



## A' Bhean Eudach

- Leugh an sgeulachd *A' Bhean Eudach* — sgeul mu eud, gaol agus murt.
- Tha faclan agus abairtean ùra innte.
- Cuidichidh an tidsear thu gus brìgh na stòiridh a thuigsinn.
- Freagair na ceistean a leanas.

Read the story **A' Bhean Eudach**— a tale of how love and jealousy led to murder. Your teacher will discuss the story with the class and help you understand it. Answer the questions that follow.

On a beautiful autumn's day, Anna and her sister Catriona were on the shore gathering seaweed. After filling their creels they sat on the rocks to rest in the warm sunshine. Anna was so tired she laid her head in her sister's lap and drifted off to sleep. Little did Anna know that she was soon to take her last breaths on that very rock at the hands of her jealous sister...



“S math gu bheil thu fhèin an seo, a Chatrìona,” thuirt Anna nuair a shuidh i air creag còmhla ri a piuthar. “Tha Alasdair cho trang le obair na croite agus tha a’ chlann gam fhàgail cho sgith. Tha thu fhèin an-còmhnaidh ann airson mo chuideachadh agus tha mi taingeil airson sin. Tha sinn cho rèidh, ach... Feumaidh mi bruidhinn riut...” Choimhead Anna sìos, mar gun robh rudeigin a’ cur dragh oirre. Dh’fhàs Catrìona rudeigin an-fhoiseil nuair a chunnaic i seo. Bhon a’ chiad latha a thàinig i a dh’fhuireach còmhla ri teaghlach Anna o chionn bliadhna, bha i air a bhith ann an gaol ri Alasdair. Bha i air na faireachdainnean aice a chleith, ach mar a chaidh na mìosan seachad bha seo air fàs gu math duilich dhi. Bha i draghail a-nis. An dùil an robh ÿos aig Anna?

**tha sinn cho rèidh  
mar gun robh rudeigin  
a chleith  
An dùil an robh ÿos aig Anna?**

we get along so well  
as if something was  
to conceal/hide  
Did Anna know?

“Dè tha ceàrr, Anna?” dh’fhaighnich Catrìona agus a cridhe a’ tòiseachadh air plogartaich na h-uchd.

“A Chatrìona,” fhreagair Anna. “Tha ÿos agad gu bheil gaol mo chridhe agam ort, ach saoilidh mi gum biodh e na b’ fheàrr dhut fhèin nam falbhadh tu.”

“Ach carson a tha thu ag iarraidh orm falbh?” Bha inntinn Catrìona ann an tuaineal. Cha b’ urrainn dhi falbh! Cha b’ urrainn dhi smaoineachadh air latha a chur seachad nach fhaiceadh i Alasdair. Dh’fheumadh i inntinn Anna atharrachadh.

“Chan eil beatha agad an seo, a Chatrìona. Cha bu chòir tè òg mar thu fhèin a bhith air a sparradh le clann agus dleastanasan dhaoine eile.

“Na gabh thusa dragh mu mo dheidhinn-sa, Anna,” fhreagair Catrìona. “Tha mi cho toilichte còmhla riut fhèin agus Alasdair agus tha gaol agam air a’ chloinn. Chan eil àite eile air an t-saoghal a dh’iarrainn a bhith, air m’ onair.”

“A Chatrìona, feumaidh tu falbh. Fàg an t-àite seo agus lorg cuideigin. Dèan beatha agus teaghlach dhut fhèin. Tha thu airidh air. Tha mi ag iarraidh sin dhut. Tha mi airson gum bi na th’ agams’ agadsa. Nach eil thu fhèin ag iarraidh sin?”

Ò! Nam biodh ÿos aice, smaoinich Catrìona. Tha mi ag iarraidh an dearbh rud a th’ agadsa, Anna, bha i an impis èigheachd. A bheil thu cho gòrach nach fhaic thu sin? Ach cha tuirt i guth. Choimhead i air Anna an clàr an aodainn agus gheall i dhi gun dèanadh i mar bu mhiann le a piuthar, ach bha fhios aice glè mhath gur e breug a bha i ag innse.

**gu bheil gaol mo chridhe agam ort  
ann an tuaineal  
air a sparradh  
air m’ onair  
airidh air  
na th’ agams’ agadsa  
an dearbh rud  
an impis  
cha tuirt i guth  
an clàr an aodainn  
mar bu mhiann le a piuthar**

that I love you dearly  
swirling/in a spin  
burdened  
honestly  
deserving of it  
you have what I have  
the exact thing  
about to  
she didn’t say a word  
straight in the eye  
as her sister wanted

1. What does Anna say she is thankful to her sister for?
2. What feelings had Catrìona hidden from Anna?
3. Anna gives many reasons why she wants her sister to leave the island. State three of them.
4. Catrìona tries to change her sister's mind but Anna persists. How do you think Catrìona feels about the prospect of leaving? Explain your answer.
5. Consider the following quote:  
"Tha mi airson gum bi na th' agams' agadsa. Nach eil thu fhèin ag iarraidh sin?"  
How is this ironic?



