



If Rachel Corsie Played For Us

By Thomas Clark

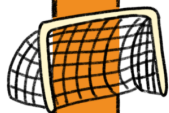
If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd get a double-decker bus
And drive round all the nearby toons
Blasting Rachel Corsie choons.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd make – oh! – such an awful fuss,
I'd get a home shirt off the rack
With "RACHEL CORSIE!!!!!!!" on the back.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd cheer for ninety minutes – PLUS
I'd go to every cup game wrapped in
A pride flag signed by Scotland's captain.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd go off like a blunderbuss
Just every time she got a toe in
To win a vital last ditch throw-in.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
My joy'd be instantaneous,
My room a Rachel Corsie shrine,
So come on, Rachel – gonnae sign?



If Rachel Corsie Played For Us

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd get a double-decker bus
And drive round all the nearby toons
Blasting Rachel Corsie choons.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd make – oh! – such an awful fuss,
I'd get a home shirt off the rack
With "RACHEL CORSIE!!!!!!!" on the back.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd cheer for ninety minutes – PLUS
I'd go to every cup game wrapped in
A pride flag signed by Scotland's captain.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
I'd go off like a blunderbuss
Just every time she got a toe in
To win a vital last ditch throw-in.

If Rachel Corsie played for us,
My joy'd be instantaneous,
My room a Rachel Corsie shrine,
So come on, Rachel – gonnae sign?

Questions:

1. The mood of this poem is very upbeat and excited. What words does the poet use to show this?
2. Except words, what else does the poet do to make this poem feel upbeat and excited?
3. Why is the first line in each stanza the same?
4. What do you learn about Rachel Corsie in this poem? What more do you want to know?


About the Author

"Thomas Clark is an author who writes mainly in the Scots language. His books for young people include the award-winning "Diary o a Wimpy Wean" series, the Peppa Pig story "Peppa's Bonnie Unicorn", Lemony Snicket's "A Series o Scunnersome Events", and (along with other writers) the Scots language comic "Eejit Street". His favourite thing is reading, his favourite sport is football, and his favourite team is Scotland."




Zander Murray's Wee Stepoover

By Thomas Clark




Zander Murray sets aff flyin,
Spots the run nae ither sees,
Leaves the auld guard gaspin, dyin,
Pechin, puggled, hauns on knees.

Zander Murray gets the baw,
Space aheid and miles tae run tae,
Does he look ahint him? Naw,
Aw thae things are by and done wi,




Cause Zander Murray isnae that,
Stoorie cloots fae oot museums:
Leather fitbas, rancid chat,
Aw look daft noo when ye see 'em.

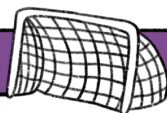



Zander's path's the wan aheid,
Whaur goalposts meet a rainbow sky,
And herts and minds alike are freed,
And keepers keep, and wingers fly.

But Zander's still a job tae dae,
And so dae you: let's chynge the game,
And be whit makes the scoreboard say
At every ground, away and hame,



That every Rose, and every Rover,
And every terrace cheered and skirled
As Zander Murray's wee stepoover
Stepped intae a better world.



Zander Murray's Wee Stepoover

Zander Murray sets aff flyin,
Spots the run nae ither sees,
Leaves the auld guard gaspin, dyin,
Pechin, puggled, hauns on knees.

Zander Murray gets the baw,
Space ahead and miles tae run tae,
Does he look ahint him? Naw,
Aw thae things are by and done wi,

Cause Zander Murray isnae that,
Stoorie cloots fae oot museums:
Leather fitbas, rancid chat,
Aw look daft noo when ye see 'em.

Zander's path's the wan ahead,
Whaur goalposts meet a rainbow sky,
And herts and minds alike are freed,
And keepers keep, and wingers fly.

But Zander's still a job tae dae,
And so dae you: let's chynge the game,
And be whit makes the scoreboard say
At every ground, away and hame,

That every Rose, and every Rover,
And every terrace cheered and skirled
As Zander Murray's wee stepoover
Stepped intae a better world.

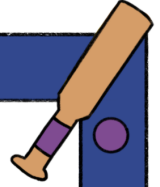
Questions:

1. The opening verse uses alliteration. Why? What is it achieving in the poem?
2. Every verse except the last one has Zander's name in the first line. In the last verse, the first line is "every Rose, and every Rover". What does that achieve? Do you know what 'Rose' and 'Rover' might mean?
3. The poem suggests that Zander's job is more than just football. What clues does it give to tell us that?
4. In 2022, Zander Murray was the first senior male professional football player to come out as gay in Scotland. How does the author include this fact in the poem?
5. The poet wants you to do something after reading the poem. What do you think the poet wants you to do?

