns an robh iad. Dh'innis e dhaibh gun robh iad feumach air fuil airson a bhith saor. Fuil triùir mhac Rìgh Innis Tìle. Dh'fhaighnich Oscar càite an robh iad a' dol a dh'fhaighinn sin. Thuirt Fionn, "Aig beul na h-abhainn ud aig dol fodha na grèine."

Ach 's e a' mhadainn a bh' ann. Bha an t-acras air na laoch. Dh'iarr Fionn air Oscar is Laoghaire biadh fhaighinn dhaibh. Chaidh Oscar is Laoghaire gu Taigh Mòr. Chaidh iad a-steach. Ann an taigh na còcaireachd chunnaic iad fear a' togail feòil à coire. Thuirt Oscar ri Laoghaire, "Thoir leat am biadh. Bheir mise an aghaidh air an duine." Nuair a chaidh Oscar a-steach, cha robh an duine ann. Ach bha clamhan ann. Clamhan mòr a bha deiseil gu leum air. Bha craosnach – *no dart* – aig Oscar. Thilg e an craosnach air a' chlamhan. Thuit an clamhan don ùrlar. Thug Oscar is Laoghaire leotha gach pìos bìdh a bh' ann.

Ràinig iad an taigh anns an robh Fionn. Rinn iad toll ann am balla an taighe. Chuir iad am biadh a-steach. Thuirt Fionn gun robh sluagh mòr gu bhith ann aig beul na h-abhainn aig dol fodha na grèine. "Ciamar a bhios sinn ag aithneachadh mic Rìgh Innis Tìle?" dh'fhaighnich Oscar.

"Bìdh deiseachan uaine orra," thuirt Fionn. Innsidh mi dhuibh dè thachair anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan is abairtean: Bha Fionn agus a laoiach ann an Taigh a' Bhlàir Bhuidhe: *Fionn and his heroes were in the House of Blàr-Buie (yellow field);* cha robh comas aca èirigh: *they couldn't rise;* lean am màsan ris na h-àitean-suidhe: *their backsides stuck to the sitting places;* lean an casan ris an ùrlar: *their feet stuck to the floor;* lean an dromannan ris na ballachan: *their backs stuck to the walls;* bha druim is falt Chonain a' leantainn ri leac an teine: *Conan's back and hair stuck to the hearthstone;* cha tuirt Fionn guth: *Fionn said nothing;* chuir e a mheur fon dheud-fios: *he put his finger under the knowledge teeth;* airson faighinn saor, bha iad feumach air fuil: *to get free they needed blood;* fuil trìuir mhac Rìgh Innis Tìle: *the blood of the three sons of the King of Iceland;* shèid e an fhìdeag trì uairean: *he blew the whistle three times;* bha Oscar taobh a-muigh an taighe: *Oscar was outside the house;* a bheil thu ann, Fhinn?: *are you there, Fionn?;* dè nì sinn?: *what shall we do?;* dh'innis Fionn dhaibh an suidheachadh anns an robh iad: *Fionn told them the situation which they were in;* dh'fhaighnich Oscar càite an robh iad a' dol a dh'fhaighinn sin: *Oscar asked them where they were going to get that;* aig beul na h-abhainn ud aig dol fodha na grèine: *at the mouth of that river at sunset;* dh'iarr Fionn air X biadh fhaighinn dhaibh: *Fionn asked X to get them food;* taigh na còcaireachd: *the cooking house;* fear a' togail feòil à coire: *a man taking meat from a cauldron;* thoir leat am biadh: *take the food with you;* bheir mise an aghaidh air: *I'll attack;* clamhan mòr a bha deiseil gu leum air: *a large buzzard which was ready to jump on him;* craosnach: *dart;* gach pìos bìdh a bh' ann: *every bit of food that was there;* rinn iad toll ann am balla an taighe: *they made a hole in the wall of the house;* gun robh slugh mòr gu bhith ann: *that there would be a big host there;* ciamar a bhios sinn ag aithneachadh mic Rìgh Innis Tìle?: *how shall we recognise the sons of the King of Iceland?;* bidh deiseachan uaine orra: *they will be wearing green clothes.*

ends