

# Ùrnaigh na Ban-Tigrich

*Catrìona NicGumaraid*





## Obair 1 Faigh a-mach

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

What do you know about the poet, Catriona Montgomery? 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 Rannsachadh

- Bhàsaich còrr is millean neach nuair a bha gort uabhasach ann an Etiòpia anns na h-ochdadan.
- Airson a' bhàrdachd "Ùrnaigh na Ban-Tigrich" a chur ann an co-theacs, faigh a-mach beagan mu dheidhinn na bha a' dol air adhart ann an Tigre aig an àm sin.

It is estimated that the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s claimed the lives of more than one million people and was responsible for causing the destitution of millions. To set the poem in context, try to find out a little about the situation in Tigray, Ethiopia around this time. Your teacher may be able to provide you with some information/links to help you.



## Obair 3

- Leugh a' bhàrdachd "Ùrnaigh na Ban-Tigrich".
- Coimhead air na Faclan Feumail.
- Faodaidh tu èisteachd ris a' bhàrdachd air làrach-lìn Cheumannan 5 cuideachd.
- Bruidhinnibh ri chèile mar chlas mu na tha a' tachairt anns a' bhàrdachd.



Read the poem "Ùrnaigh na Ban-Tigrich". Use the Faclan Feumail to help you. You can also listen to the poem on the [Ceumannan 5](#) website. Discuss the poem with your class.



## Ùrnaigh na Ban-Tigrich

Athair 's mo Dhia, dèan thus' ar dìon,  
mi fhìn 's mo naoidhean beagan mhìos;  
gur gann an t-uisg' 's gur gann an sìol —  
sinn acrach, creuchdach, brùite, piant'.

Adhlaicte an-diugh mo luaidh,  
's nach aithnich mise uaigh seach uaigh:  
measg mhiltean 'n Tigre tha e na shuain —  
coimhead thusa, Thighearna, oirnn le truas.

Sinn fannachadh le teas na grèin'  
nuair dh'èireas i an àird san speur;  
sinn ga ar meileachadh le fuachd  
meadhan-oidhch', 's ar sgeadachadh cho truagh.

An tig, a Thighearna, uisge trom  
a bheir a-mach toradh bhon talamh lom?  
Cùm rium mo chreideamh annad fhèin,  
na canar, 'An do thrèig thu mi, mo Dhia?'

Cheus riaghaltas eile Crìosd air crann,  
's tha luchd-brèig gar biathadh 's sinn gu gann.  
Dòirt sìos do mhathas caomh, a Dhè —  
na leig le olc buannachadh gu lèir.

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## Faclan

<b>ùrnaigh</b>	prayer
<b>Ban-Tigreach</b>	Tigrean woman
<b>mo Dhia</b>	my God
<b>dìon</b>	protect
<b>naoidhean</b>	infant, newborn
<b>gann</b>	scarce
<b>sìol</b>	seed
<b>acrach</b>	hungry
<b>creuchdach</b>	hurting
<b>brùite</b>	broken, bruised, oppressed
<b>piant'</b>	pained, tormented, sore

<b>adhlaicte</b>	buried
<b>mo luaidh</b>	my beloved
<b>aithnich</b>	recognise
<b>uaigh seach uaigh</b>	one grave from another
<b>measg mhiltean</b>	amongst the thousands
<b>na shuain</b>	sleeping
<b>Thighearna</b>	Lord
<b>truas</b>	pity

<b>fannachadh</b>	fainting/weakened
<b>teas na grèin'</b>	heat of the sun
<b>speur</b>	heavens/sky
<b>gar meileachadh</b>	numbed
<b>sgeadachadh</b>	dressed
<b>truagh</b>	poor

<b>toradh</b>	crops
<b>talamh lom</b>	bare ground
<b>mo chreideamh</b>	my faith/belief
<b>An do thrèig thu mi</b>	Have you forsaken me

<b>cheus</b>	crucified
<b>riaghaltas eile</b>	another government
<b>Crìosd</b>	Christ
<b>crann</b>	cross
<b>luchd-brèig</b>	liars
<b>gar biathadh</b>	feeding us
<b>gu gann</b>	scarcely, left wanting
<b>dòirt</b>	pour
<b>mathas</b>	goodness
<b>caomh</b>	kind
<b>a Dhè</b>	God! (vocative)
<b>na leig</b>	don't let
<b>olc</b>	evil



## Obair 4 Ceistean

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

Answer the following questions. You should support your answers where possible with quotations or reference to the text.

