

The Deil in Scotland

Primary activities

'The Devil in Scotland, Being 4 Great Scottish Stories of Diablerie Along With an Introductory Essay and Thirty Nine Original Wood Engravings', wis imprentit in 1934 an editit an illustratit bi Douglas Percy Bliss. His weel-informed preface reenges through a mettlesome history o witchcraft in Scotland, introducun us tae sic kenspeckle characters as warlock Richard Scott an King James VI.

Whit dae ye think King James VI an his execution o the Berwick carlins tells us about politics, the role o wimmen an their place in Scottish society in the late 16th century?

Hae a wee keek at these Scots wirts an hae a shot at scrievin yer ain eldritch tale, poem, play or carline's spell. Mind if ye dinnae want tae scribe the hale thing in Scots only yaise it fir the dialogue juist like Walter Scott.

Scots	English
whuppitie stourie	house fairy
kelpie	horse shaped water demon
selkie	seal shape shifter
deil	devil
wraith	apparition of a living person, premonition of danger or death
broonie	helpful house sprite
worrocow	demon
baneshanks	grim reaper
burial-boding	death warning
corp-lifter	body snatcher
deid-claes	shroud
deid-drap	dripping water premonition of death
deid-knack	loud knock at the door or bed, premonition of death
Auld Hornie	the Devil
Mahoun	the Devil
Auld Nick	the Devil
Nickie-Ben	evil spirit, imp
Auld clootie	the Devil
Auld Hangie	the Devil
doolie	hobgoblin
snaw-ghaist	apparition in swirling snow
feart	frightened
frichtsme	frightening
how dumb deid	the silent middle of the night

Mind an caw canny - dinnae gie yersel a fricht!

'Thrawn Janet'

Secondary activities

Robert Louis Stevenson wis fluent in both English an Scots but maist o his fiction is scribed in English. Thrawn Janet, efter the introduction, is scribed in Scots.

Mony folk think that Stevenson insistit oan scrievin this story in Scots because it is a folk tale. Folk tales were often haundit doon tae the Scottish population through whit maist folk cry 'the oral tradition' – story tellin through yer mooth instead o by scrievin. Tellin stories orally is valuable in preservin Scots because maist folk feel under less pressure tae stick tae a certain language or dialect.

Ye can read the story oan the Wee Windaes website or listen tae it being read oot:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rylwyc21OZk>

Discussion points:

1. Dae ye think the story wid be jist as effective if it wis scribed in English? Whit, if onythin, wid be lost frae the story?
2. Dae ye speak differently frae the wye that ye scribe? Why?
3. Have ye ever tried scrievin the same wye that ye speak? Whit were the challenges an how did ye overcome thaim?

Task A: Usin context clues tae establish meaning

Maist o the Scots in 'Thrawn Janet' micht seem unco at first. Hooivvir, it's easy tae work oot if we use context clues. This means that we luik at the unco wurd in the sentence an then luik at the content aroon it tae help us work oot whit the unco wurd micht mean.

...the guidwives up and claught haud of her, and clawed the coats aff her back, and pu'd her doun the clachan to the water o' Dule, to see if she were a witch or no, soum or droun. The carline skirled till ye could hear her at the Hangin' Shaw, and she focht like ten; there was mony a guid wife bure the mark of her neist day an' mony a lang day after; and just in the hettest o' the collieshangie, wha suld come up (for his sins) but the new minister.

1. R.L Stevenson says that the guidwives 'pu'd her (Janet) doun the clachan'. Whit is a 'clachan'?

- a. A village b. A well c. Stairs

I know that is a clachan is a _____ because _____

2. The writer says that the guidwives were goin tae see if Janet wis a witch or no – they were pittin her in the watter tae 'soum or droun'. Whit does 'soum or droun' mean?

- a. confess or lie b. live or die c. swim or drown

I know that 'soum or droun' means _____ because _____

3. The story also says that the carline (woman) 'skirled'. Think aboot whit wis happenin tae her – whit must 'skirled' mean?

- a. ran b. screamed c. struggled

I know that 'skirled' means _____ because _____

Task B: Using context clues an parts o speech tae establish meanin

When we're trying tae work oot whit an unco wurd means, it can help tae figure oot whit type o wurd it is. Try tae work oot whether the underlined wurds are verbs, nouns or adjectives. This micht help ye tae unnerstaun the meanin o the wurd.

1. Janet 'focht like ten'. Again, think about the situation that she wis in. Whit type o wurd is 'focht' an whit does it mean?

'Focht' is a verb/noun/adjective an it means _____.

2. The minister came up durin the 'hettest (hottest) o' the collieshangie'. Think aboot whit wis goin oan. Whit type o wurd is a 'collieshangie' an whit does it mean?

