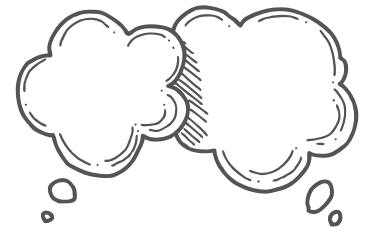


ON REFLECTION

Memorialising... Neil Gunn



Neil Gunn was a highly significant writer within the Scottish Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s. Experimental in style, he won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his book, *Highland River*.

1

EXPLORE

Some of his works express sadness about the loss of Highland culture, included the decline of folk song and music.

Explore two musical instruments, important to Highland heritage – the clarsach and the bagpipes – on this site. You can hear them played too. Why do you think it's important that instruments like these, and traditional songs, are not lost?



2

TRY IT YOURSELF

Experimental writing can sometimes be trickier to read. It may not have a clear plot for you to follow or the plot may not be linear.

Gunn was a highly experimental writer and often wrote in a stream-of-consciousness style, allowing us to experience the thoughts of his characters. But there are lots of ways to experiment in your writing!

Have a go at being an experimental writer for yourself by writing a lipogram. This is a type of restrained writing, where you deliberately make things hard for yourself! Try writing a paragraph describing where you live but without using one of the letters of the alphabet. Try not using the letter C, or if you want a greater challenge, avoid N or even T.



3

TALK ABOUT IT

Examine the bust of Neil Gunn on the site – a sculpture of his head and neck.

Artists have been making busts of important people since ancient times. Historically, they recorded the appearance of people before the invention of photography, helping to memorialise or celebrate them.

- Why do you think a bust was made of Neil Gunn?
- Do you think busts are a good way to remember people?
- Whose bust would you want in your house?

4

WATCH

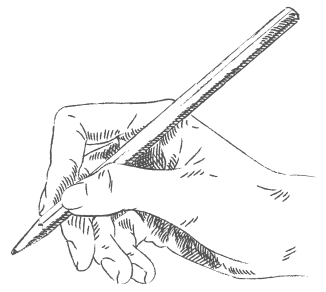
Watch the Highland Explorer video about Dunbeath to see the floor mural at Dunbeath Heritage Museum, sharing the Highland River.



5

CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?

