

Fèis time

ACTIVITY SHEET

Gin I Were Where the Gaudie Rins

Lyrics

Chorus

**O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins,
O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, At the back o Bennachie**

I never had but twa richt lads, but twa richt lads, but twa richt lads,
I never had but twa richt lads that dearly loved me
But ane was killed at the Lourin Fair, at the Lourin Fair, at the Lourin Fair
But ane was killed at the Lourin Fair, and the ither drowned in the Dee

**O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins,
O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, At the back o Bennachie**

Had they gien my lovie man for man, aye man for man, aye man for man
Had they gien my lovie man for man, Or yet ae man for three
But they crooded in sae thick on him, sae thick on him, sae thick on him
But they crooded in sae thick on him he could neither fecht nor flee.

**O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins,
O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, At the back o Bennachie**

He gaed tae me the linen fine, the linen fine, the linen fine
He gaed tae me the linen fine, my mourin dress tae be
I gaed tae him the hauden fine, the hauden fine, the hauden fine,
I gaed tae him the hauden fine, his windin sheet tae be.

**O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins, where the Gaudie rins,
O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, At the back o Bennachie
O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, wi the bonny broom and the yalla whins
O gin I were where the Gaudie rins, At the back o Bennachie**

The Story

So, this girl is wishing she was by the Gaudie Burn as she remembers happier times. She recalls the day at the Lourin Fair when her boyfriend, who she was engaged to be married, is murdered by a gang who overpowered him, there were so many of them that he could neither fight them nor could he get away.

Before this had happened, he had given the girl some fine linen, presumably for her wedding dress, but it turned out to be her mourning dress. She had given him the hauded fine – this was wearable cloth, presumably for him to make his wedding suit, but it turned out to be what his body was wrapped in (his winding sheet) when he died. We don't hear much about the other boyfriend other than he drowned in the River Dee. We're glad she has some nice memories down by the Gaudie, which make her happy.

Translations

Gin I were – I wish I were

The Gaudie – is a burn which runs at the foot of Bennachie in Aberdeenshire

rins – runs

I niver had but – I only ever had

Twa richt lads – 2 proper boyfriends (a lad does not only mean a boy but in Doric it can also mean boyfriend)

Lourin Fair – an annual Fair and Feeing Market in Strathdon

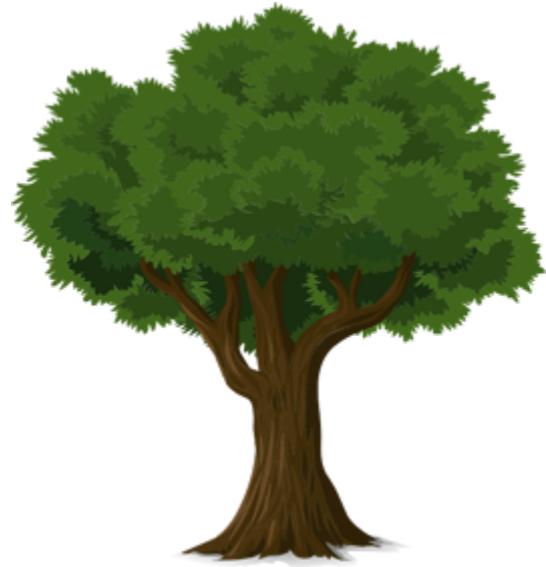
The Dee is the river that meets the sea at Aberdeen

Fecht – fight

Mournin dress – a special dress that would be worn to show that someone close to you had died

Winding sheet – this was material that a dead body would be wrapped in to prepare them for burial.

Broom – this is the Broom bush which bears yellow flowers
Yalla whins – the prickly gorse bush that also has yellow flowers. Both these bushes cover the braes of North East Scotland



Information provided by Irene Watt