'Collieshangie' is a verb/noun/adjective an it means

_____.

Extension task: Analysing wurd choice

'Thrawn' means 'twisted'. Why is this a particularly appropriate adjective tae describe Janet? Think aboot aw the different wyes that Janet is thrawn.

'Wandering Willie's tale'

Secondary activities

'Wandering Willie's tale' is part o Walter Scott's novel, 'Redgauntlet'. The tale is told by a man, Willie, who is bletherin tae Darsie Latimer, the main character o the novel. This short story is famous fir its mony references tae the gothic an the supernatural. Ye're goin tae be luikin at how Walter Scott maks this story frichtenin.

Firstly, read the story. Ye can read it oan the National Library of Scotland's [Wee Windaes website](#) .

Task 1: Order o events

Pit the followin events in the richt order:

MacCallum an Hutcheon, two auld servants, hear Robert's whistle an see his image.
Sir John is garred tae believe Steenie efter findin the money in the 'cat's cradle', an shoots the pet monkey efter it attacks him.
Sir John fauts Steenie wi no peyin his rent.
Sir John comes tae tak care o his faither's affairs.
Sir Robert is introduced as a frichtenin, fairce man.
Steenie borrows money fir his rent an taks it tae Redgauntlet Castle
Steenie daursays that his rent an the receipt are wi Sir Robert – in hell.
Steenie gies the rent money tae Sir Robert, wha tries tae write a receipt bit taks no weel an dies.
Steenie meets a stranger on horseback an is taen tae a castle jist like Redgauntlet castle.
Steenie meets folk that he kens are lang deid, including Sir Robert.
Steenie meets Major Weir, a monkey belangin tae Sir Robert.
Steenie is introduced as a peacefu man, weel kenned fir playing the pipes.
Steenie taks his receipt an gies it tae Sir John, wha is angry an disnae believe him.
We're told that Sir Robert disnae like it when his tenants are ower late wi their rent money.

Secondary activities

Task 2: Analysing language

Walter Scott yaises awfy guid wurd choice tae establish character an setting, which helps us tae realise that the story is a supernatural wan. When we discuss wurd choice we talk about the connotations o the wurd – the ideas, images an feelings associated wi the wurd.

Character

1. Find wurds an phrases that mak Sir Robert seem dangerous. Write doon at least wan wurd an its connotations.
2. Find wurds an phrases that mak Sir Robert's pet monkey seem frichtenin. Concentrate on the verbs that are yaised – whit did the monkey dae tae fowk aroon the castle?
3. Read the bit whaur Steenie meets the stranger. Wha dae ye think the stranger might be an why?
4. Luik it the characters in the fause Redgauntlet castle, near the end o the story. Whit details are we given tae let us ken that these characters are ill-deedy?

Setting

1. Find wurds an phrases describing Redgauntlet castle efter Sir Robert's daith. Pick wan o thaim an analyse it by writin doon its connotations. How does it mak the castle seem scary?
2. Read ower the bit o the story whaur Steenie is ridin through the forest accompanied by the stranger. Whit is the forest like? Pick oot some wurds an phrases that describe it.
3. Luik at the bit o the story that's set in the fause Redgauntlet castle. How is that setting made tae seem frichtenin?

Secondary activities

Task 3: The rational or the supernatural?

At the end of the story, Willie admits that there might be rational explanations for some of the events – for example, the monkey might have blown the whistle and not the ghost of Sir Robert. Are there rational explanations for any other events? What do you believe... the rational or the supernatural?

Teaching notes – ‘Thrawn Janet’

English Experiences and Outcomes:

ENG 3-12a / ENG 4-12a, ENG 3-17a/ ENG 4-17a, ENG 3-19a/ENG 4-19a

Literacy Experiences and Outcomes:

LIT 3-13a/ 4-13a, LIT 3-14a / LIT 4-14a, LIT 3-16a/ LIT 4-16a

Scots Language Award Outcomes:

Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating, Outcome 1 (Levels 4 and 5)

clachan	village
soum or droun	swim or drown
skirled	screamed
focht (verb)	fought
colliehangie (noun)	a noisy dispute or disturbance

Teaching notes - ‘Wandering Willie’s tale’

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ENG 3-12a / ENG 4-12a, ENG 3-17a/ ENG 4-17a, ENG 3-19a/ENG 4-19a

Literacy Experiences and Outcomes:

LIT 3-14a / LIT 4-14a, LIT 3-16a/ LIT 4-16a

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Scots Language: Understanding and Communicating, Outcome 1 (Levels 4 and 5)

Task 1: Order of events ANSWERS

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