

The Limpet Bath

I gid whar happiness gid, a bairn runnan
ahead o me ower gress wi no shoen on,
hair bound wi hide-ribbon. Is caerryan
a morning's wark fae the coastline
whar her fither fished for crab
an the limpets floored on the rock
for folk tae puink and gither, me wi extra water
for soakan afore we brought them back oot
tae tempt kuithe. At skreek or skirler,
I'd guard her steps as she ran tae bathe
her limpets, naman each wan while weeman
graithed lowries, tossed skertar intae the hearth.
I watched whar the sky met the sea, as wind
drove salt water closer tae wur garth.

Is = us

puink = whack/blow

kuithe = coalfish

skreek = dawn

skirler = sharp gale

graithed = to clean/put in order

lowries = pollack/small cod

skertar = blade seaweed

Ingrid Leonard