About the Author

"Thomas Clark is an author who writes mainly in the Scots language. His books for young people include the award-winning "Diary o a Wimpy Wean" series, the Peppa Pig story "Peppa's Bonnie Unicorn", Lemony Snicket's "A Series o Scunnorsome Events", and (along with other writers) the Scots language comic "Eejit Street".

His favourite thing is reading, his favourite sport is football, and his favourite team is Scotland."



Doddie's Got Twa Faithers

By Thomas Clark

Doddie's got twa faithers,
It maks nae sense at aw:
Cause wan o them likes rounders
And the ither, basketbaw.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Noo, haud up, richt. Ah'm loast!
Cause wan o them eats quiche Lorraine,
But the ither, jam on toast.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Is that no jist bizarre?
If wan o them supports Man U
But the ither likes Stranraer?

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Noo whit's the score wi that?
Cause wan o them is funny as,
But the ither's got nae chat.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Noo get yer heid roond this:
The first yin cannae kick a baw
But the ither cannae miss.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
As different as can be:
But the twa o them luve Doddie
And that's aw that maitters tae me.



Doddie's Got Twa Faithers

Doddie's got twa faithers,
It maks nae sense at aw:
Cause wan o them likes rounders
And the ither, basketbaw.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Noo, haud up, richt. Ah'm loast!
Cause wan o them eats quiche Lorraine,
But the ither, jam on toast.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Is that no jist bizarre?
If wan o them supports Man U
But the ither likes Stranraer?

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Noo whit's the score wi that?
Cause wan o them is funny as,
But the ither's got nae chat.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
Noo get yer heid roond this:
The first yin cannae kick a baw
But the ither cannae miss.

Doddie's got twa faithers,
As different as can be:
But the twa o them luv Doddie
And that's aw that maiters tae me.

Questions:

1. Who do you think is speaking in this poem? What makes you think that?
2. Why do you think this poem is written in Scots? What do you think this language means to the author?
3. This is written very informally. Why do you think that is? How would this poem be different if it was written in a formal voice?
4. The second line in the first 5 stanzas are all expressing the same feelings. How would you describe what this line in each verse is telling you?
5. Does the vocabulary in this poem reflect how you talk? If so, in what ways? If not, how would you say what is described in this poem?

About the Author

"Thomas Clark is an author who writes mainly in the Scots language. His books for young people include the award-winning "Diary o a Wimpy Wean" series, the Peppa Pig story "Peppa's Bonnie Unicorn", Lemony Snicket's "A Series o Scunneresome Events", and (along with other writers) the Scots language comic "Eejit Street". His favourite thing is reading, his favourite sport is football, and his favourite team is Scotland."



Ma Da Disna

By Shane Strachan

My Da disna like fitbaa at-aa
or makkin angels in the snaa,
and he winna even sit
on a swing or see-saa!

But he dis love tae draa,
gan shoppin wi granma,
and takkin heapsa photas
on his fancy camera!

As for my ither Da...
he loves tae play fitbaa,
and ye canna keep him awa
fae snaa, swings or see-saas!

But he canna draa at-aa...
Or tak a half-decent phota!
And he'd raither climb up a waa
than ging shoppin wi his ma!

And me?
I jist love it aa!
The swings and fitbaa,
snaa-angels and see-saas...
And I've aywis loved tae draa,
gan shoppin wi ma granmas,
takkin bonnie photas
and climbin up big waas!

But maist of aa,
I really love my Da,
jist as much as I love
the ither een an-aa!

My Da Disna

My Da disna like fitbaa at-aa
or makkin angels in the snaa,
and he winna even sit
on a swing or see-saa!

But he dis love tae draa,
gan shoppin wi granma,
and takkin heapsa photas
on his fancy camera!

As for my ither Da...
he loves tae play fitbaa,
and ye canna keep him awa
fae snaa, swings or see-saas!

But he canna draa at-aa...
Or tak a half-decent phota!
And he'd raither climb up a waa
than ging shoppin wi his ma!

And me?
I jist love it aa!
The swings and fitbaa,
snaa-angels and see-saas...
And I've aywis loved tae draa,
gan shoppin wi ma granmas,
takkin bonnie photas
and climbin up big waas!

But maist of aa,
I really love my Da,
jist as much as I love
the ither een an-aa!

