

Short Read

Willie Wastle by Robert Burns



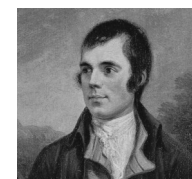
- **What to do:** Each trio/group will be given a different verse of the poem (song) to translate from Scots into Standard English.
- Using the **Glossary** to help you, read and discuss in your group the best/ most effective way to translate each word or line.
- Choose someone in your group to write it out carefully; or take turns. Check that it makes sense when you read it through!
- Practise reciting the Scots version and the translated version; each trio/group will perform/present both versions to the class.

Willie Wastle dwalt on Tweed,
The spot they ca'd it Linkumdoddie.
Willie was a wabster guid
Could stown a clue wi onie body.
He had a wife was dour and din,
O, Tinkler Maidgie was her mither!
Sic a wife as Willie had,
I wad na gie a button for her.

She has an e'e (she has but ane),
The cat has twa the very colour,
Five rusty teeth, forbye a stump,
A clapper-tongue wad deave a miller;
A whiskin beard about her mou,
Her nose and chin they threaten ither:
Sic a wife as Willie had,
I wad na gie a button for her.

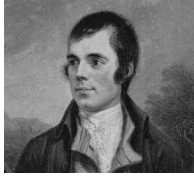
She's bow-hough'd, she's hem-shin'd,
Ae limpin leg a hand-breed shorter;
She's twisted right, she's twisted left,
To balance fair in ilka quarter;
She has a hump upon her breast,
The twin o that upon her shouter:
Sic a wife as Willie had,
I wad na gie a button for her.

Auld baudrans by the ingle sits,
An wi her loof her face a-washin;
But Willie's wife is nae sae trig,
She dights her frunzie wi a hushion;
Her walie nieves like midden-creels,
Her face wad fyle the Logan Water:
Sic a wife as Willie had,
I wad na gie a button for her.



Glossary

Willie Wastle by Robert Burns



Dwalt: dwelt

Ca'd: called

Wabster guid: weaver,
good

Stown: have stolen

Dour: sulky

Din: ill-coloured

Tinkler: tinker

Forbye: as well as

Deave: deafen

Mou: mouth

Ither: each other

Bow-houghed: bandy-legged

Ilka: each

Hem-shinned: crooked shins

Hand-breed: hand's breadth

Auld baudrans: old cat

Ingle: fire

Loof: paw

Trig: trim

Dights: wipes

Frunzie: nose

Hushion: sleeve

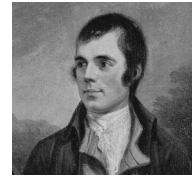
Walie nieves: large fists

Midden-creels: manure
baskets

Wad fyle: would foul or spoil

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Read and Understand

Write a short summary of the poem and what it is about.

E.g. Willie Wastle is a poem by Robert Burns. It is about...

Infer What's Not There

What do you think the **purpose** of this text is? (**Clue:** Why did Burns write it?)

Do you think Willie Wastle's wife was really as she was described in the poem?

Reflect and Respond

Do you think Willie Wastle is a good title for this poem? Why? Why not?

Can you come up with a better title in your group?

Explore Some More

Mark or highlight all of the information that tells us what Willie's wife looks like.

Now draw a picture of her including all of those details.

Reflective ★ Reading

Text:

Willie Wastle
by Robert Burns

Connect 4

Is it right to make fun of people for entertainment? Can you think of instances where this is acceptable / unacceptable in society today?

(**Clue:** think about all forms of media)

Reflect and Respond

'It is better to be beautiful than to be good, but it is better to be good than to be ugly.'

Oscar Wilde

Do you agree? Disagree?

Explain your answer.

Big Talk

Explore Some More

Explore the **rhyme scheme** of the poem.

Colour, highlight or underline the words in each **verse / stanza** that **rhyme**.

Create Something Great

Write a letter to Robert Burns telling him what you think of his poem.

or

Imagine that you are Willie Wastle or his wife – write your own poem in response to Burns' poem.

or

Choose one of your teacher's ideas.