

connect

to Scots Language through The Language of Langholm

**MAKING
CONNECTIONS**

Shivlock swallowed the bagpipes
des and the blether
Wunds wi warlds to swing
stuck in its throat

All young people work in school with Scots resources. They might be listening to poems, songs and stories or reading and writing in Scots.

This increase in Scottish texts was first suggested in the National Guidelines on English teaching. Scots is very often the young person's home language, the language they have learned to speak confidently and naturally since birth.

English is still the main language of education. As an international language, understood by a when o' folk throughout the world, our young people need to learn how to communicate fluently in it. In fact many are already bilingual, speaking Scots and English.

It has long been recognised that Gaelic and Scots, equally important languages in this country, must not be neglected. For the non-Scots speaking young person as well as native-speaking Scots, the opportunity to become familiar with and creative in the Scots language will allow greater access to our rich body of Scottish literature as well as the culture and soul of the country they are creating in now.

Scots is a European language like French or German and has its own history of development. Around 450AD the language of the Angles and Saxons arrived in Britain. By the 11th century Anglican had become firmly established in the North of England and the East of Scotland as far as Lothian.

Scotland then had Gaelic (brought from Ireland) in the Highlands, Islands and much of Galloway, as well as this developing language called Inglis.

The many visitors to Scotland (friendly and unfriendly) also left words which were mixed with 'Inglis, Latin, French, Dutch and Scandinavian.

When a Scot says 'efter' it's not bad English for 'after'. The same word 'efter' is used in Denmark as well as hoose, moose, coo and aff. Fash as in 'dinna fash yerself' is the same in French. 'Tae redd up the hoose' and 'pit the yowes in the bucht' are guid Scots expressions (redd and bucht are from Dutch words for 'tidy' and 'barn'.

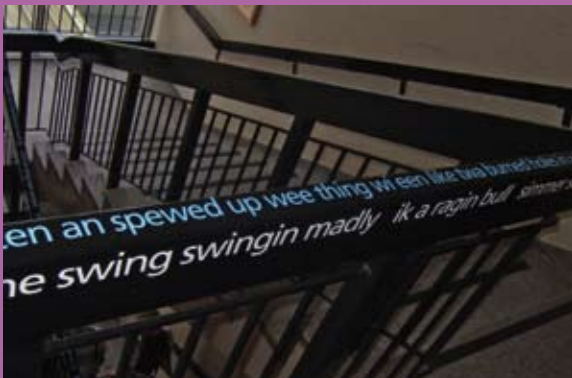
In the end, by the early 16th century our language was called Scots and was a national language used in all circumstances.

But several things happened to make people want to learn English. The Bible was translated into English not Scots. The Union of the Crowns in 1603 meant royalty and rich people started going to London.

The Union of Parliaments in 1707 meant all the official documents started to come out in English instead of Scots. However, the vast majority o' fowk continued to speak Scots and to this day many still do – some broadly, others jist a wee bit.

Now, in the same way that French pupils learn French language and literature, German pupils study German language and literature, pupils in Scottish schools are learning about Scottish literature and language as well as English and other European languages.

Young People



Writer

Context for this resource

Liz Niven, poet and author was commissioned to work with young people at Langholm Academy in early 2007 as part of Arts Across the Curriculum. Arts Across the Curriculum set out to explore the contribution that the arts can make to young people's learning and motivation in school.

It was funded by the Scottish Executive's Future Learning and Teaching programme through the Scottish Arts Council.

Liz was asked to work with young people to compile text that reflected past and contemporary language used in Langholm with fragments from world-famous Langholm born poet, Hugh MacDiarmid.

Creative writing workshops with S2 produced work by individuals and groups that contributed to a physical legacy - a text installation in the school stairwells. The final text is a compilation of words from new poems that the second year class were writing as well as poetic fragments from expupil, Hugh MacDiarmid.

