Activity Nine
Using the Story:

Fergie an Freens

Suggested Learning Intentions

Children are learning:
• to read and follow Ulster-Scots prose;
• to interpret Ulster-Scots words in a text using semantic, syntactic and pictorial clues; and
• that Ulster-Scots is an aural language – it's easier to listen to it being spoken than to read it.

Suggested Learning and Teaching Activities

The teacher introduces **Fergie an Freens oan tha fairm** resource on the interactive whiteboard, and asks the children what they think the story is about.

• The teacher gives the children a few moments to silently read the text from the first page to themselves, then asks for volunteers to read aloud sentence by sentence.

• The teacher asks: Did anyone find this difficult? What do you notice about the text?

The teacher suggests that so far, the class has examined lots of Ulster-Scots words and phrases, but has used perhaps only one or two Ulster-Scots words per sentence at a time. Now, in this story, nearly every word is written in Ulster-Scots. (Very good for sight reading skills)

• The class listens to the accompanying audio. The teacher asks: Did it make any more sense when you heard the text being spoken?

The teacher explains that most people are used to hearing and speaking some Ulster-Scots, but are unfamiliar with reading it. Continue to read the text and listen to the audio. The teacher asks questions relating to various words and phrases, asking the children to use the illustrations as clues to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words. (Remember at the back of the hard copy of the book there is an English translation of each storyboard.)

Extension Activities:

• The book can be used as a class reader.

• The whiteboard resource can act as illustrations for a class choral speaking presentation at a school assembly.

• Discuss how farming methods have changed in Ulster since the 1950s.

• The children can research the inventor of the Ferguson TE-20 tractor – Harry Ferguson, an Ulster-Scot from near Hillsborough, County Down.