Feòil a' Gheimhraidh
le Iain Moireach

Ach bha an cù math, bha athair eòlach is a’ chaora a’ fás sgìth.

Whole class talk

Dè na rudan a bha a’ còrdadh riut a dhèanamh nuair a bha thu òg? Smaoinich orra seo:
What sort of things did you like to do when you were young? Think about those mentioned below:

1. Ag obair còmhla ri do phàrantan. Dè na rudan a bhiodh tu a’ dèanamh?
2. A’ dràibheadh – an do shuít thu riamh ann an seathar an dràibheir anns a’ chàr a’ dèanamh fuaiìne neònach?
3. A’ còcaireachd – an do sheas thu riamh air seathar sa chidsín is aparain ort?
4. A’ leigeil ort gun robh thu nad Nurs, nad thidsear, nad fhèar-smàlaidh, nad chluicheadair ball-coise. Dè an t-aodach a chuireadh tu ort airson seo a dhèanamh?
5. An e sin an obair a bha thu ag iarraidh a dhèanamh nuair a dh fhàgadh tu an sgoil? Dè an obair a tha thu ag iarraidh a-nise? Carson?

Sgrìobh notaichean Gàidhlig mun rud a bha thu a’ dèanamh agus inns dhan chlas nuair a bhios tu deiseil. Faodaidh iad ceistean a chur ort nuair a dh’innseas tu dhaibh mun rud.

Write some notes in Gaelic on what you did when you were young and tell the rest of the class about it when you are ready. They can ask you questions about it.

Vocabulary

’S dòcha gum bi iad seo gu feum:
These might be useful:
I remember…
I wanted to be a…
I would wear a yellow helmet and a black suit.
I was stupid!
My mum bought me a…
I went in the van with my father.
I made scones with my grandmother.
I would like to be a… when I leave school.

Language

Read the story and think about the following questions:

Find the meaning for the words on the left in the right-hand column. Check in a dictionary if you’re not sure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>uspag</th>
<th>sharp</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sliasa</td>
<td>quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gamhla</td>
<td>split</td>
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<tr>
<td>neartm</td>
<td>ignorant</td>
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<td>aineol</td>
<td>strong</td>
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<td>geur</td>
<td>effort</td>
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<tr>
<td>oidhirp</td>
<td>thigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comasach</td>
<td>hatred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sgoltad</td>
<td>a light breeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sèimh</td>
<td>capable</td>
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</tbody>
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Ceistean

Questions

Obraichibh còmhla ri caraid.
Smaoinichibh air na freagairtean còmhla.
Work with a partner. Think about the answers together.

1. Why did the young boy want the sheep to escape at the beginning of the story?

2. “Bha beanntan an iar-dheas mar-thà a’ cnàmhadh na grèine.” What does this mean? Comment on the effectiveness of the image in conveying the image of short winter days.

3. Choose a quotation from the story which shows how stubborn the sheep was and that she had no intention of straying from her path.

4a. What happens when the young boy tries to catch hold of the sheep?

b. What are his feelings towards the sheep when he gets up?

5. What are the three tools required to carry out the task of killing the sheep?

6. How is it made obvious that the boy does not want to miss any of the action?

7a. What surprised the boy when he tried to keep the sheep still on the table?

b. Why do you think this had such an effect on him?

8. How does the father deal with the task of killing the sheep? Look at the list of words below and choose the three most appropriate to describe him. Use the dictionary to help you:

   sgileil  eòlach  teagmhach
   cliobach  eagalach  cinnteach

9. Why did the boy not move while his father worked on the sheep?

10. Why is the line “rinn e cigarette eile, breac-dhearg” important in the story?

11a. Why did the boy look at his father’s hand when he placed it on his shoulder at the end of the story?

b. How have things changed since the beginning of the story?
Writing about literature

Sgrìobh lèirmheas air an stòiridh ag ainmeachadh na leanas:
Write a review of the story mentioning the following:

1. Title and author.
2. Plot and setting.
3. Characters – don’t forget the sheep! How do relationships change as the story goes on?
4. How does the author deal with the death of the sheep? Why is it important to the story that the boy’s feelings change during the story?
5a. How is the story enhanced by the fact that we see everything through the eyes of the young boy?
   b. Which character does not change at all during the course of the story? Why?
6. Why is the sheep’s role in the story so important? Why do her actions affect the little boy so profoundly?
7. What effect did the story have on you? Explain your answer.