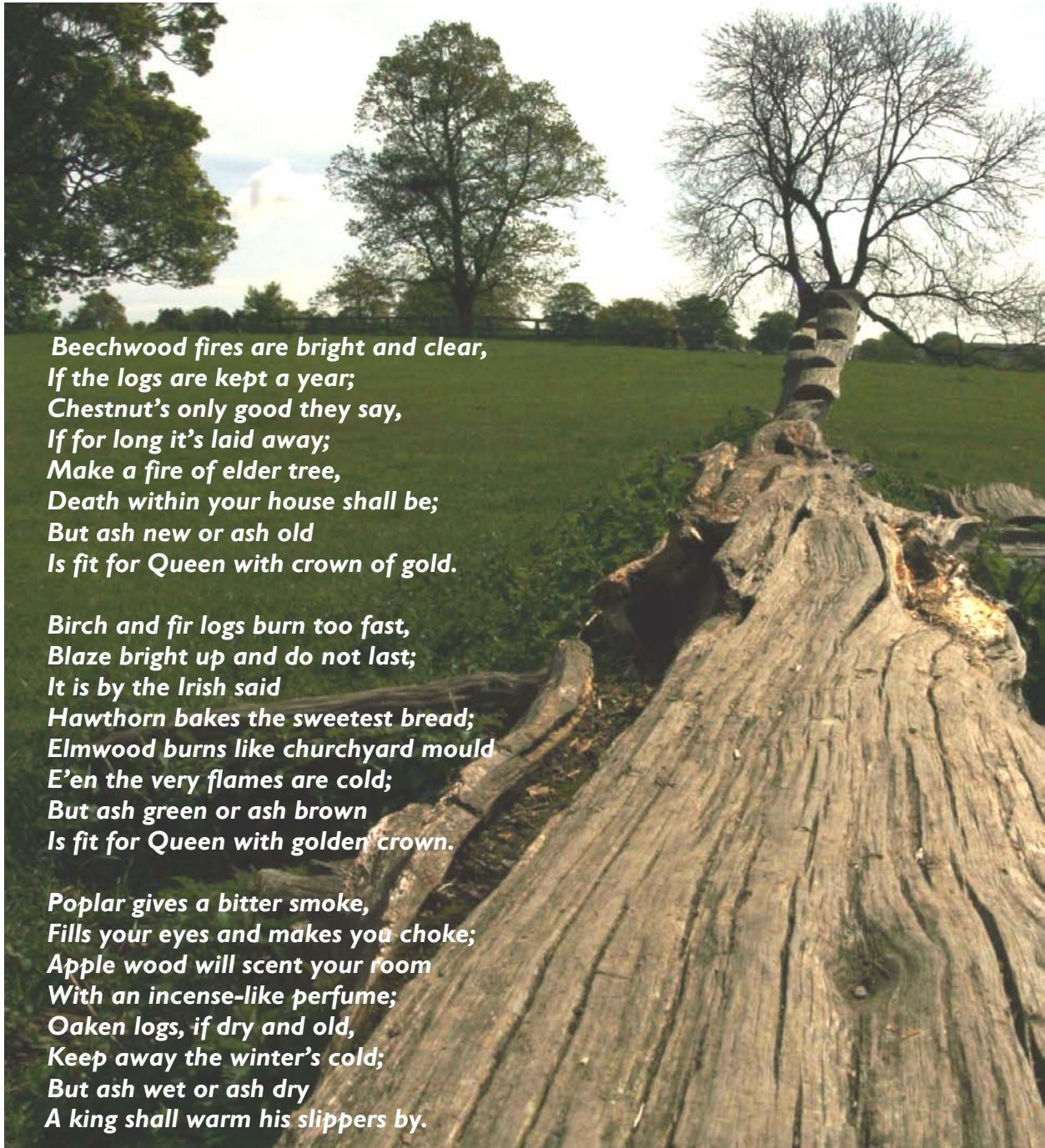




A Nice Log Fire

Name. _____

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
forest
A National Community Forest Partner



*Beechwood fires are bright and clear,
If the logs are kept a year;
Chestnut's only good they say,
If for long it's laid away;
Make a fire of elder tree,
Death within your house shall be;
But ash new or ash old
Is fit for Queen with crown of gold.*

*Birch and fir logs burn too fast,
Blaze bright up and do not last;
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread;
Elmwood burns like churchyard mould
E'en the very flames are cold;
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for Queen with golden crown.*

*Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke;
Apple wood will scent your room
With an incense-like perfume;
Oaken logs, if dry and old,
Keep away the winter's cold;
But ash wet or ash dry
A king shall warm his slippers by.*

1. Which is the best wood to use if it has been left outside in the rain?
2. If you were baking bread, would you prefer to use chestnut or hawthorn?
3. Which tree's wood would you be burning if you felt as cold as a church mouse?
4. To have a room with a pleasant smell, which wood would it be best to burn?
5. After storing beech wood and chestnut for a year, which one would be ready to put on the fire?
6. Which tree's wood does the poem say is fit for royalty?
7. Which tree does the poem say that it would be a particularly bad idea to burn?
8. What is the main problem with the wood of the birch or fir?
9. Which of these different types of wood would you most like to make a fire with?
Give reasons for your choice.
10. Present the information in the poem as a table or 'factfile' showing the burning properties of the different types of wood.