

Traveller Tales

Scotland is hame tae a vast rowth o tales frae the oral tradition which nou survive in prent. The feck o these wir hairstit frae the Traiveller clans wha wir whiles kent as cairds, tinkers or Scottish Gypsies. The Traivelin fowk in Scotland are said tae be a distinct group frae the Romani peoples tho they share some common aspects in tradition an culture wi some shared wirds in the Cant an Romany languages. Wirds o Cant origin hae been takken tent o as pairt o the Scots vocabulary syne the advent o the earliest Scots dictionaries. Traivelin fowk in the West Hielans wir aince said tae hae spoken a distinctive Gaelic.

The Traivellers in Scotland wir famed as pipers, ballad singers an seanachies (meanin storytellers, originally frae Gaelic). Among the mony braw seanachies whase wirk wis owerset intae prent in modren times are Duncan Williamson, Stanley Robertson, Betsey Whyte an the Stewart faimilies o Perthshire.

Mony o the storiesthat hae come doon throu the Traivellers hae been identified bi folklorists as haein versions in a wheen o nations an amang peoples oot-throu the world.

1. The Scottish Storytelling Centre haes a braw resource bi the name o 'A Handsel For Every Bairn'. It haes Scots sangs, tales an dauncin - mony frae the oral tradition. <http://www.tracscotland.org/resources/gifting-every-child>

Hae a wee read o Rashiecoats in Scots. Can ye find the follaein bits o the story?

Hero/Heroine	
Problem tae owercome	
A journey	
The supernatural	
Lesson learned	
A reward or forfeit	

2. Can ye mak Rashicoats intae a wee play? Ye can scribe the dialogue in either Scots or English for each character, an act it oot for yer class.
3. Can ye mak yer ain version o an auld story, or mibbe scribe a new yin in the style o a seanachie's tale?

Mind an include the follain:

- a journey
 - privations owercome
 - a bogle or anither sic eldritch craitur
 - a lesson learned
 - a reward or forfeit
4. Theresa Breslin an Lari Don are twa modren authors that huv screivit their ain versions o auld tales lik Tam Lin.
Hae a wee keek at Lari Don's wabsteid here: <http://www.laridon.co.uk>

Theresa Breslin's Illustrated Treasury of Scottish Folk and Fairy Tales wis illustrated by Kate Leiper. Here she is demonstrating hou she went aboot bringin these traditional tales tae life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-nsr8Qg2xQ>

Mak an illustratet poster tae advertise yer ain storytellin session. Mind an tell fowk the name o yer tale an the venue an time an aw.

5. Noo tell yer tale tae a wee group o freens. Try no tae leuk at yer words, an mind an yaise yer voice tae mak the story mair frichtsme or exciting.