

Am Bodach

Anna Frater





Obair 1 Faigh a-mach

- Dè as aithne dhut mu Anna Frater?
- Faigh a-mach beagan mu deidhinn fhèin, a beatha agus a beachd-smuaintean.

What do you know about the poet, Anna Frater? Find out what you can about herself, her life and common themes in her work. This may help you to better understand this poem (and other works of hers). Share what you find out with your class.



Obair 2

- Leugh a' bhàrdachd "Am Bodach".
- Coimhead air na Faclan Feumail.
- Faodaidh tu èisteachd ris a' bhàrdachd air làrach-lìn Cheumannan 5 cuideachd.

Read the poem "Am Bodach". Use the Faclan Feumail to help you. You can also listen to the poem on the *Ceumannan 5* website too.

Am Bodach

Tha do chnàmhan a' fàs lag, a bhodaich.
 agus do ghuth a' fàs fann
 leis an tùchadh,
 ged nach eil thu a' dèanamh
 uimhir de chòmhradh 's a chleachd thu.
 Cridhe fallain unnad fhathast,
 's mac-meanmna ag obair gun sguir ...
 ciamar a rèisd a shaoileadh tu
 gum faigheadh tu altram
 agus paidhir sgamhanan ùr
 nuair a tha feadhainn nas òige 's nas làidire
 gan iarraidh dhaibh fhèin
 's ag èigheachd air an son
 ann an guthan àrd?

Thu nad laighe air do cheangal
 ris an inneal
 a chumas anail
 na do bhroilleach bhochd;
 aodainn choimhich aig do leabaidh
 a' feitheamh gus am bàsaich d' innchinn
 's gum faod iad d' àite a thoirt seachad
 do thruaghan eile.

Na dùin do shùilean fhathast
 cuir spàirn ort fhèin an aghaidh sàmhachd a' bhàis
 's thig d' oghaichean gad dhìon.

Anna Frater

Faclan Feumail

cnàmhan	bones
lag	weak
guth	voice
fann	faint
an tùchadh	hoarseness
uimhir de chòmhradh	as much conversation
mac-meanmna	imagination
ciamar a rèisd	how therefore
altram	care, nurture
sgamhanan	lungs
air do cheangal	connected to (you)
inneal	machine
anail	breath
aodainn choimhich	strange faces
bàsaich	die
innchinn	brain
a' toirt seachad	give away
truaghan	poor soul
spàirn	struggle
a' bhàis	of death
oghaichean	heirs, grandchildren
dìon	protect



Obair 3

- Thoir sùil air a' bhàrdachd a-rithist.
- Mar bhuidheann, beachdaichibh air na ceistean.
- An uair sin bidh cothrom agaibh beachdachadh orra mar chlas.

Read through the poem again. Consider and discuss the following in a group. You should then discuss your thoughts as a class:

- Describe the scene portrayed in this poem.
- Making references to the text, show how effectively you think the poet describes the old man's situation.
- What emotion does the scene arouse?
- In what way does the mood of the last stanza differ from the rest of the poem?



Obair 4

- Ann am buidheann, coimheadaibh a-rithist air a' bhàrdachd.
- Tha am bodach air a chleachdadh mar shamhla.
- Saoil dè dh' fhaodadh e a bhith a' samhlachadh?

In a group, look more closely at the poem. The old man in the poem is used as a symbol, not for a person but for something else close to the poet's heart. What do you think this might be? Share your group's thoughts with the rest of your class.



Obair 5 Ceistean

- Freagair na ceistean.
- Bu chòir dhut fianais a thoirt bhon teacsa airson do fhreagairtean a dhaingneachadh, mas urrainn dhut.

Answer the questions. You should support your answers with reference to the text where possible/ appropriate.

1. The poem mentions various aspects of the old man's body. Consider each of these. What do you think each of them might symbolise, with regards to Gaelic?
 - bones
 - voice
 - heart
 - imagination
 - lungs
2. What do you think Frater might be alluding to when she says: "ged nach eil thu a' dèanamh uimhir de chòmhradh 's a chleachd thu."?
3. The old man is competing with younger and stronger folk for a new set of lungs.
 - a. Who might the younger and stronger folk represent or symbolise?
 - b. How do you feel about this?
4.
 - a. Can you suggest what the ventilator symbolises?
 - b. Who might the "aodainn choimhich" be?
 - c. What opinion do you think the poet has of them?
5. Who do you consider the "oghaichean" to be?
6. The poet uses contrasting images in the poem. Identify some of them and comment on the effect of this technique.
7. How appropriate do you think the old man is as a symbol for Gaelic? Remember that the poem was published in 1995.
8. Comment on the final stanza of the poem. What kind of mood does the poet end on? Positive? Hopeful? or otherwise? How do you think Frater envisages the future of Gaelic?
9. Consider the poem as a whole. What do you think the poet's purpose was in writing it?
10. As a Gaelic learner, and as one of the *oghaichean* referred to in the poem, how do you feel after reading it? Did it make you feel sad, angry, indifferent or otherwise?
11. Did you enjoy the poem? Why?





Bruidhinn



Smaoineach

Obair 6 Cothrom smaoinichaidh, cothrom bruidhinn

- Obraich ann am buidheann/mar chlas.
- Coimhead air an fhiosrachadh gu h-iseal.
- Dè tha thu fhèin a' saòilsinn dheth?

Work in a group or as a class. Consider the information below. What are your thoughts on this issue?

Tha mu thimcheall air 7000 cànan anns an t-saoghal an-diugh ach thathar a' smaoinichadh gu bheil aonan dhiubh sin a' bàsachadh gach cola-deug.

Bidh eòlaichean-cànain a' smaoinichadh gum faod còrr is leth de chànain an t-saoghail a dhol à bith mus tig deireadh na linn seo leis mar a tha coimhearsnachdan a' tionndadh gu mòr-chànain mar Beurla, Spàinntis agus Mandarin.

Dè an call a tha seo a' dèanamh?

Language experts predict that almost half of the nearly 7000 languages spoken in the world today could be extinct by the end of this century. It is estimated that they are disappearing at the rate of about one every fortnight as communities abandon their native tongues in favour of languages like English, Spanish and Mandarin. What will be the resulting repercussions of this loss?



Sgrìobh

Obair Adhartach

- A bheil thu ag aontachadh leis a' bheachd-smuain gu h-iseal?
- Sgrìobh aiste bheachdail air a' chuspair.
- Feuch gun sgrìobh thu mu 250 facal.
- Coimhead air na duilleagan 'Faclan feumail airson aiste bheachdail'.

Write a discursive essay on the statement below. You should try to write around 250 words. Look at the 'Faclan feumail airson aiste bheachdail' pages for help with this.

Nuair a tha sinn a' call cànan, tha sinn a' call eòlas, cultar agus dòigh air coimhead air an t-saoghal.