Questions:

1. In this poem, a child shares some information about their dads' likes and dislikes. What does each dad like to do?
2. What is the rhyming pattern in the majority of this poem? Does this affect the way you read this poem?
3. One stanza is very different from the others. Which one is it? What do you think the impact of this is?
4. Every stanza ends with an exclamation mark. Why is this?
5. This poem is written in a simple conversational style, instead of a formal style. Why has the author done this?

About the Author

"Shane Strachan is a writer and performer based in Aberdeen. He grew up in Fraserburgh in the North East of Scotland, which is also where Bill Gibb hailed from, the fashion designer described in one of Shane's poems. Shane is the current Scots Scribe (Scots language writer) at the National Library of Scotland writing in Doric. He studied literature and creative writing at the University of Aberdeen where he now lectures."

Extra Questions about 'My Da Disna' & 'Doddie's Got Twa Faithers'

1. Could these poems be about the same family? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Which of these poems do you enjoy most? Give reasons for your answer.



Bill Gibb: Farm Boy to Fashion Designer

By Shane Strachan

How does a farm boy
become a fashion designer,
swapping tractors and cowsheds
for catwalks and filmsets?

At the pictures with his granny,
he dreams of how life could be,
sketching all the frocks and frills
found in flashy Hollywood films.

Then he styles his sisters in bedsheets,
wrapped and pleated neatly
into flowing, flowery gowns,
their faces framed by paper crowns.

He wows his teachers with sketches
of pretty skirts and dazzling dresses,
winter coats and wedding veils
straight out of a fairy tale.

He mixes and stitches these designs
with tartans and chunky knits
in earthy tones from his childhood home,
until they appear in the pages of Vogue!

Greeted at the end of the runway
with aching handclaps and echoing whoops,
he becomes a beacon for British fashion
for this bold return to his native roots.

How does a farm boy
become a fashion designer?
With big dreams and creativity,
you can be anything you want to be.

Bill Gibb: Farm Boy to Fashion Designer

How does a farm boy
become a fashion designer,
swapping tractors and cowsheds
for catwalks and filmsets?

At the pictures with his granny,
he dreams of how life could be,
sketching all the frocks and frills
found in flashy Hollywood films.

Then he styles his sisters in bedsheets,
wrapped and pleated neatly
into flowing, flowery gowns,
their faces framed by paper crowns.

He wows his teachers with sketches
of pretty skirts and dazzling dresses,
winter coats and wedding veils
straight out of a fairy tale.

He mixes and stitches these designs
with tartans and chunky knits
in earthy tones from his childhood home,
until they appear in the pages of Vogue!

Greeted at the end of the runway
with aching handclaps and echoing whoops,
he becomes a beacon for British fashion
for this bold return to his native roots.

How does a farm boy
become a fashion designer?
With big dreams and creativity,
you can be anything you want to be.

Questions:

1. This poem contains a lot of information about a real person from history. Do you feel you know enough about Bill Gibb now? What else would you want to know?
2. Which of the stanzas do you think has the best imagery? Why do you think that?
3. Bill Gibb came from Aberdeenshire, where a lot of people speak Scots. Why do you think this poem is not in Scots?
4. Find all examples of alliteration in this poem. Which is the most impactful and why?
5. This poem does not use rhyme. Do you think this makes a difference to the poem. If so, why? If not, why not?
6. The last stanza reflects the first. Why do you think this is?

About the Author

"Shane Strachan is a writer and performer based in Aberdeen. He grew up in Fraserburgh in the North East of Scotland, which is also where Bill Gibb came from, the fashion designer described in one of Shane's poems. Shane was appointed the Scots Scribe (Scots language writer) at the National Library of Scotland in 2022, writing in Doric. He studied literature and creative writing at the University of Aberdeen where he now lectures."



The Happiest Day o Ma Life

By Ashley Douglas

The absolute happiest day o ma life
Wis the day that Ah mairried
Ma noo darlin wife

We met and it really wis love at first sight
We'd baith fund hame
We held each other ticht

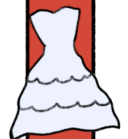
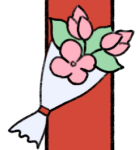
The day o oor weddin wis perfect - nae less!
Me in ma bowtie!
Ma lass in her dress!

The floers were gorgeous
The cake wis a stunner
Ma hert it wis fou o pure luv and pure wunner!

The big special day
It had finally arrived!
Oor freends and oor faimly richt by oor side!

As we said oor deep vows
We had tears in oor een
It wis the happiest happy Ah iver huv been!

