

One Can't Do It

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords E, B, A, B are indicated above. The second staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords E, A, B, E are indicated above. The third staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords E, A, E, F#m, B, E are indicated above. The lyrics are: 'When Win - ter wears its i - cy cloak, And all ar - ound is chilled, I throw a log up - on the fire, And pray my glass be filled. One can't do it, Two won't do it, Three might do it, But four logs make a fire.'

When Winter wears its icy cloak
And all around is chilled,
I throw a log upon the fire
And pray my glass be filled.

*Ch: One can't do it,
Two won't do it.
Three might do it,
But four logs make a fire.*

Upon the settle next the fire
I ponder on my fate,
And watch the ever changing flames
Make pictures in the grate.

Now some folk say that oak is best,
But years it takes to dry,
Whilst ash will give out lots of warmth
And burn with flames so high.

Grey willow keeps the fire in
But won't spread warmth around,
Just throw on hawthorn, holly, or elm
And soon heat will abound.

Beech is better left some time,
And larch can cause a fright,
But apple burns with fragrance sweet
And yew lasts through the night.

Rowan and birch are quick to dry
And just as quick to light,
Lime will also scent the room
And sycamore burns bright.

When midnight chimes throw on some ash
Before you go to bed,
Put on some kindling in the morn
And soon the flames will spread.



Here's one we made earlier...

This is a habitat pile made from coppiced grey willow on Smardale National Nature Reserve. The pile has compartments within to accommodate a wide variety of wildlife. When coppicing, we tend to leave willow on site to rot down in variously shaped log-piles, but a lot of the birch and ash finds its way into people's stoves. Rowan (mountain ash) is also often left, as it has long been associated with the supernatural, and is supposed to bring bad luck if burned!

Most people who burn wood tend to have their favourites, and there is not always universal agreement on which woods are best (except in the case of ash!). From personal experience, we would suggest that the burning quality of wood is very closely related to its dryness, and some of it takes longer than you might think to become thoroughly dry.