

Low Flush

The Authorized Classroom-Friendly, Metric-Measurement Version

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With a slight swing feel: divide two eighth notes about 60:40, not 50:50

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is on a single treble clef staff. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score consists of eight lines of music.

C G⁷ C Am G⁷ C
We had the re-no-va-tors at our house one year To re-store, re-paint and re-new.

C G⁷ C D⁷ G⁷
They tried to fix the toi-let where it leaked a bit, And the bot-tom broke right through.

F C C G⁷ E
So we took the op-por-tu-ni-ty to make a change And do some-thing that was green

F C C G⁷ C
And put a low-flush toi-let in the ve-ry same place Where the old-fash-ioned toi-let had been.

F C
An old fash - ioned toi - let flush - es thir - teen lit - res,

C G⁷ Am
A quite ir - re - spon - si - ble a - mount.

F C
I've got a low flush toi - let and a high - fi - bre di - et

C G⁷ C
And I make e - very lit - re count.

For complete lyrics, turn to the next page

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We had the renovators at our house one year
To restore, repaint and renew.
They tried to fix the toilet where it leaked a bit,
And the bottom broke right through.
So we took the opportunity to make a change
And do something that was green
And put a low-flush toilet in the very same place
Where the old-fashioned toilet had been.

An old-fashioned toilet flushes 13 litres,
A quite irresponsible amount.
I've got a low flush toilet and a high-fibre diet
And I make every litre count.

The thing about an ordinary toilet that's so strange,
From a statistical point of view,
Is not the volume of the water that it flushes
But the fraction of water that's poo.
For the average urban dweller's poo, according to statistics,
Is just 200 ml per day,
Which is less than two percent of the volume of liquid
The old flush sent on its way.

This fraction's denominator's easy to change:
All it takes is a wrench and some seals.
The numerator needs a much more radical revision
In the average citizen's meals.
For what's the use of having seven metres of intestine
To stuff with white bread and meat
That barely leave a residue to push along
When the work of digestion's complete?

Now water conservation cannot stop at the loo,
For out on the western plains
There are cattle eating soybeans, grass, and corn
Where it only rarely rains.
And the scope of irrigation to support those herds
Is almost beyond belief:
Some figure half the water that's consumed in the States
Gets used in the raising of beef.

There are more verses on next page

Now, water's pretty heavy under gravity's pull,
Which is why Niagara Falls.
You can run it through a turbine on its way downstream
And light houses, shops, and malls.
But take it from the river for the sake of beef:
You not only lose its force,
You need to find power to run the pumps,
Which means nukes or fossils, of course.

Now, I consume a diet that is mostly fruits and veggies,
Whole grains, legumes, and seeds.
The scale in the bathroom says that I'm not disappearing,
So it must be what my body needs.
The fibre keeps my transit time to twenty-four hours,
The fruit makes me have to pee,
And I get to spend a lot of time reading on the toilet,
Which is how I'll get my Ph.D.

Now, I know you may be sitting there, feeling quite disgusted
At these things that you've just been told.
And it's absolutely true that I am full of it,
But it's rarely more than one day old.
And if you think this is trivial, not worthy of attention,
On that point we do not agree:
A Big Mac's meat is the equivalent in water
Of a two-thousand litre pee.