We danced oot the door
Tae the rest o oor life
Ready tae live thegither, fur iver,
As 'wife' and 'wife'



The Happiest Day o Ma Life

The absolute happiest day o ma life
Wis the day that Ah mairried
Ma noo darlin wife

We met and it really wis love at first sicht
We'd baith fund hame
We held each other ticht

The day o oor weddin wis perfect - nae less!
Me in ma bowtie!
Ma lass in her dress!

The flooers were gorgeous
The cake wis a stunner
Ma hert it wis fou o pure luv and pure wunner!

The big special day
It had finally arrived!
Oor freends and oor faimly richt by oor side!

As we said oor deep vows
We had tears in oor een
It wis the happiest happy Ah ivver huv been!

We danced oot the door
Tae the rest o oor life
Ready tae live thegither, fur ivver,
As 'wife' and 'wife'

About the Author

"Ashley Douglas is a multi-lingual researcher, writer and translator, who specialises in Scots and LGBT history.

She has worked with, and written for, a range of national heritage and literary organisations, including the National Library of Scotland, Historic Scotland, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, the British Library, and the Saltire Society.

Her current work focuses on the Maitland Quarto, a 16th-Century poetry manuscript in Scots, which is a crucial primary record of LGBT history.

She lives in Edinburgh with her wife."

Questions

1. All verses have three lines, except for the last one. The last verse has an extra line at the end. How important is that line and why?
2. The author is describing a wedding in this poem. What words are used to achieve this?
3. How do we know it was the author's wedding? Which point of view is she writing from?
4. What vocabulary is used in the poem which tells the reader that this is a very happy memory for the author?



The Lass and the Quine

By Ashley Douglas

Wance upon a time
Lang lang syne
There yince wis a lass
And there yince wis a quine

The lass bidit high in a castle on a hill
She liked tae write at her desk wi a quill
The quine bidit doon in the deep green glen
She wis ayewis oot huntin wi her friends

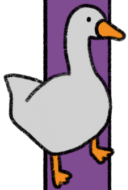
The lass kent aw she kent fae books
That she'd read cooried up in the castle's wee neuks
The quine wis wise fae aw she'd done and seen
Wi her ain guid hauns and her ain guid een

The lass? She widnae sey "boo!" tae a goose
Or "scram!" tae a cat or "shoo!" tae a moose
But the quine wis brave and gallus aw the time!
Nae burn she widnae lowp, nae ben she widnae climb!

Then, wan day, the lass met the quine!
The season wis summer, the day wis richt fine
They spak a wee bit, nervously met each ithers' een
Thocht the lass, "She's mair bonnie than onywan Ah've iver seen..."

The lass, bein the lass, kept such thochts in her heid
Thon'd be a bit forward tae come oot wi, indeed!
But the quine, brave and gallus, gied the lass her haun
Syne wheeched her up upon her horse and breenged across the laun!

The lass couldnae believe it - her? Peltin alang!
She cooried in ahint the quine and sang a happy sang.
The quine smiled in tae the wairm summer sun.
Oh, whit a feelin - tae be in love, and tae be young!



The Lass and the Quine: Questions

1. This poem starts with 'Wance upon a time' which suggests that this is a fairytale. What else suggests that this poem is a fairytale?
2. In the fairytales we're used to, who would the 'quine' be? Describe the similarities and differences between the 'quine' in this poem, and who would normally be the main character of a fairytale.
3. Has the lass been rescued, which is common in other fairytales? If so, what from?
4. The structure of this poem is a ballad: short rhyming verses telling a story. Does that add to the feeling of it being a fairytale? If so, why? If not, why not?
5. Does the fact that this poem is written like a fairytale make it feel more romantic? If so, why? If not, why not?
6. What is the rhyming structure in this poem? Is that important to this poem? If so, why? If not, why not?
7. Who do you think the audience is for this poem? What makes you think that?
8. What does the author want you to think about as a reader? How does she try to do that?

About the Author

"Ashley Douglas is a multi-lingual researcher, writer and translator, who specialises in Scots and LGBT history.

She has worked with and written for a range of national heritage and literary organisations, including the National Library of Scotland, Historic Scotland, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, the British Library, and the Saltire Society.

Her current work focuses on the Maitland Quarto, a 16th-Century poetry manuscript in Scots, which is a crucial primary record of LGBT history.

She lives in Edinburgh with her wife."



That's Affa Gay!

By Mae Diansangu

Fit div ye mean, "that's affa gay"?
Yer spikkin total guff, min.
Seems ye da ken about iss wird,
so come an hae a listen.

It's nae a wird that's coorse at aa,
the meanin winna dumfoonder.
It's jist fan folk love ither folk
fa are the same gender.