Liz is a former teacher and Scots Language Development Officer for Dumfries and Galloway Council. She has co-written award-winning resources for Scots language in Education including *The Kist/A Chiste*, Channel 4's *Haud Yer Tongue Teachers'* booklet and *Turnstones*, An English course for Scotland, publisher Hodder & Stoughton.

Her poetry collections include *Stravaigin* and *Burning Whins* publisher Luath Press Ltd.

Writer

2nd Year At Langholm Academy: Well Versed Project



The following summarises the general approach taken with S2.

- Initial discussion and introduction to the Project. Establishing that text installed in stairwells.
- Introduction to Scots language. Differentiating it from Gaelic. Language Tree History and Observations (H/O)
- H/O on history of Scots
- Young people introduced to dialect map of Scotland
- Listened and read poems in various dialects including Shetlandic and Glaswegian to demonstrate just how varied Scots can be. Authors included: Tom Leonard, Sheena Blackhall, Harry Hagan, Liz Niven, Hugh MacDiarmid
- Introduced Scots dictionaries. Discussed the fact that the language, unlike English, is not standardised. The dictionaries provide various spelling possibilities. Introduced the notion that although choices are possible it's not complete anarchy. The headword (first spelling version) is likely to be the most popular spelling version.
- Young people were stimulated to write a poem in as light or dense a version of Scots as they wished. Some chose a few Scots words, others employed many. What was most important was that no one felt pressured to use either language. English and Scots sat together in the writing. Later, if they wished, they could increase the quantity of Scots in their poems with the support of vocabulary sheets.

Teacher

- Poetry of place: prompt below given to class

Imagine you are in a place you know well.

What season is it? Write down a line which will tell the reader. ie sna on the roof o hooses? Nae leaves on branches?

What time of day is it?

What can you see? Smell? Touch? What can you feel in your hands? Grass? What can you hear? Traffic or animal sounds?

If you're with someone, write down something visual about that person. Their eyes, colour of their jumper, blue as the sky.

Feelings? How do you feel? Contented? Free from worry? Or are you at this place to grieve? To think about something important? Try and add this to your poem.

- Young people read out their work and a discussion ensued about editing and crafting poetry. Given that this particular project will require extracts from poems rather than complete poems, strengthening imagery was emphasised for maximum impact.

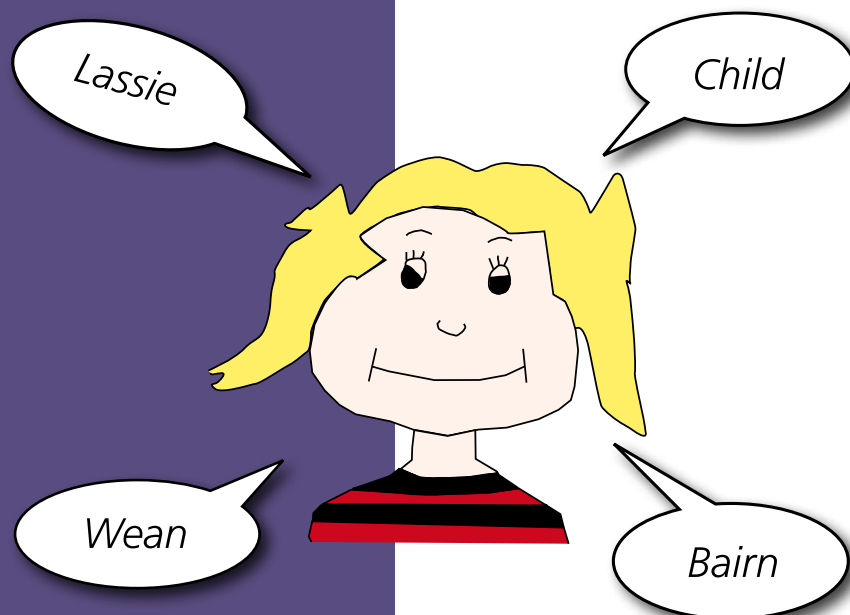
- During class, without the writer, the class teacher supported the young people to increase the amount of Scots vocabulary in their work, if they requested it. Word lists and dictionaries were used.
- For the final visit from the writer - all poems were given to the writer for selection of fragments. Young people agreed that this was their preferred method and the writer brought a paper layout of selected work for discussion and approval. Extracts from MacDiarmid's poetry were also selected for the bannister.

