

Gerard Manley Hopkins  
Inversnaid  
Some challenging questions!

Worksheet by:  
Keith Tankard  
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. "Inversnaid" is the description of a stream tumbling down through the highlands of Scotland to the waterfall at Inversnaid. The poet has used several Scottish words in this poem.
  - How many Scottish words can you identify? What does each mean? (5 x 2)
  
2. Hopkins is well known for creating words, often by joining together two words to create a new one.
  - How many created words can you find? (5 x 2)
  
3. This darksome burn, horseback brown,  
His rollrock highroad roaring down.
  - What do you think the poet means by the term "rollrock"? (4)
  - Why should the burn or stream be said to be "horseback brown"? (2)
  
4. In coop and in comb the fleece of his foam  
Flutes and low to the lake falls home.
  - Remembering that Hopkins sometimes plays around with word-order, what do you think "In coop and in comb the fleece of his foam" means? (4)
  - What does he mean when he says "to the lake falls home"? (2)
  - What do "flutes" have to do with it? (4)
  
5. A windpuff-bonnet of fáwn-fróth.
  - What would the poet mean by "a windpuff-bonnet"? (4)
  - Why would he describe the froth on the stream as "fáwn-fróth"? (4)

<[www.knowledge4africa.com](http://www.knowledge4africa.com)>

**This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.**