

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 730 (which corresponds to Litir 1,034). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

I was telling you the story 'The Six Wee Bannocks'. The giant was asleep. His daughter made six wee bannocks. She put one beside the fire and one at the foot-water. She put one at the bedroom door and one at the kitchen door. She put one beside the bed and one at the mattress. She and the lad fled.

The giant woke. 'Are you going to bed, daughter?' he called.

'I'm smoozing the fire,' said the wee bannock by the fire.

The giant slept again. He woke and he said, 'Are you going to bed, daughter?'

'I'm cleaning my feet,' said the bannock by the foot-water.

The giant slept again. He woke and he said, 'Are you going to bed, daughter?'

'I'm opening the door,' said the bannock at the bedroom door.

When the giant woke again, he said, 'Are you going to bed?'

'I'm locking the outside door,' said the bannock at the kitchen door.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh na sgeulachd 'Na Sia Bonnaich Bheaga'. Bha am famhair na chadal. Rinn a nighean sia bonnach bheaga. Chuir i fear ri taobh an teine agus fear aig uisge nan cas. Chuir i fear aig doras an t-seòmair agus fear aig doras a' chidsin. Chuir i fear ri taobh na leapa agus fear aig a' bhobhstair. Theich i fhèin agus an gille.

Dhùisg am famhair. 'A bheil thu a' dol a laighe, a nighean?' ghlaodh e.

'Tha mi a' smàladh an teine,' thuir am bonnach beag aig an teine.

Chaidil am famhair a-rithist. Dhùisg e is thuir e, 'A bheil thu a' dol a laighe, a nighean?'

'Tha mi a' glanadh mo chasan,' ars am bonnach ri taobh uisge nan cas.

Chaidil am famhair a-rithist. Dhùisg e is thuir e, 'A bheil thu a' dol a laighe, a nighean?'

'Tha mi a' fosgladh an dorais,' ars am bonnach aig doras an t-seòmair.

Nuair a dhùisg am famhair a-rithist, thuir e, 'A bheil thu a' dol a laighe?'

'Tha mi a' glasadh an dorais a-muigh,' thuir am bonnach aig doras a' chidsin.

The same thing happened again. 'I'm taking my clothes off,' said the bannock beside the bed.

And again. 'I'm picking up my night-clothes,' said the bannock at the mattress.

The next time the giant woke, he didn't receive a reply. He rose and left.

The daughter heard the giant. He was coming close. He had a weakness. He had a mole. The daughter picked up a golden apple. She aimed it at his mole. The giant fell dead.

The daughter and the lad were close to a big town. 'If you kiss an animal or person in the town,' she said, 'you won't remember that the likes of me existed.'

When the lad reached the town, there was a dog there. The dog gave him a kiss. The lad forgot the giant's daughter. He got work in the king's house. The daughter of the king fell in love with him. They were going to marry.

The giant's daughter was looking for a work and lodgings. She got work with a blacksmith. And I'll conclude the story next week.

Thachair an aon rud a-rithist. 'Tha mi a' cur dhìom m' aodaich,' ars am bonnach ri taobh na leapa.

Agus a-rithist. 'Tha mi a' togail m' aodaich-oidhche,' ars am bonnach aig a' bhobhstair.

An ath thuras a dhùisg am famhair, cha d' fhuair e freagairt. Dh'èirich e agus dh'fhalbh e.

Chuala an nighean am famhair. Bha e a' tighinn faisg. Bha laigse aige. Bha ball-dòrain air. Thog an nighean ubhal òir. Dh'amais i air a bhall-dhòrain e. Thuit am famhair marbh.

Bha an nighean agus an gille faisg air baile mòr. 'Ma bheir thu pòg do bheathach no duine anns a' bhaile,' thuirt i, 'cha bhi cuimhn' agad gun robh mo leithid ann.'

Nuair a ràinig an gille am baile, bha cù ann. Thug an cù pòg dha. Dhìochuimhnich an gille nighean an fhamhair. Fhuair e obair ann an taigh an rìgh. Ghabh nighean an rìgh gaol air. Bha iad a' dol a phòsadh.

Bha nighean an fhamhair a' coimhead airson obair is àite-fuirich. Fhuair i obair aig gobha. Agus bheir mi an stòiridh gu crìch an-ath-sheachdain.