Bha deòir ann an sùilean Anna a-nis agus chuir i a gàirdeanan timcheall air Catrìona. "Na bi diombach. Bidh mi gad ionndrainn gu mòr," chagair i. Bha a faclan mar sgian ann an cridhe Catrìona.

"Ist a-nis," thuirt Catrìona ann an guth socair, ged a bha a fuil a' goil agus an t-eud na cridhe ga tacadh. "Cuir thusa do cheann sìos nam uchd agus dùin do shùilean airson greiseag. Bidh a h-uile nì ceart gu leòr. Nì mise cinnteach gum bi!"

Leis a' ghrèin bhlàth air a h-aodann agus ceòl na mara na cluasan, cha b'fhada gus an robh Anna na suain; a ceann na laighe gu cofhurtail ann an uchd Catrìona.

**diombach**  
**chagair i**  
**a fuil a' goil**  
**an t-eud na cridhe ga tacadh**  
**nam uchd**  
**ceòl na mara**  
**na suain**

annoyed  
she whispered  
her blood boiling  
the jealousy in heart choking her  
in my lap  
the music (sound) of the sea  
sound asleep

Ruith Catrìona a corrigan tron fhalt fhada dhonn ghleasach aig Anna. Bha e cho donn agus gleasach ris an duileasg fhliuch a bha a' fàs air na creagan mun cuairt orra. B'fheàrr leatha gun robh falt cho brèagha oirrese agus gun robh a craiceann cho mìn agus bàn ri craiceann Anna. Thog i iall de dh'fhalt fada agus leig i leatha tuiteam air a' chreig am measg na feamad. 'S ann an uair sin a thàinig an smuain thuice, mar chlach às an adhar.





Thòisich i air falt Anna fhighhe ris an fheamainn. Nuair a bha i deiseil, bha falt Anna air a dhlùth cheangal ris an fheamainn air a' chreig. Bha i fhathast na suain agus a' coimhead cho sìtheil.

Bha an làn air tionndadh agus bha e a' sìor thighinn na b' fhaig' orra. Dh'fheumadh i teicheadh gun Anna a dhùsgadh. Cha robh dol às dhi ann a-nis. Bha gaol aice air a piuthair mhòir ach aig aon àm...



Nuair a thàinig an lionadh, dhùisg Anna. Cha b' urrainn dhi carachadh! Chunnaic i Catriona a' teicheadh. Ghuidh i oirre a cuideachadh ach cha tilleadh Catriona!



**ris an duileasg  
mun cuairt orra  
iall de dh'fhalt  
mar chlach às an adhar  
thòisich i air falt Anna fhighhe  
air a dhlùth cheangal  
an làn  
bha e sìor thighinn na b' fhaig'  
cha robh dol às dhi ann a-nis**

**aig an aon àm  
an lionadh  
cha b' urrainn dhi carachadh  
ghuidh i oirre**

with the seaweed  
surrounding them  
a strand of hair  
like a bolt from the blue  
she began to plait Anna's hair  
stuck fast/completely attached  
the waves/tide  
it was fast approaching  
there was no way out for her now/  
she had no choice  
at the same time  
the rising tide  
she couldn't budge  
she pleaded with her





Bha Alasdair agus a' chlann troimh-a-chèile nuair nach do thill Anna an oidhche ud. Chaidh e fhèin agus feadhainn eile a-mach tràth an-ath-mhadainn agus lorg iad a corp fuar am measg na feamad.

Bha cridhe Alasdair briste. Dè dhèanadh e gun Anna? Dè dhèanadh an triùir chloinne às aonais màthair ghràdhach agus iad cho òg? Ach, shaoil e gun robh iad fortanach ann an dòigh, gun robh Catrìona air gealltainn fuireach còmhla riutha agus bha sin na chofhurtachd dha.



Chaidh na mìosan seachad agus phòs Alasdair Catrìona. Ach, cha robh gaol aige oirrese mar a bh' aige air Anna. A h-uile latha bha eud agus bròn ann an cridhe Catrìona.

Bhiodh i a' faicinn Anna na brudair agus bu tric a dhùisgeadh i tron oidhche, cinnteach gun robh i ga cluinntinn a' seinn agus ag èigheach a h-ainm.

Cha tàinig e a-steach air Alasdair idir gun robh làmh aig Catrìona ann am bàs Anna.

Ach, dhùisg e aon oidhche agus chaidh crith tro fheòil nuair a chuala e Catrìona a' tàladh an leanaibh a b' òige le òran mu bhàthadh Anna. Thuig e an uair sin dè dha-rìribh a bha air tachairt do dh'Anna bhochd.