Languages

Whit Are They?

There's hunners o languages in the world.

Scotland has many as weel, but oor main languages are Scots, Gaelic an English. An there is many different dialects o' Scots



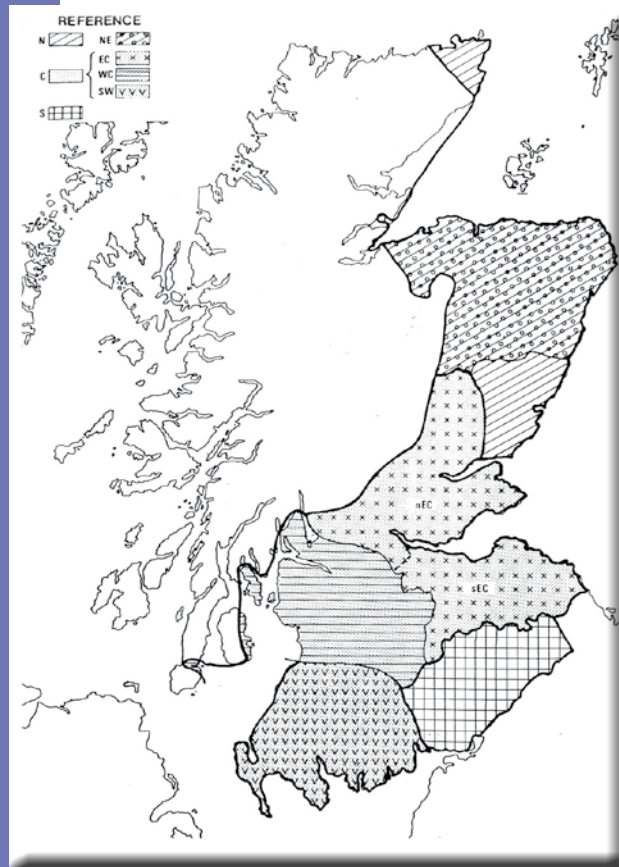
Teacher

Where Is Scots on The Language Tree?

- Look at your Language Tree Colour in Scots, French and German
- Are they on the same branch of the Language Tree?
- Find Gaelic. Which branch is that on? Although it's one of Scotland's languages, it's on a different branch from Scots. It's a Celtic language whereas Scots is Germanic
- Because Scots and English are on the same branch, the Germanic branch, they are like cousins with a lot of similarities.
- You might investigate which German words are similar to Scots.



Dialect map of Scotland



This dialect map shows the way the dictionary divides up the main dialects of Scotland.

These are:

N	North
NE	North-East
E COAST	East Coast
CENTRAL	Central
E CENTRAL	East Central
W	West Central
SW	South-West
S	South
SE	South-East
ULSTER	Ulster

Which dialect division do you live in?

Writer

Some Scots Poetry

Can you name which dialects they are in? One is fairly obvious!

Do you use any of these words or pronunciations?

A Christmas Poem

A caald winter's nicht
Starn heich in the lift
A lass wi a bairnie
Ahint a snaa drift

Come in through the byre
Step over the straw
Draw ben tae the fire
Afore the day daw.

The bairnies will sleep
By the peat's puttrin flame
Oor waarmin place, lassie,
This nicht is your hame.

Come mornin the snaa
Showed nae fitprints at aa
Tho the lass wi the bairnie
Had stolen awaa.

An we mynded anither
A lang while afore
Wi a bairn in her airms
An the beasts roun the door.

Josephine Neill

Shetlandic

Sometimes I tink whin da Loard med
da aert,
An He got it aa pitten tagidder,
When he still hed a nev-foo a clippins
left ower,
Trimmed aff o dis place or da tidder,
An He hedna da hert ta baal dem awa,
For dey lookit dat boannie an rare,
Sae he fashioned da Isles fae da ends o
da aert,
An med aa-body fin at hame dere.