1. How does the woman describe her situation in the first verse?
2. In the second verse, what clue leads us to surmise that this is a large scale humanitarian disaster, in which many have died?
3. What does the poem tell us about the climate in Tigray? What effect does it have on the people?
4. **“s tha luchd-brèig gar biathadh ‘s sinn gu gann.”**
  - a. What do you think the poet is alluding to in this line?
  - b. How is this line ironic?
5. What do the last two lines of stanza 4 tell us? Do you find this surprising? Why?
6. **“Dòirt sìos do mhathas caomh, a Dhè —”**  
Why do you think the poet has chosen to use the word *dòirt*? Comment on its significance.
7. Read the poem out loud or listen to it being read or sung. What can you say about it's
  - a. rhythm
  - b. rhyme scheme.
8. Comment on the image of the Crucifixion. How significant and effective is this image as a parallel to the woman's situation?
9. Consider the poem as a whole. The Tigrean woman prays for deliverance from her suffering. Why is she suffering? Give as many reasons as you can.







## Obair 5

- Lìon na beàrnan anns a' chlàr.
- Dèan taghadh bho na bogsaichean agus builgeanan-cainnt gu h-iseal.

Fill the blanks in the grid below — either with a suitable quotation or aspect of the poem. Choose from the speech bubbles and boxes below.

“ar sgeadachadh cho truagh”

“s gur gann an sìol”  
“sinn acrach”

prayer

drought

oppression

“Sinn fannachadh”  
“creuchdach, brùite,  
piant”

“Adhlaicte an-diugh mo luaidh”

genocide/large scale death

“Cheus riaghaltas eile  
Crìosd air crann,”

faith

Aspect	Evidence from the text
	“s nach aithnich mise uaigh seach uaigh: measg mhiltean 'n Tigre tha e na shuain —”
famine	
	“Athair 's mo Dhia” “An tig, a Thighearna, uisge trom”
grief	
	“gur gann an t-uisg” “talamh lom”
poverty	
	“s tha luchd-brèig gar biathadh 's sinn gu gann.”
suffering	
	na canar, ‘An do thrèig thu mi, mo Dhia?’
crucifixion	



Smaoinich



Bruidhinn



Bruidhinn

## Obair 6 Tuilleadh cheistean

1. It would be fair to say that Ùrnaigh na Bàna-Tigrich is a particularly emotive piece. How did it make you feel? Try to give examples from the text of any words/images/poetic techniques that particularly affected you.
2. Although this poem was written about the disaster in Tigray, its themes and message could apply to many a situation since. Are there any humanitarian disasters you can think of with which you might draw a parallel? Discuss this with your class.

## Obair 7 Cothrom smaoinich, cothrom deasbaid

- Obraich ann am buidheann.
- Coimhead air an fhiosrachadh gu h-iseal.
- Dè tha thu fhèin a' saoilinn den bheachd seo? A bheil thu ag aontachadh? Carson?
- Coimhead air na duilleagan 'Faclan feumail airson aiste bheachdail'.

Consider the information and the statement below. What are your thoughts on this issue? Do you agree with the statement? Why? You may discuss this with reference to issues in the third world or in the UK. Look at the 'Faclan feumail airson aiste bheachdail' pages for help with this.

Thathar ag ràdh gu bheil suas ri 795 millean neach air an t-saoghal aig nach eil biadh gu leòr a chumas falainn iad.

*Anns an t-saoghal a th' ann, chan eil leisgeul ann airson acras.*



Sgrìobh

## Obair Adhartach

- Sgrìobh aiste bheachdail air a' chuspair a bha sibh a' deasbad gu h-àrd.
- Bu chòir dhut a bhith comasach air mu 250 facal a sgrìobhadh.
- Coimhead air na duilleagan 'Faclan feumail airson aiste bheachdail'.

Write a discursive essay of around 250 words on the above topic you discussed in **Obair 7**. You should try to write around 250 words. Look at the 'Faclan feumail airson aiste bheachdail' pages for help with this.