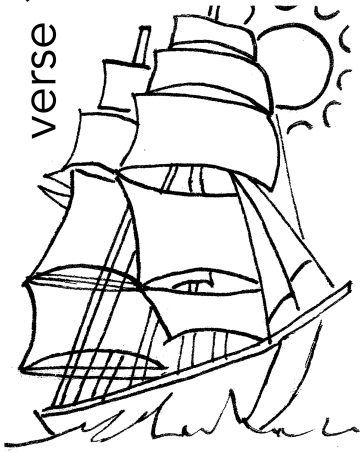


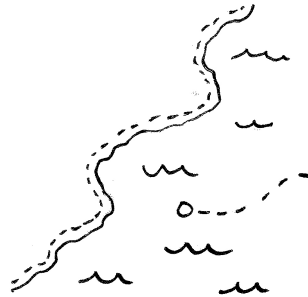
The Mermaid

A sea ballad from the mid-18th century.

verse 1



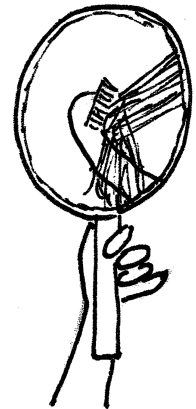
On Friday morning
we set sail



Not being far
from the land



It was there
we espied
a fair mermaid



With a comb
and a glass
in her hand

chorus



And the ocean's
waves do roll



And the stormy
winds do blow



And we
poor sailors
are skipping
at the top

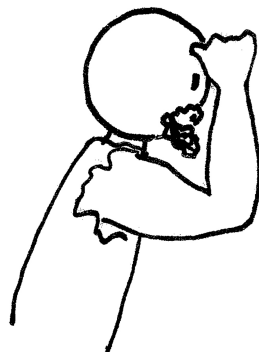


While the landlubbers lie
down below below below
While the landlubbers lie
down below

verse 2



The boatswain
at the helm stood



And was steering
his course right well



With tears
a-standing
in his eyes,



Saying oh how
the seas do swell



Art by
Mercy Todd
2022

verse 3



And then spoke
the mate
of our gallant ship



And a well-spoken
man was he



Saying,
"I have a wife
in fair Plymouth town



And this night
a widow she will be."

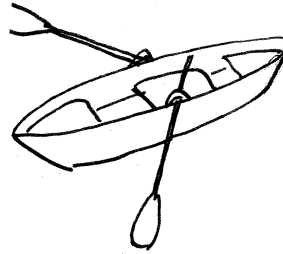
verse 4



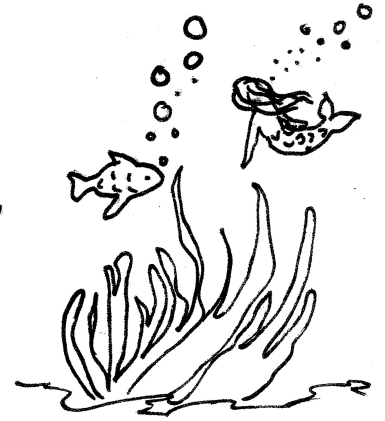
Then spoke
the captain
of our gallant ship



And a valiant
man was he



Saying,
"For the want
of a longboat

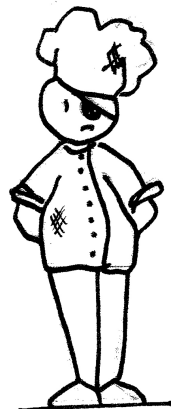


We shall sink
to the bottom
of the sea."

verse 5



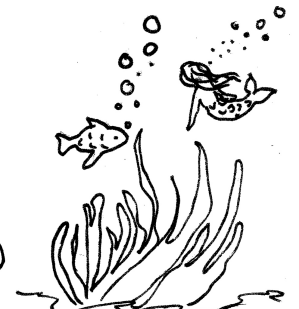
And up spoke
the cookie
of our gallant ship



And a gruff
old soul was he



Saying,
"I care much more
for me pots
and me pans



Than I do
fer the bottom
of the sea!"

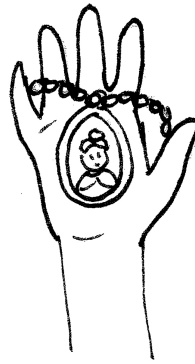
verse 6



Then up spoke
the boy
of our gallant ship



And a well-spoken
lad was he.

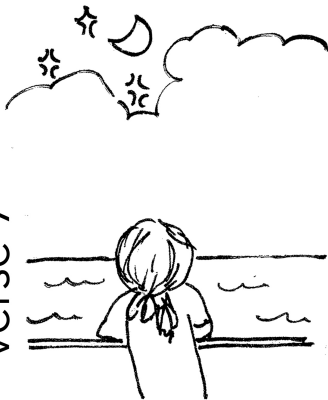


Saying,
"I have a mother
in fair Bristol town



And this night
she will weep
for me."

verse 7



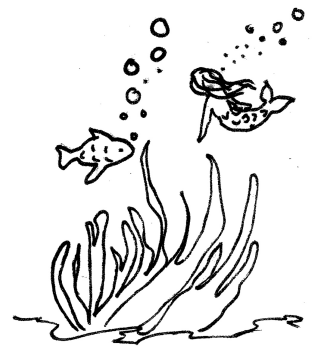
The moon gave light
and the stars
shone bright



And my mother
is looking for me



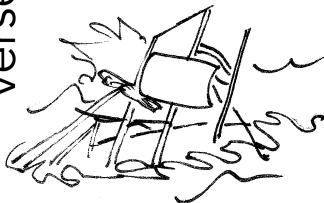
She may look,
she may weep
with a watery eye



She may look
to the bottom
of the sea.

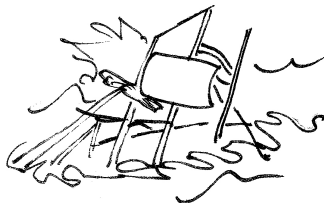
verse 8

1



Then once around
spun our gallant ship

2

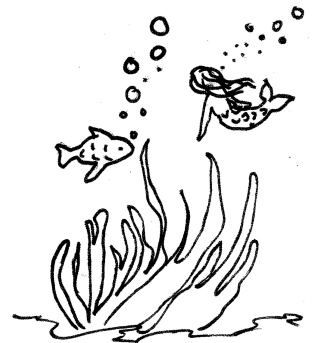


And twice
around
spun she

3



And the third time
around
spun our gallant ship



And she sank
to the bottom
of the sea