Dey lichted fae aa wye, some jost for a
start,
While some bed ta dell riggs an saa
coarn,
An wi sicca gret gadderie a fok fae aa
ower,
An entirely new language wis boarn.
A language o wirds aften hard tae
translate,
At we manna belittle or bo,
For every counry is prood o da wye at
hit speaks,
An sae we sood be prood na wirs to.

Rhoda Bulter

Writer

Waste

Whit dae ye dae when ye've had yer soup
Or a cairry oot pizza pie?
Ye huv tae fling things oot somewhere
Aw the rubbish cannae jist lie

There's bottle banks fer aw yer gless
Wee ducats fer each colour
There's broon an clear an even green
Too bad if ye've anither

An some toons hae recycling schemes
Fer paper o aw kins
Fae newspapers tae cairdboard box
An aluminium tins

Bit best ava wid shairly be
A world whaur wi some care
We didnae hae sic muckle waste
Tae fling oot everywhere?

Liz Niven

Bonnie Broukit Bairn

Mars is braw in crammasy,
Venus in a green silk gown,
The auld mune shaks her gowden
feathers,
Their starry talk's a when o blethers,
nane for thee a thochtie sparín,
Earth, thou bonnie broukit bairn,
- but greet, an in your tears ye'll droun
- the haill clanjamfrie!

Hugh MacDiarmid

Teacher

Discuss the poets' technical and linguistic choices as well as meaning and content.

You might choose from:

- Simile
- metaphor
- alliteration
- onomatopoeia
- rhythm and rhyme
- verse choice
- imagery
- tone
- structure

Teacher

What Is Scots language? Where does it come from?

Scots has words from many different countries. Invaders and friendly visitors brought new words into the language over many years. To this day, Scots, because it is a living language, continues to add words all the time. A patio is a sit-ooterie. So, many new words were brought to Scotland over the years.

Many Scots words are similar to other European languages.

SCOTS AND GERMAN

stane – stein	nummer - nummer
licht – licht	dochter - tochter
mair – mehr	echt - acht
Kirk – kirche	

SCOTS AND FRENCH

Scotland and France have been friendly for centuries. This friendship is called The Auld Alliance. So, many of our Scots words come from French, especially words connected with food.

An ashet pie (assiette)
Gigot chop, a dour face, a braw time
Dinna fash yersel
A golf caddie

SCOTS AND DANISH

The Danelaw ruled over the north of England and the south of Scotland for many years.

Efter – efter	hoose – hus
Moose – mus	aff – aff
Sang – sang	sma - sma

SCOTS AND DUTCH

Scotland traded with the Netherlands for many years. Our architecture is very influenced by Dutch.

Kirk – kerke	stane – steen
Nummer – nummer	dochter – dochter
Echt – echt	mair – meer

Teacher

SCOTS AND GAELIC

Of course, some Gaelic words are also in Scots – just as you’d expect when the two languages live in the same country. Gaelic came from Ireland around the 4/5th century and nowadays, Scots Gaelic is slightly different from Irish Gaelic.

Some shared words are:

Glen, ben, Strath, clachan, ceilidh, whisky, loch, boorach

SECRET SCOTS?

Sometimes we use Scots words and we don’t even realise it! It’s only when we travel to England or speak to a Standard English speaker that we realise we sometimes do not use the same words.

We say messages not errands or shopping.

We say pinkie not little finger.
We eat our pieces on the bus not sandwiches on the coach,

And we’ve got oxters!

Some people confuse Scots with slang. They even call their language slang! Slang changes all the time. What’s trendy and modern one day might become old fashioned the next. Slang is usually very *cool*. Scots has been around for centuries and has a huge amount of great literature written in it. It has got some slang in it, like rhyming slang as in *Are ye corned beef? (deif)* but it is a language with its own vocabulary and grammar unlike slang.

