

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 121 (which corresponds to Litir 425). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk.

Tha Cuchulainn a' nochdadh anns an sgeulachd ainmeil, *Táin Bó Cuailnge*. Tha an sgeulachd uabhasach sean. Táin Bó Cuailnge. *The Cattle Raid of Cooley*. Tha e a' tachairt ann an Èirinn. Ach thachair rudeigin ann an Alba a tha cudromach don stòiridh.

Tha e a' tòiseachadh le rìgh is banrigh Chonnacht, ann an taobh an iar na h-Èireann. B' iadsan an rìgh, Ailill agus a' bhanrigh, Medb. Bha tarbh uabhasach math aig Ailill. Tarbh le adharcan bàna. Cha robh tarbh math aig Medb. Bha ise ag iarraidh tarbh math dhi fhèin.

Chuala i gun robh tarbh math – fear donn – ann an Cuailnge, ann an Ulaidh. 'S ann le fear Daire MacFiachna a bha an tarbh donn. Bha Medb ga iarraidh air mhàl. Ach chaidh cùisean ceàrr eadar Medb is Daire. Cha robh Daire deònach an tarbh a thoirt seachad. Chaidh teachdairean na banrigh air ais dhachaigh a Chonnacht. Cha robh an tarbh aca.

Bha Medb fiadhaich. Bha i a' dol a ghoid an tairbh. Chuir i arm ri chèile. Fhuair i taic bho ghaisgich gu leòr. Bha arm mòr aice. Thòisich an t-arm air an t-slighe a dh'Ulaidh. Air an rathad, nochd bana-bhuidseach. Thuirt i ri Medb gun a dhol air adhart leis a' chogadh. Ach cha do dh'èist Medb rithe.

An toiseach bha cùisean a' coimhead fàbharach do dh'arm Chonnacht. Bha fir Uladh uile tinn. Bha, co-dhiù, ach aon duine – Cuchulainn. Aig an àm bha Cuchulainn dìreach seachd bliadhn' deug a dh'aois. Agus bha aige ri Ulaidh a dhìon leis fhèin. Ach bha e gu math gaisgeil. Mharbh e mòran saighdearan.

Mu dheireadh bha cùmhnant ann eadar an dà thaobh. Dh'aontaich Cuchulainn sabaid na aonar an aghaidh gaisgeach sam bith. Fear às dèidh fear, latha às dèidh latha, bha gaisgeach a' sabaid an aghaidh Chuchulainn. Ach rinn Cuchulainn a' chùis air gach duine aca.

Latha a bha seo, ge-tà, cò an gaisgeach a bha na aghaidh ach a bhràthair dalta, Ferdiaid. 'S e droch naidheachd a bha sin do Chuchulainn. Chì sinn dè thachair an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: thachair rudeigin ann an Alba a tha cudromach don stòiridh: *something happened in Scotland that is important to the story*; tha e a' tòiseachadh le rìgh is banrìgh Chonnacht: *it starts with the king and queen of Connaught*; tarbh le adharcan bàna: *a bull with fair horns*; bha ise ag iarraidh tarbh math dhi fhèin: *she wanted a good bull of her own*; 's ann le fear Daire MacFiachna a bha an tarbh donn: *it was a man called Daire MacFiachna who owned the brown bull*; bha Medb ga iarraidh air mhàl: *Medb (Maeve) wanted to hire it*; chaidh cùisean ceàrr eadar Medb is Daire: *matters went wrong between Medb and Daire*; cha robh Daire deònach an tarbh a thoirt seachad: *Daire wasn't willing to hand over the bull*; chaidh teachdairean na banrìgh air ais dhachaigh: *the queen's messengers went back home*; fiadhaich: *furious*; bha i a' dol a ghoid an tairbh: *she was going to steal the bull*; bho ghaisgich gu leòr: *from plenty of warriors*; gun a dhol air adhart leis a' chogadh: *not to go ahead with the war*; cha do dh'èist Medb rithe: *Medb didn't listen to her*; bha fir Uladh uile tinn: *all the men of Ulster were ill*; bha aige ri Ulaidh a dhìon leis fhèin: *he had to defend Ulster all by himself*; a' sabaid an aghaidh Chuchulainn: *fighting against Cuchullin*; rinn Cuchulainn a' chùis air gach duine aca: *Cuchullin defeated every one of them*; cò an gaisgeach a bha na aghaidh ach a bhràthair dalta: *which warrior was against him but his foster-brother*.

ends