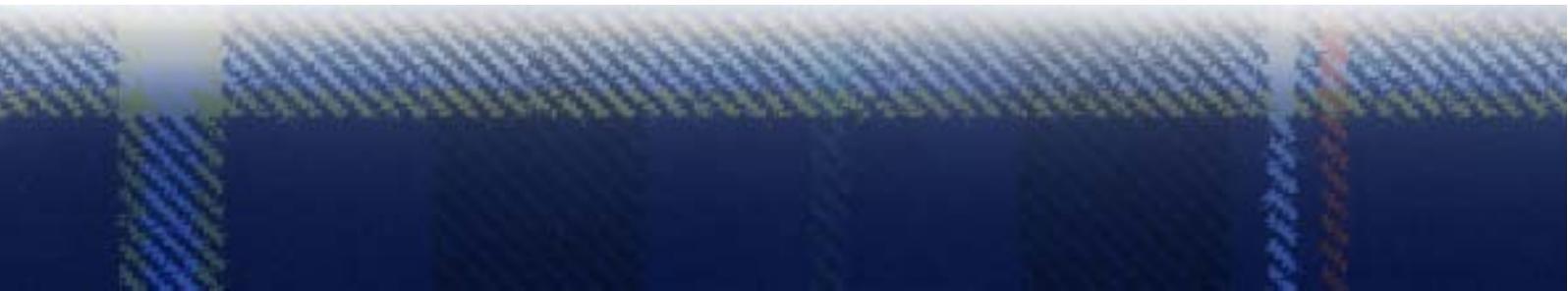
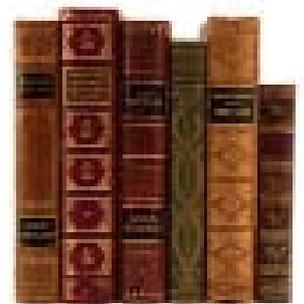


Fair Faa Ye Tae Tha Leid

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO ULSTER-SCOTS
LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE 3**



THE SPAE WIFE

by

JAMES ORR



LEEZIE McMINN AND THE LAIRD O'GLENCRAGIE

by

SAMUEL TURNER

Pre-Reading Activities



Work with a partner. Half the class should work on number 1, the others on 2.

- 1. Research superstitions and beliefs about second sight in your own community and around the world. Use an Internet Search Engine to help you, if necessary.**

Find out how many of your classmates consult horoscopes and why this is popular. What other methods of foretelling the future are you aware of?

What is the attitude of the Church to such practices? Try to discover if different denominations have different views.

Prepare and deliver a brief presentation on your findings, making sure you include your own opinion.

Pre-Reading Activities

2. **Research** the practice of Arranged Marriage around the globe. In what societies is it still common? How are arrangements made—try to find specific examples? For example, how does the Matchmaker work in Orthodox Jewish communities?

Find out the opinions of your classmates about arranged marriages. If the idea is unpopular, try to find the reasons for this.

Can you think of any famous stories that deal with arranged marriages? Do they present a positive or a negative view?

What opinions do your own parents have on this subject?

Prepare and deliver a brief presentation on your findings, making sure you include your own opinion.



TWO POEMS



The Laird O' Glenraigie and *Leezie McMinn* were both written by Samuel Turner, a Co. Antrim school teacher and poet who lived in the nineteenth century.

Leezie McMinn is about a “spae-wife”, a famous local fortune teller, while “*The Laird*” is about the failure of an attempt to arrange a marriage between a wealthy elderly man and a pretty young girl.

These two poems have been set to music by the Ulster-Scots folk group Ailsa. Listen to the songs and follow the verses in your written copies. Glossaries will be provided later for the more difficult words and expressions.

Group Work

With your partner move into a group of six. The others in the group should have covered the same topic as you did for your Presentation. If you dealt with Second Sight, you will be studying *Leezie McMinn*. Those who researched Arranged Marriages will look at *The Laird*.