Scots grammar is different from English grammar. Scots does use a preposition to end a sentence whereas English doesn’t e.g. I had the flu, but - this is most commonly seen in the Glaswegian dialect.

Scots past tenses can be different too e.g. *the bell’s went* instead of *the bell has gone*.

See Resource list on page 14 for more information about grammar.

Teacher

Q & A ABOUT SCOTS

Q Was there a time when the King and Queen of Scotland spoke Scots?

A. Yes. Kings and Queens spoke Scots for many years

In the 14th century Scottish Kings and Queens spoke Scots as well as many other European languages

Q. Why did this change?

A. In 1603 King James vi of Scots became King James i of England as well. He went to London and started to speak English.

In 1707 The Union of Parliaments joined Scotland and England together and the Scottish Parliament stopped meeting. It didn't meet again until Holyrood re-opened in 1999. So the voice of Parliament became more English than Scots.

Also, the Geneva Bible was translated into English instead of Scots and Scottish people who wanted to read the bible, learned to read in English instead of Scots. Now even the voice of God was in English.

Gradually, over all these years from 1707 onwards, people began to think that speaking English was more important than speaking Scots. Books and school work began to be written in English instead of in Scots until gradually hardly anything was published in Scots.

Writers like Robert Burns in the 18th century and Hugh MacDiarmid in the 20th century wrote wonderful poems in Scots and hoped more people would learn to read and write in it.

CLASS AND ECONOMY

In the 18th and 19th Century Sir Walter Scott and many others encouraged the children of richer parents to learn English in order to be able to trade with England and take advantage of the better economic prospects in England.

As a result Scot became associated with working-class use, and was frowned on as somehow inferior in the classroom. Early twentieth century Scottish literature only uses Scots when poorer people are speaking.

Just as in the Beano Comic, working class families like the Broons and Oor Willie speak Scots, while Lord Snooty speaks English.

Scots writers today are challenging this assumption.

Language reflects economic power – (How many words do we use today that come from the United States of America?)

SCOTS LANGUAGE NOW

Scots is part of the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages. It is recognised and respected across the world. It is still the first language of millions of Scottish people. There are many books and films with Scots speakers and many schools teach Scottish poetry and stories and plays in Scots

Teacher

RESOURCES FOR SCOTS

Every school in Dumfries & Galloway was supplied with Scots language resources in 1996. These were: a Scots Language folder of texts and tapes, a Scots dictionary and copies of *Solway Stills* - a book with poems and stories about places across Dumfries and Galloway, and a copy of *A Braw Brew* – stories in various dialects of Scots.

- 1) <http://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/>
This is based at Glasgow University and contains texts and interviews in different sorts of Scots.
- 2) The Scottish Language Dictionaries <http://www.sld.org.uk>
Based at Edinburgh University, the SLD publish many good dictionaries and electronic resources for school use. This includes 'The Grammar Broonie'.
- 3) Scots Teaching and Research Network: <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/www/english/comet/starn.htm>
Based at Glasgow University this website provides information and booklists for studying Scots and its literature.
- 4) Scots Language Resource Centre: www.slc.office@scotslanguage.com
Based in Perth the Centre can provide help if you are looking for resources or information
- 5) Scots Tung Wittins. mailto: rfairnie@sol.co.uk
This is an electronic newspaper you can subscribe to at <http://uk.geocities.com/rfairnie@btinternet.com/>
- 6) Itchy Coo Publishers: www.itchycoo.com/
Itchy Coo have published lots of good materials for school use
- 7) Channel 4 Education: Haud Yer Tongue & Teacher Notes. A 5 part video series with Teacher Notes on www.channel4learning.net/index.html