Fit wye wid ye caa a schoolbag gay?
It disnae mak nae sinse.
Ye could hurt somebody's feelins
an they could tak offinse.

Maist o us ken someone gay
an foo dye hink they feel,
fan a wird that describes fa they are
is used as an insult as weel?

I'm sure ye'd fair be scunnert
tae hear folk say yer name,
fan they mint somethin wiz rubbish —
ye'd likely greet an complain.

So noo yer up tae speed
I think ye ken the script.
If ye hear "that's affa gay!"
Dinna tolerate it!



That's affa gay!

Fit div ye mean, "that's affa gay"?
Yer spikkin total guff, min.
Seems ye da ken about iss wurd,
so come an hae a listen.

It's nae a wurd that's coorse at aa,
the meanin winna dumfoonder.
It's jist fan folk love ither folk
fa are the same gender.

Fit wye wid ye caa a schoolbag gay?
It disnae mak nae sinse.
Ye could hurt somebody's feelins
an they could tak offinse.

Maist o us ken someone gay
an foo dye hink they feel,
fan a wurd that describes fa they are
is used as an insult as weel?

I'm sure ye'd fair be scunnert
tae hear folk say yer name,
fan they mint somethin wiz rubbish —
ye'd likely greet an complain.

So noo yer up tae speed
I think ye ken the script.
If ye hear "that's affa gay!"
Dinna tolerate it!

About the Author

"Mae Diansangu is a Black queer spoken word artist and poet from Aberdeen.

She has created poems and artwork for a variety of projects in Scotland, including creating a poem in Doric for the BBC programme "The Big Scottish Book Club".

Mae's poems often touch on themes of race, gender, and LGBT people. They are designed to make readers think, reflect, and ensure that everyone is treated with respect.

Mae loves to read and make up stories but never dreamed of making it her career until quite recently."

Questions

1. This poem is asking you to think about something you have likely heard before. Does exploring this topic by reading a poem have a greater impact? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. The poem is about prejudice-based language. What type of language is the poem referring to? If you hear that being used in the school, what should you do?
3. How old do you think the author of this poem is? What makes you think that?
4. What is the main message of the poem? What could be done at school to make sure everyone understood this message?



Abdy's Body

By Mae Diansangu

Abdy's body
is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver ye dress like
Naebdy should care

Some loons wear pink
It's nae a big deal
Some quines wear blue
That's aa very weel

Abdy's body
Is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver ye look like
Naebdy should care

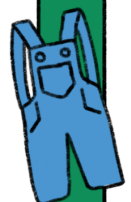
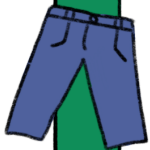
Some loons hae hair
That tickles their dock
Some quines are baldy
It's nae a great shock

Abdy's body
is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver ye spik like
Naebdy should care

Some loons SQUEAK!
like a tiny wee moose
Some quines HONK!
like a great muckle goose

Abdy's body
Is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver yer gender
Naebdy should care

There's aa types o loons
An aa types o quines
An if we mind that
We'll get along fine



Abdy's body

Abdy's body
is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver ye dress like
Naebdy should care

Some loons wear pink
It's nae a big deal
Some quines wear blue
That's aa very weel

Abdy's body
Is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver ye look like
Naebdy should care

Some loons hae hair
That tickles their dock
Some quines are baldy
It's nae a great shock

Abdy's body
is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver ye spik like
Naebdy should care

Some loons SQUEAK!
like a tiny wee moose
Some quines HONK!
like a great muckle goose

Abdy's body
Is naebdy's but theirs
Fitiver yer gender
Naebdy should care

There's aa types o loons
An aa types o quines
An if we mind that
We'll get alang fine

Questions:

1. This poem uses short verses. Why do you think the author chose to write the poem like this?
2. This poem repeats a stanza four times. Why do you think that is?
3. Are the messages in this poem important for us in Scotland today?
4. Cover the poem with your hand. Without looking, what is one line you remember from the poem? Why does this stand out to you?
5. If this poem was set to music and shown as an advert on the TV, which line or lines would be stuck in your head? Why?
6. Did you read the words 'SQUEAK' and 'HONK' differently? Why did the author write these words in this way?

About the Author

"Mae Diansangu is a Black queer spoken word artist and poet from Aberdeen. She has created poems and artwork for a variety of projects in Scotland, including creating a poem in Doric for the BBC programme "The Big Scottish Book Club". Mae's poems focus on themes of race, gender and LGBT people. They are designed to ensure everyone is treated with respect.

Mae loves to read and make up stories but never dreamed of making it her career until quite recently."