

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 100 (which corresponds to Litir 404). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk

Bha sinn ann an Àird Chlach an t-seachdain sa chaidh. Tha an sgìre sin gu deas air Inbhir Narann. Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun tarbh-uisge. Bha e a' fuireach ann an Loch Buaile Fhiodhaid. Aig amannan, bha an tarbh-uisge a' fàgail an locha. Bha e cunnartach an uair sin. Bha e ag ithe dhaoine.

Uaireannan, ge-tà, cha robh coltas tairbh air. Bha coltas eich air. Latha a bha seo, dh'fhàg e an loch. Bha coltas eich air. Bha diollaid is srian air. Chunnaic e clann faisg air an loch. Chunnaic a' chlann each brèagha. Bha iad toilichte. Leig an t-each leis a' chloinn marcachd air. Cha robh fios aig a' chloinn nach e each ceart a bh' ann.

Nuair a bha a' chlann a' marcachd air, chaidh an t-each – an tarbh-uisge – faisg air lochan beag dubh. Bha an lochan sin uabhasach domhainn. Bha na daoine ag ràdh gun robh e ceangailte ri Loch Buaile Fhiodhaid fon talamh. Leum an t-each a-steach don lochan. Thug e a' chlann leis. Dh'ith e a' chlann.

Cha robh an tarbh-uisge an-còmhnaidh cunnartach. Air làithean teth samhraidh, bha e a' faighinn cadal faisg air an loch. Bha spòrs aig na gillean an uair sin. Bha iad a' faighinn faisg air an tarbh-uisge, agus e na chadal. Bha iad a' tarraing gaoisidean far an tairbh agus a' ruith air falbh!

Bha an tarbh-uisge a' fàs aonaranach uaireannan. Bho àm gu àm bha e a' falbh a-mach a' sireadh bò. Bha cothrom aige as t-samhradh. Bha an crodh sa mhonadh an uair sin.

Bha laoigh annasach a' tighinn às an aonadh eadar tarbh-uisge agus bò. Bha na cluasan aca eagach. Bha na h-earbail aca goirid. Agus bha na ladhran aca dubh is gleansach. Bha coltas fiadhaich air na sùilean aca cuideachd.

Bha dà laogh dhen t-seòrsa sin aig tuathanach. Thàinig an samhradh. Bha an crodh sa mhonadh. Mhothaich an tuathanach gu robh an dà laogh a' fàs mì-shocrach. Latha a bha seo, theich iad. Ruith an tuathanach às an dèidh. Ach bha na laoigh ro luath. Ràinig iad Loch nan Doirb. Leum iad a-steach don loch. Chan fhaca duine a-rithist iad.

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Faclan is abairtean: Àird Chlach: *Ardclach*; Inbhir Narann: *Nairn*; bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun tarbh-uisge: *I was telling you about the water-bull*; Loch Buaile

Fhiodhaid: *Loch Belivat*; a' fàgail an locha: *leaving the loch*; cunnartach: *dangerous*; uaireannan, ge-tà, cha robh coltas tairbh air: *sometimes, however, it didn't have the appearance of a bull*; bha coltas eich air: *it had the appearance of a horse*; diollaid is srian: *a saddle and bridle*; chunnaic a' chlann each: *the children saw a horse*; leig an t-each leis a' chloinn marcachd air: *the horse let the children ride on him*; nach e each ceart a bh' ann: *that it wasn't a proper horse*; uabhasach domhainn: *very deep*; gun robh e ceangailte ri Loch Buaile Fhiodhaid fon talamh: *that it was connected to Loch Belivat under the ground*; leum an t-each a-steach don lochan: *the horse jumped into the loch*; thug e a' chlann leis: *he took the children with him*; dh'ith e a' chlann: *he ate the children*; an-còmhnaidh: *always*; air làithean teth samhraidh bha e a' faighinn cadal: *on hot summer days he was sleeping*; bha spòrs aig na gillean: *the lads had fun*; a' tarraing gaoisidean far an tairbh agus a' ruith air falbh: *pulling hairs out of the bull ['s hide] and running away*; aonaranach: *lonely*; a' sireadh bò: *looking for a cow*; bha an crodh sa mhonadh: *the cattle were on the hill*; annasach: *unusual*; às an aonadh: *from the union*; bha na cluasan aca eagach: *their ears were notched*; bha na h-earbaill aca goirid: *their tails were short*; bha na ladhran aca dubh is gleansach: *their hooves were black and shiny*; bha coltas fiadhaich air na sùilean aca: *their eyes had a wild look*; bha dà laogh dhen t-seòrsa sin aig tuathanach: *a farmer had two calves of that type*; mhothaich an tuathanach gu robh X a' fàs mì-shocrach: *the farmer noticed that X were growing uneasy*; theich iad: *they fled*; ruith an tuathanach às an dèidh: *the farmer ran after them*; ràinig iad Loch nan Doirb: *they reached Lochindorb*; chan fhaca duine a-rithist iad: *nobody saw them again*.

ends