Teacher

- 8) Mercator is the European Centre for Lesser Used Languages of Europe. There is a booklet on Scots Language in Education available at www.mercatoreducation.org
- 9) Hodder & Stoughton at www.hodderheadline.co.uk publish books for schools including Turnstones, a textbook for English Depts. In Scotland
- 10) Scottish Education ed by Bryce & Hume contains a good chapter on Scots language in schools.
- 11) Association of Scottish Literary Studies is based at Glasgow University and run courses for teachers, publish books and resources for schools studying Scottish literature www.asls.org.uk
- 12) Scottish Book Trust/Live Literature. If you are trying to invite an author into your school, SBT website will give you information. www.scottishbooktrust.com
- 13) Scottish Poetry Library in Edinburgh is very helpful for finding poems. A huge library you can join by post. There is a branch of SPL in Ewart Library Dumfries. www.spl.org.uk

Teacher

Early History

Scots, like English, is descended from Old English: specifically from a northern form of it whose speakers had reached the area south of the Forth by the seventh century AD. By this time too, the Scots had come from Ireland with their Gaelic language, and they gradually began to extend their power till, by the eleventh century, the King of Scots ruled over most of what is now mainland Scotland, with Gaelic as the dominant language. However from the eleventh century, strong southern influences came to bear. In the succeeding years, and especially during the reign of David I, many Anglo-Norman noble families and monasteries moved up from north-east England. Although their own language was Norman-French, that of their retainers and followers was a form of northern English with strong Scandinavian influence (still noticeable in modern Scots in words such as *brae*, *graith*, *lowp* and *nieve*). This developing language, then known as *Inglis*, spread very rapidly, especially through trade in the newly-founded burghs, and soon reached most of the east and south-west of the country.

European Influences

Cultural contact led to the importation of new words into the language, from: Norse, as already noted; it had an even greater influence in Shetland, Orkney and part of Caithness, where a Norse language, known as *Norn*, was spoken up to the eighteenth century; Gaelic, of which there is more than is often thought in Scots, especially words to do with landscape, such as

Early History

ben, glen and strath; Dutch, through strong trading links with the Low Countries, from which came loon, pinkie, golf and scone; Latin, more widely used than in England, especially for legal terms, such as homologate (ratify) and sederunt; and French. The last came not only from the Anglo-Norman aristocracy and from Parisian French arriving via English, but also from direct contact between Scotland and France in what became known as the Auld Alliance. This was a series of treaties and diplomatic alliances between 1295 and 1560. Examples of French words in Scots are fash, ashet, leal and aumrie.

Literary Flowering

Written records in Scots survive from the late fourteenth century onwards.

One of the earliest literary works was Barbour's Brus, a narrative poem on King

Robert the Bruce and his exploits in the wars against English invasions at the beginning of that century. By the early sixteenth century, Scots, as it was now called,

was well on the way to becoming an all-purpose national language, just as modern English was developing south of the border. (Gaelic was by now confined to western and northern areas and to



the Western Isles.) Scots reached a fine literary flowering in the poetry of Robert Henryson, William Dunbar and Gavin Douglas, whose works were wellknown in Europe.

Anglicization?

Events, however, soon led to a process of anglicization which has continued to this day. From the Scottish Reformation in 1560, Scotland began to look to Protestant England rather than to Catholic France. In the absence of a Scots translation of the Bible, an English one, the Geneva Bible, was used in churches, creating a severe handicap to the formal, written use of Scots in many important areas of society. With the Union of the Crowns of Scotland and England in 1603, the court of James VI moved to London, thus removing much of the focus of literary life.

With the Union of the Parliaments in 1707, anglicizing influences were strengthened and English became the language of government and of polite society, though the vast majority of people continued to speak Scots. The eighteenth century saw a development towards a standardized written form of English alongside the creation of deliberately 'polite' ways of speaking in both Scotland and England. Even with English as the accepted official written language, it took until the nineteenth century for its written forms to be truly standardized.

Teacher

Dialects of Scots

The Scots language has a wide range of dialects. In Shetland and Orkney, there is strong Norse influence, as indicated above. Mainland Scotland has three main dialect divisions: Northern, Central and Southern. One feature of Northern, especially in the North-Eastern area, is the use of *fw* where other dialects have *wh-*, as in *fa* (who), *fit* (what). Central is further divided into East Central (north and south of the Forth), West Central (Glasgow and surrounding area) and South-West (mainly Dumfries and Galloway). Southern covers most of the Borders area. Scots is also spoken in Northern Ireland, the result of many crossings of the waters by populations over the centuries, in particular from the settlements of the early seventeenth century. Many of these Scots later moved on to North America, where they were known as the Scotch-Irish; their language has added significant Scots features to some North American dialects.

