

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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The Waves Roll Out

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(Bob Gibson/Shel Silverstein)

Come along boys, I'll sing you a song;
Of the days when the fish were thick and I was young and strong.
We set sail in the morning,
In the teeth of a howling wind
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

Then late that night, there rose a gale
And it snapped the mast like a stick of wood and it ripped the sail
You should've seen the compass whirl
As the ship began to spin.
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

Then the sea turned red and the sky went white
And I heard a weird and wailing cry tear through the night
And the sea opened up like a gaping mouth
And pulled us screaming in.
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

And there I saw on the ocean floor
The sailors drowned and dead for thirty years or more
Their boney skinless toothless jaws
In a ghostly ghastly grin
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

And every eye turned toward the shore
And every leg was chained there to the ocean floor
And each cried out for the ones on land
They'd never see again
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

Their ghostly eyes burned through the sea
And each one screamed and reached a bony hand for me.
Crying, "This is the grave of the sailors damned
To pay for a life of sin."
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

The morning found me by the shore
And none believed I was the man who sailed the day before
My hair was white, my eyes were old
And I was bent and thin
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

So bully boys, you've heard my song
About the days when the fish were thick and I was young and strong
I've told of a curse that waits for you
If you hold to your life of sin
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in
And the waves roll out, and the waves roll in

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