Phàigh Catrìona gu saillte airson na rinn i air a piuthar agus chaidh an triùir chloinne fhàgail, aon uair eile, gun 'mhàthair'.



troimh-a-chèile  
air gealltainn  
na brudair  
cha tàinig e a-steach air  
bàs Anna  
crith tro fheòil  
a' tàladh  
phàigh Catrìona gu saillte  
chaidh an trìùir chloinne fhàgail  
aon uair eile

upset  
had promised  
in her dreams  
it didn't occur to him  
Anna's death  
a shiver went through him  
soothing/settling  
Catrìona paid dearly  
the three children were left  
once again

## Ceistean

6. Choose a quotation from the text that shows that Catrìona was jealous of her sister's appearance.
7. Describe how Catrìona killed Anna.
8. What is your opinion of Catrìona's actions?
9. How do we know that Alasdair was devastated by his wife's death? Support your answer with quotation from the text.
10. Around a year after Anna's death, Alasdair married Catrìona. Considering Catrìona appeared to now have everything she always wanted, why then was her heart jilted with jealousy and sadness every day?
11. In your own opinion, why do you think Catrìona would see Anna in her dreams and hear her singing and calling to her in the night?
12. Explain in your own words how Alasdair came to realise Catrìona had murdered Anna?
13. Although it isn't fully explained in the story, what do you imagine happened after Alasdair discovered the awful truth?



## Gnàthasan-cainnt

- Eadar-theangaich na seantansan gu h-ìseal.
- Tha gnàthasan-cainnt annta a nochd anns an sgeulachd *A Bhean Eudach*.

Translate the following sentences. Each contains language that appeared in the story *A' Bhean Eudach*.

1. Bha Iain uabhasach troimh-a-chèile nuair a bhàsaich a chù.
2. Cha tàinig e a-steach orm idir!
3. Thàinig an naidheachd mar chlach às an adhar.
4. Chuir an sgeulachd mun taibhse crith tro m' fheòil!

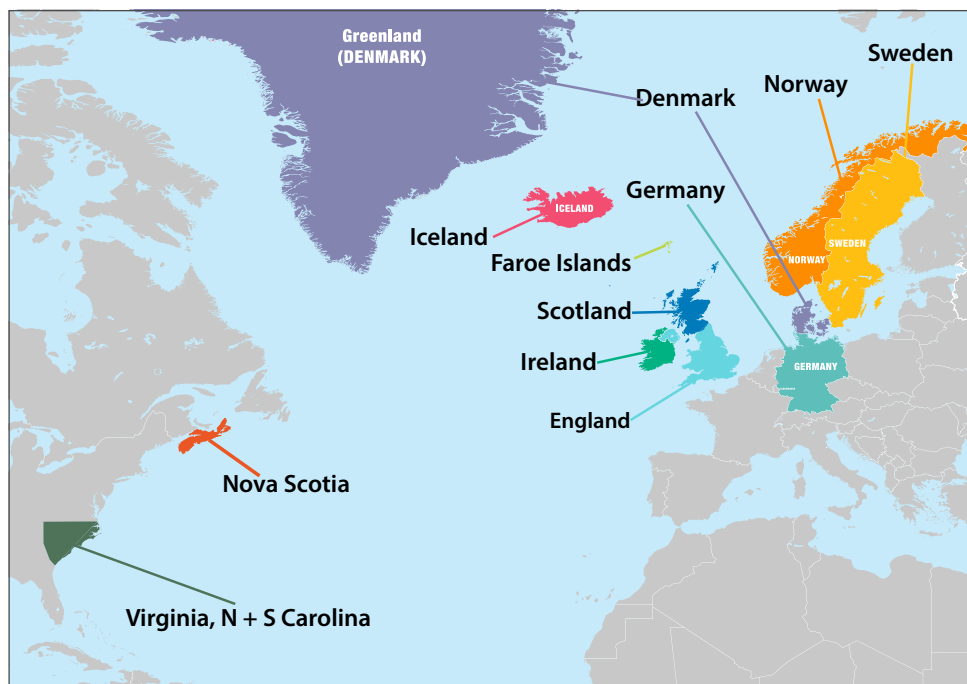


5. Cha tuirt mi guth ri Ruairidh.
6. Tha mi a' faireachdainn gu math diombach à Raonaid.
7. Cha robh gnothaichean buileach mar bu mhiann leam.
8. Cha robh e ag iarraidh falbh dhan chogadh ach cha robh dol às ann.
9. Air m' onair, cha do rinn mi e!

## Beul-aithris

The coloured areas on the map below show where similar versions of **A' Bhean Eudach** have been found to exist under different names. In Scots and English, other names include:

- Binnorie
- Minnorie
- The Twa Sisters
- The Cruel Sister
- The Wind and Rain
- The Bonny Bows of London Town



1. Study the map. Can you make any observations as to why or how the story appears in the places it does?
2. Look on the internet. See if you can find a variation (story or song) of **A' Bhean Eudach** from another culture. Does this version differ to the one you have heard in this unit? If so, how?