

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## The Cruel Ship's Captain

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A boy to me was bound apprenticed  
Because his parents they were poor.  
So I took him from St. James' workhouse  
All for to sail on the Greenland shore.

One day this poor boy he did annoy me  
Nothing to him then did I say  
But I rushed him to my frozen yardarm  
And I kept him there 'til the very next day.

When his eyes and his teeth did hang toward me  
With his hands and his feet bowed down likewise  
And with a tarry gasket there I killed him  
Because I wouldn't hear his cries.

Now all you sea captains that go out a-navyin'  
Take a warning example by me  
And don't misuse your young apprentice boys  
Or else its hanged you'll surely be.

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Rec. by A.L.Lloyd, Riverside RLP 12-635 "Thar She Blows" w/Ewan McColl  
(per liner notes, early 19th C. from King's Lynn, England broadsheet  
ballad)

GF

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