



Oidhche fhada ann an Sasainn Nuadh

- Bha Fionnlagh air saor-làithean ann an Sasainn Nuadh nuair a thachair rud àraid dha-riribh dha.
- Leugh an sgeulachd aige.
- Na gabh dragh. Chan fheum thu a h-uile facal a thuigsinn.
- Cuidichidh an tidsear thu gu bhith a' tuigsinn brìgh na sgeulachd.
- Tha faclan agus abairtean ùra anns na bogsaichean gu h-ìosal agus anns an fhaclair aig cùl an aonaid.

When Finlay was on holiday in New England, he experienced something he cannot explain. Read his story. Your teacher will be able to help you with the gist of the story if you are unsure. Some new words and phrases are in the boxes below.



Bha mi ann an Sasainn Nuadh ann an Ameireaga anns a' bhliadhna dà mhìle as t-fhoghar. Bha mi fhèin 's mo bhanacharaid, Catriona, a' siubhal timcheall a' coimhead nan coilltean àlainn dathach a tha ainmeil air feadh an t-saoghail aig an àm sin den bhliadhna. Bha sinn gu bhith a' fuireach ann an leabaidh agus bracaist airson dà oidhche ann an seann taigh fiodha; taighean a tha cumanta anns a' phàirt sin den dùthaich.

Ràinig sinn an taigh iomallach mu shia uairean feasgar le sneachda air laighe. 'S e dithis bhoireannach a bha air an taigh ùr cheannach a bha a' fuireach ann. Bha iad gu math càrdeil rinn agus an dèidh grèim bìdh agus seanachas, chaidh sinn dhan rùm-cadail.

as t-fhoghar
taigh fiodha
iomallach
air ùr cheannach
seanachas

in the autumn
wooden house
isolated/remote
recently bought
conversation/storytelling

Bha an rùm-cadail farsaing le uinneagan mòra agus dà leabaidh ann. 'S e oidhche fhuar le sneachda agus reothadh a bh' ann le gealach shlàn shoilleir a' deàrrsadh a-steach dhan rùm. Thuit sinn nar suain-chadal gu math luath. Dhùisg mi tron oidhche agus 's ann a ghabh mi uabhas an nì a chunnaic mi an oisinn an rùim tarsainn bhuam. Bha dùil agam an toiseach gun robh mi ag aisling oir cha robh mo shùilean a' creidsinn an rud a bha mi a' faicinn.

gealach shlàn
ghabh mi uabhas
tarsainn bhuam
ag aisling

full moon
I was shocked/horrified
across from me
dreaming

Bha dithis ann an gùn-oidhche fada geal agus iad dìreach a' coimhead orm. 'S e balach agus nighean a bh' ann mu aois trì-deug agus aon-deug. Bha iad a' coimhead gu geur orm agus chrath mi mo cheann ach am falbhadh an sealladh a bha mum choinneamh. Choimhead mi air m' uaireadair a bh' air an dreasair bheag rim thaobh airson dèanamh cinnteach nach robh mi fhathast nam leth-chadal. Bha an uair mar a bha dùil agam — mu leth uair an dèidh trì sa mhadainn — agus dh'aithnich mi gun robh mi nam dhùisg gun teagamh. Bha rudeigin mì-nàdarra agus os-nàdarra mum choinneamh. Thug mi sùil an-dràsta 's a-rithist agus an uair sin chuir mi mo cheann fon phlaide le eagal dearg mo bheatha. Chaill mi mo neart agus cha b' urrainn dhomh gluasad no bruidhinn leis an eagal.

chrath
falbhadh an sealladh
leth-chadal
gun teagamh
mì-nàdarra
thug mi sùil
fon phlaide
eagal dearg mo bheatha

shook
the sight would disappear
half asleep
definitely
unnatural
I took a glimpse
under the blanket
scared out of my wits





An ath shùil a thug mi, 's ann a rinn an nighean fiamh-ghàire agus le a corrag, thòisich i a' toirt cuireadh dhomh a dhol thuca agus bha mi cinnteach a-nis gun robh am bàs gam ghairm. Cha mhòr nach deach mi à cochall mo chridhe. Bha mi gun lùths agus air chriath leis an eagal agus mi nis reòite nam staid a' feitheamh...

fiamh-ghàire

a' toirt cuireadh dhomh a dhol thuca

gam ghairm

cha mhòr nach deach mi à cochall mo chridhe

gun lùths

reòite nam staid

a smile

inviting me to go towards them

calling me

I almost died with fright

without strength

frozen state/petrified

Dh'fhairich mi gun robh tìm air stad. Mhothaich mi gun robh an latha a' briseadh. Thug mi sùil agus cha robh càil air thalamh ri fhaicinn. Dè thachair agus càit an deach na manaidhean? Dhùisg mi mo charaid nuair a thill beagan neirt thugam agus cha b' urrainn dhi a chreidsinn an nì a dh'fhiosraich mi. Bhuail e orm gu làidir gun robh na dh'fhiosraich mi co-cheangailte ri eachdraidh an taighe air dòigh air choreigin.

tìm air stad

mhothaich mi

càil air thalamh ri fhaicinn

na manaidhean

an nì a dh'fhiosraich mi

bhuail e orm gu làidir

co-cheangailte ri eachdraidh an taighe

time had stopped

I noticed

nothing on earth to be seen

the ghosts

what I experienced

it strongly struck me

connected to the history of the house

Fhuair sinn a-mach aig àm na bracaist eachdraidh dhuilich an taighe mus do cheannaich iadsan e. Bhàsaich bean an duine agus bha an duine fo throm-inntinn an dèidh sin agus, mu dheireadh, chuir e às dha fhèin an ceann na bliadhna. Nas miosa buileach, an ceann dà bhliadhna, 's ann a chuir an dithis chloinne às dhaibh fhèin cuideachd. Dh'fhaighnich sinn dè an aois a bha iad. Bha am balach trì-deug agus an nighean aon-deug.