New Trends

Education has, until recently, followed a pattern of forced anglicization of both Scots and Gaelic, even beating children for using their own language in the playground. In spite of all this official opposition, spoken Scots has survived in a vigorous form, so that forecasts of its imminent disappearance, recorded since the mideighteenth century, have so far proved unfounded. A strong literary tradition has ensured that it cannot be regarded as a mere dialect. Allan Ramsay and

others in the early eighteenth century drew attention to the glories of early poetry in Scots, and its stature has been increased by poets such as Robert Fergusson, Robert Burns and Hugh MacDiarmid, and by novelists such as Sir Walter Scott, James Hogg, John Galt, Robert Louis Stevenson and Lewis Grassie Gibbon. The strength of literary Scots has probably never been greater than it is today, with authors such as William McIlvanney, Liz Lochhead, Irvine Welsh and Janet Paisley, and at long last the spoken forms, too, are receiving their due in educational policies from primary schools to universities.

For the past twenty years or so, the Scots Language Society has endeavoured to further the cause of Scots, and the great success of W.L. Lorimer's *New Testament in Scots* in 1983, and of the SNDA's *Concise Scots Dictionary* in 1985, are good indications of more civilized attitudes. Later developments, especially in the educational field, continue this trend, and 1996 was an important year, with the publication of *The Kist/A' Chiste*, an anthology and teachers' pack for Scots and Gaelic from the SCCC (Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum) and the *Scots School Dictionary* from the SNDA, now also available as the *Electronic Scots School Dictionary*. The SNDA is doing all it can to encourage Scots and, especially by means of its dictionaries, to foster more positive attitudes towards the language.

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Young People

oh wit a dae!

River Esk winter wi snowy paths
an snow covered trees as white as
heaven

coos mooin

Rosevale Park – lik A'm in the wild
wi loads o animals gan crazy

Buccleuch Park in winteer cauld
smooth texture o the snaba in ma
haun weet sna drappin on tae ma
tongue

bairns kecklin an skreichin

ware has arrived an buds outside
stert tae blaw

The lift cludless an ridden

In the smaw oors o the day
speugs sing

In ma haund a freezing caul bottle
o milk

It's quate an the anerly ming is

the melon riskit gapin on shairp
edged staw

at the Back o Tarris
watter trickling slow as a slug
glancy broon hair glintin in the sun

at the Roond Hoose sun's beikin
on green leaves

happy as a wee bairn on holiday

grannie's gairden
twae in the efternoon
toon clock ringin twae
lood as a blastin bomb

people yappin lik dug
late morning
ma deflatit bagpipes
ma family glowin wi joy

the toon ha stricks two
the swing swingin madly
lik a ragin bull
simmer sun windin doon
aroon the trees

chuffed an cheerful
a great muckle group
bairns yelpin
cars gan by
bees buzzin

taste o new life
clippin time
crisp bright leaves

A'm at the Castleholm

a swelterin simmer's day

in ma hert a feel guid

Young People

a cloudy day
derk, dull
an drab
as derk as a
midnicht's sky

Toon Hall in simmer
nebbit-beats o the drums

Whitta Hill
cauld wind whistles on Whitta
roller coaster o sensations
sweet smell o whins
taste o clear watter
frae Whitta Well

winter midday
building a snawman
crunch o snaw

How a u? W u b u 2? Wat u dain?
R u gan 2
Codgey, carrel, Doggie, Rosi?
r u comin 2
Dumblins, Rosevale, Jokes' Pool?
plz?
am ttly brd!
pleez tb
g2g
cultr
oxox



Creative writing installed at Langholm Academy as part of Arts Across the Curriculum, Language of Langholm



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