the whinnie face
“The class took the central concepts of haiku in their stride and were fantastic to work with. Some of the images they came up with were startling. Hopefully the result is a modern, fluid set of haiku which are offered to the public to share our experience of the woodland, or to enhance your own visit.”

Lucy Burnett, 2009
The haiku in this pamphlet were written and illustrated in 2008–2009 by the pupils of Creetown Primary School with Galloway born poet Lucy Burnett. The class had recently been on a visit to the woodland and what they saw, heard, smelt, touched and tasted forms the basis of these poems. While retaining certain traditional features of haiku, such as brevity and a reference to nature / the seasons, a modern flexible approach is taken. Rather than strictly counting syllables, the focus is on the essence of haiku: capturing images in words and creating emotions through these images rather than personal expression. The poems were written by the class as a whole, with fragments of writing by all pupils combined and adapted to create the final poems. The illustrations follow sumi-e principles. This form of Japanese art is often used to illustrate haiku in order to turn the words of the poems back into the images from which they originated. Copies of some of these poems have been inscribed on standing stones at the entrance to Balloch Wood, Creetown.
light between larch trees
the overlapping echoes
of childrens’ voices
midges hover over the sound of people talking
butterflies dance
light in the sky
old brown leaves
float downstream
water is banging
off the rocks
hardly
yellow-purple-white
flowers growing slowly
getting scared of the dark
touched rough bark
under the bark were slaters
and other creatures
roots spread everywhere along the path a line of soft, silky feathers
baby frogs front flip
into a bubbly red pool
walking over broken branches
smooth bluebells stand tall
smelt resin  it felt sticky
from the white
skeletons of leaves
a smell of mint
a camouflage frog
amongst dead leaves
slimy green moss
animals come out from hibernation until grass sways with the slow wind
a tree stump has fallen over
red squirrels climb
The Class
The following pupils of Creetown Primary School were involved in writing and illustrating these poems with the support of teachers Miss Julie Parkinson& Miss Joanna Wallace:

Ronan Browne                      Chloe Allison
Rebecca Hyslop                    Katie Allison
Brodie Jess                       Becky Allison
Adam Kelly                        Alistair Birse
Connor Kelly                      Dylan Browne
Tegan Line                        Rhys Glazer
Ailsa McCulloch                   Tony Heron
Kirsten McRobert                  Mhari McCulloch
Nathan Syed-Tollan                Jodie McFarlane
Maura Wilson                      Kristin McGaw
Eilidh Fisher                     Kirsty McGonigle
Kirsty Hamilton                   Megan Monteith
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