Bha sinn fo eagal mòr a' tilleadh an oidhche sin, ach dh'fhairich mi gum feumainn tilleadh oir chan fhaighinn seachad air an eagal a-chaoidh mura tillinn. Roghnaich mi an leabhar a ghabhail an oidhche sin. Leugh mi am Bioball agus gu cinnteach thug e neart dhomh agus dh'fhairich mi an t-eagal a' falbh gu ìre.

Chaidh sinn a chadal, ach dhùisg sinn tron oidhche le fuaim doras a' bualadh. Bha am fuaim shìos an staidhre. Chaidh sinn sìos agus 's e rùm beag a bh'ann le uinneag fosgailte. Dhùin sinn an uinneag agus cha chuala sinn an còrr tuilleadh an oidhche sin. Bha mi taingeil gun do dh'fhuirich mi an dàrna oidhche oir chuidich e mi a' faighinn thairis air an eagal. Ach, bha sinn cho toilichte a' fàgail an taighe an-ath-mhadainn!

fo throm-inntinn
chuir e às dha fhèin
an dithis chloinne

depressed
he committed suicide
the two children



A' gabhail an leabhair [lit. the taking of the book] is a tradition of family worship that many still keep to this day.

A' gabhail an leabhair usually involved the family gathering together, before bedtime, for a reading from the Bible. A prayer would be said for the safe-keeping of the family and a psalm sung in Gaelic.

The author of the story above remembers a time in his home village in Scalpay when you could often hear the sound of psalm singing emanating from many houses being carried out to sea on the still night air.



Geàrr-chunntas agus ceistean

- Thoir sùil air an sgeulachd Oidhche fhada ann an Sasainn Nuadh a-rithist.
- Cuir crìoch air geàrr-chunntas na stòiridh nad fhaclan fhèin.
- Faodaidh gach beàrn seasamh airson còrr is aon fhacal.
- Freagair na ceistean.

Complete the summary of Finlay's story in your own words. Each blank may stand for more than one word. Answer the questions.

In the _____ of 2000, Finlay was staying in an old B&B in _____ with his friend, Catriona. It was a _____ night and _____ through the bedroom window.

_____ the night, Finlay woke and saw _____ in the corner.

They were wearing _____ and were staring at him.

At first he thought he was _____.

He hid under the blankets but every time he peeked out they _____.

He was so scared he lost _____ and couldn't _____.

The next time he looked, the _____ was smiling and beckoning to him. He felt sure that _____.

Finally, at day break _____.

In the morning he told his friend what had happened. She _____.

At breakfast, they discovered there had been three tragic deaths in the house in the past — _____.

Ceistean

1. How did Finlay and his friend feel going back to the house the second night?
2. What was the main reason for doing so?
3. What course of action did he decide on to mentally prepare him for the second night?
4. What effect did this have on his state of mind?
5. Translate the last paragraph of the story (the underlined text).



Bruidhinn



Sgrìobh

Eagal dearg mo bheatha

- Dèanaibh còmhraidh mar chlas mun stòiridh.
- Smaoinich air na ceistean a leanas nur còmhraidh, no freagair iad nad leabhar-sgrìobhaidh.
- Tha taic ann dhut fo gach ceist.

Discuss the story as a class. Consider the following questions in your discussion or answer them in your jotter. Help with answers is given below.

- 1. Dè shaoil thu den stòiridh?**
Shaoil mi gun robh an stòiridh inntinneach/eagalach/gòrach/...
Chòrd/Cha do chòrd i rium.
- 2. Ciamar a bha thu a' faireachdainn a' leughadh an stòiridh?**
Bha mi air mo bheò-ghlacadh/Bha an t-eagal orm/Chuir i gaoir tromham/
Bha m'anail nam uchd/Cha robh buaidh aice orm/Cha robh mi buileach ga creidsinn/Bha mi a' faireachdainn duilich/...
- 3. Ciamar a bha Fionnlagh a' faireachdainn air a' chiad oidhche anns an sgeulachd?**
- 4. Ciamar a bhiodh tu fhèin a' faireachdainn nan tachradh a leithid dhut?**
Bhithinn a' faireachdainn...
- 5. Dè dhèanadh tu nam biodh tusa an àite Fhionnlaigh?**
Bhithinn air sgreuchail/bàsachadh leis an eagal/gàireachdainn/bruidhinn ri na taibhsean/teicheadh/...
- 6. Dè shaoil thu mun chùrsa a ghabh Fionnlagh air an dàrna oidhche?**
Shaoil mi gun robh e neònach/gòrach/do-chreidsinneach/inntinneach/ciallach...
- 7. Am biodh tusa air fuireach oidhche eile san taigh? Carson?**
Bhitheadh/Cha bhitheadh oir...
- 8. An do thachair rud mar seo dhut fhèin a-riamh no do chuideigin as aithne dhut?**
Thachair/Cha do thachair...