

BURNS' VOICES



The Itchy Coo Scots Competition 2008

- in association with the Centre for Robert Burns' Studies

Writing in the Scots Language for P6 - S2

Itchy Coo and Glasgow University's Centre for Robert Burns' Studies invite P6 - S2 classes to enter our Robert Burns Competition.

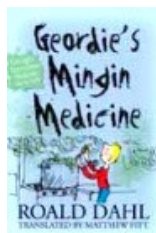
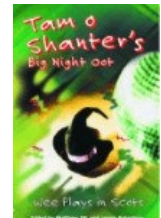
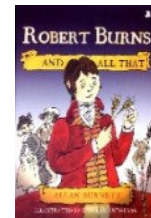
Burns' Voices

Scotland's national poet Robert Burns was a very skilful writer. He could look at a person or a creature and write down exactly what that character was thinking and feeling.

The Competition

The Prizes

The Centre for Robert Burns' Studies is offering a set of **Robert Burns and All That** by ALLAN BURNETT for the winner's class and a selection of Itchy Coo books for the runners-up.



Prize winners will be invited to a special award ceremony in Glasgow in January 2009.

Dates to Remember

Competition Opens: 15 September 2008

Closing Date for entries: 31 October 2008

Winners announced: 30 November 2008

Award ceremony in Glasgow: 16 January 2009

Burns' Voices

How to take part

Step ONE

Choose a creature or a character from a poem by Robert Burns whom you think would be an interesting subject to write about, eg

the moose from **Tae A Moose**
Mrs Wastle from **Willie Wastle**

Meg, Tam's horse from **Tam o Shanter**
Burns' dentist from **Address to the Toothache**

Read some other poems by Burns and look for characters who would be good to write about. (You'll find a list and some examples to help you on the following pages.)

Step TWO

Discuss what you think the character might be feeling or thinking. Make notes.

Step THREE

Write a monologue in **Scots** from the point of view of this creature or character.

How to Enter

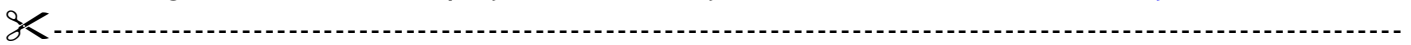
Please cut out and attach the entry form below to your class entry. Remember to give a current e-mail address as entries will only be acknowledged by e-mail. Also winners will be notified by e-mail.

Entries should be on one side of A4. One entry per class. Teachers should choose the best entry from their class.

If you have any queries, please e-mail: competition@itchy-cool.com

When posting, please remember to use the correct postage for the size and weight of a large envelope.

Winning entries will be displayed on the Itchy Coo sister website: www.itchy-cool.com



Burns' Voices Competition ENTRY FORM



Teacher's Name: _____ Pupil's Name: _____ Class _____

School Name and Address: _____

_____ Post Code _____

Contact Phone Number (including area code) _____

Contact e-mail Address: _____

Title of the monologue eg *The Moose or Mrs Wastle* _____

Feedback/comments:

Send 1 (one) entry per class on a single A4 size sheet of paper to:

BURNS' VOICES Competition, 3 Burnside, Coulter, BIGGAR, ML12 6PZ



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The Itchy Coo Competition 2008

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Examples to get you started

The Moose

Hi. Ah'm cawed Moose. Markie Moose. Ah wis in ma field yesterday efternoon. Ye'll never believe whit happened. Ah wis sittin in ma wee nest mindin ma ain business. Ah wis jist awa tae pit the kettle on and mak masel a cup o tea when CRASH! this muckle great daud o metal smashes through ma wee hoose o straw and twigs. Ah wis feart, ah can tell ye. Ah thocht the sky wis fawin in on ma heid.

But it wisnae the sky. Dae ye ken whit it wis? It wis a giant. Yin o thae muckle hackit crabbit glaikit cratur that are ayewis smashin up moose hooses and burnin doon widds and daein awfie things tae nature. Weel, it wis yin o them. But this yin wisnae hackit or crabbit. He didnae even look aw that glaikit. This muckle big giant wis different frae aw the rest...

Mrs Wastle

Folk are aye tellin ma husband that he has an ugly wife. Wid ye credit that? Ah mean, whit a cheek. They caw me hackit. Weel, ah'm Mrs Euphemia Wastle and ah'm here tae tell you that if ah'm hackit, then ma husband is a hunner times worse.

Dae ye want tae hear aboot his soacks? Weel, he wears the same pair for ten weeks thegither and then when he taks them aff, they staun up on their ain. Ah'm sure they could walk aboot the room and run awa by theirsels. Ah ken ah want tae.

And Willie (that's whit he's cawed) Willie Wastle is the grippiest maist miserly man on the planet. He'll no easily pairt wi a penny and greets when he has tae. It's been twinty lang year since that auld eejit bocht me...

List of possible Burns' characters

Nannie, the witch in **Tam o Shanter**

The Lass in the kirk or the Louse frae **Tae a Louse**

The Haggis or someone about to eat a haggis in **Address tae a Haggis**

Hughoc, Mailie the sheep's shepherd, frae **The Death and Dying Words o Poor Mailie**

A Lass or Lad who doesn't want to get out of bed frae **Up in the Mornin's No for Me**

Someone walking across or near by the two bridges talking to each other in the poem **The Twa Brigs**

One of the owners of the two dogs in **The Twa Dugs**

A bystander at the corner of the town observing **The Deil's Awa Wi The Exciseman**

Some Tips for Writing in Scots

1. Think about the Scots words for parts of the body, clothes, birds and animals, landscape and the weather. Write them down:

heid, lug, oxter, jaiket, bunnet, breeks, craw, houlet, dug, brae, glen, dreich

2. Use these and other Scots words to write a short description of yourself, a friend, a family member or a famous person.

Ah'm cawed Craig. Ah hae broon hair. Ah bide on a brae. There's aye craws ootside ma windae...

3. Don't put apostrophes all over the place (except when you really have to). Use greetin, mingin, daein, lowpin, bletherin, birlin, o, wi, oor, flooer, ower, etc

4. Once you've had a practice at writing in Scots, write a monologue from the point of view of a character from or based on a Burns' poem.