In your group and without the help of the glossary, try to work out the meanings of the words below.

nouns	verbs	pronouns	adjectives
loof	birls	ye	bit
cleedin'	hecht	wha	ilk
gowd	hae	ane	fause
e'e	rype		far-kent
cantraips	keek		feckless



You have been given two sets of cards, one with the Ulster-Scots word, the other with its English translation. Try to match them accurately in pairs. Your teacher will check your work once it's complete.

Now re-read the poem using the glossary. Explain briefly why Leezie has so many visitors.

Work in Groups of Four

1. Re-read verse three. What reason had the young women for visiting Leezie. Improvise and act out what happened when they went to see her. Use the poem to help you work out what they would have done and said, and how Leezie responded. Try to use some of the Ulster- Scots words and expressions from the text.

or

2. Re-read verse five. Improvise and act out the scene in which someone goes to Leezie for information about a robbery at his home. Try to include Ulster-Scots words and phrases from the poem. Then work out the script of a further scene in which the caller tries to persuade the police to act on Leezie's information.



Complete one of the following assignments. Try to use Ulster-Scots words and expressions. Look over the other work you have done on Ulster-Scots texts first - you'll find more examples of words and verb forms there.

1. Imagine you are one of the girls who visited Leezie to ask about your marriage prospects. Write the diary entry you made on the night of your visit. Use **Word**.
2. Write an article about Leezie for a local newspaper - perhaps a review of her life following her death. Your headline could be: *Sair She'll be Missed*. Use **Word**.

For Display

In pairs create a crossword to illustrate some of the new Ulster-Scots vocabulary you have learned from this poem. Try to make your clues "cryptic", not just English translations of Ulster-Scots words.

Swap with another pair, complete the crosswords, then display them.

Can you find an Internet site that will create a crossword?



The Spae Wife



Orr's Memorial

Orr was born in 1770 and lived in the village of Ballycarry in County Antrim. He was taught to weave by his father.

Ailsa set Leezie McMinn to music but The Spae Wife was also originally written to be sung to a tune called “Come under my Plaidy”. Why not try singing the words of The Spae Wife to the tune of Leezie McMinn?



Opinions

Explain in your own words what Orr's view about fortune-telling is.

What is **YOUR** opinion?

Write an argumentative essay giving your views..

The Laird O' Glencraigie

In your group and without the help of the glossary, try to work out the meanings of the words below.

nouns	verbs	adjectives	adverbs
leddy	Haena ye	haverin'	sae
yad	stoiterin'	sma'	doon
limmer	lap	heich	sair
shouther	minded	bleer-e'ed	
toddy	gaed	tappitless	



You have been given two sets of cards, one with the Ulster-Scots word, the other with its English translation. Try to match them accurately in pairs. Your teacher will check your work once it's complete.

Now re-read the poem using the glossary. Briefly explain why Kate runs off and why her parents are angry.



Work in Pairs

1. Re-read verse four. Improvise and act out the conversation between Kate and Willie when she tells him about the Laird's visit. Use the poem's descriptions to help you work out what they would have said. Try to include Ulster-Scots words and phrases from the poem.

or

2. Re-read verse four. Improvise and act out the conversation between Mither and Dad after the Laird has gone home. Use the poem's descriptions to help you work out what they would have said. Try to include Ulster-Scots words and phrases from the poem.

Complete one of the following assignments. Try to use Ulster-Scots words and expressions. Look over the other work you have done on Ulster-Scots texts first - you'll find more examples of words and verb forms there.



1. Imagine you are the Laird. Write the diary entry he would have made when he woke up on the day after his visit to Kate. Use Word.
2. Write an article about the Laird's failed proposal for the gossip column of a local newspaper. Your headline could be:
Local Lass Can Ne'er Be Laird's Dearie. Use Word.

For Display

In pairs create a crossword to illustrate some of the new Ulster-Scots vocabulary you have learned from this poem. Try to make your clues "cryptic", not just English translations of Ulster-Scots words.

Swap with another pair, complete the crosswords, then display them.

Can you find an Internet site that will create a crossword?



Whole class Discussion



Finally, re-read both poems while listening to the sung versions. Then discuss

- How Turner makes Leezie seem both friendly yet eerie at the same time.
- How *The Laird* is both a humorous and a cruel poem
- Why both poems work so well as songs.

