

The Tempest

1. Rock the ship

SONG

[Bosun and sailors]

*Looks like we're goin' down!
Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.
The ship won't take the strain –
will I see the shore again in Africa?
The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air. (Burn, burn, burn)
Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere. (Down, down, down)
And we're riding out the storm.
We've never been so far from home.
And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –*

[Ariel and sprites]

Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.

CARRIE

Hello, I'm Carrie Grant and that was the opening number from our version of Shakespeare's *Tempest*. It's called 'Rock the ship'.

I'm going to sing the first line to you and I'd like you to sing the same line back. The words begin after the first beat in the bar, so I'll count '3, 4, 1...'

*Looks like we're goin' down!
Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.*

3, 4, 1...

ALL

*Looks like we're goin' down!
Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.*

CARRIE

Same with the next line. I'll sing first; you sing after the count.

*The ship won't take the strain –
will I see the shore again in Africa?*

3, 4, 1...

ALL

*The ship won't take the strain –
will I see the shore again in Africa?*



The Tempest

- CARRIE Let's go from the top down to there now without me singing first. Here we go! 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *Looks like we're goin' down!
Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.*
- CARRIE 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *The ship won't take the strain –
will I see the shore again in Africa?*
- CARRIE You'll have noticed that those first two lines have the same tune. The next two are set to a different tune. I'll sing both lines this time and you sing them back after the count.
- The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air.
Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere.*
- 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air.*
- CARRIE 3, 4, 1...
- Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere.*
- CARRIE Right and, as before, you have a go without hearing me first. I'll bring you in. 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air.*
- CARRIE 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere.*
- CARRIE Let's take it from the top now, all four lines together. Here's the count.
- 3, 4, 1...



- ALL *Looks like we're goin' down!
Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.
The ship won't take the strain –
will I see the shore again in Africa?
The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air.
Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere.*
- CARRIE On now to the next two lines, which also have their own tune. Listen first and then be ready to sing...
- And we're riding out the storm.
We've never been so far from home.*
- 2, 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *And we're riding out the storm.
We've never been so far from home.*
- CARRIE And now the last two lines. Listen first and then sing them after me.
- And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –
Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*
- 2, 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –
Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*
- CARRIE And you know that last line already. Let's just sing from 'And we're riding out the storm...' to the end. Straight in after the count. 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *And we're riding out the storm.
We've never been so far from home.*
- CARRIE 2, 3, 4, 1...
- ALL *And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –
Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*
- CARRIE OK! Now before we sing the whole verse I should tell you about the introduction. You'll hear a thunderclap and then this sound –



MUSIC

FALLING CHROMATIC SCALE

CARRIE

The music moves down one semitone at a time. That's called 'chromatic'. It's very quick and dramatic, creating tension and painting a picture of the ship rolling about in the storm. That descending section is also your signal to prepare to sing. So take your breath right after it.

3, 4, 1...

ALL

*Looks like we're goin' down!
Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.
The ship won't take the strain –
will I see the shore again in Africa?
The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air. (Burn, burn, burn)
Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere. (Down, down, down)
And we're riding out the storm.
We've never been so far from home.
And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –
Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*

CARRIE

Good! Now we're going to try the second verse. Only the first two lines are different from verse one. So we can learn it very quickly. I'll let you hear them. Be ready to come in...

*The point of no return,
now the ship is gonna burn in Africa. (Burn, burn, burn)
You're going down below,
dancing to Diabolo in Africa. (Down, down, down)*

3, 4...

ALL

*The point of no return,
now the ship is gonna burn in Africa. (Burn, burn, burn)
You're going down below,
dancing to Diabolo in Africa. (Down, down, down)*

CARRIE

We can go right through verse two now. Did you notice the backing vocals when you were singing? If some of you would like to add the 'burn, burn, burn' and 'down, down, down' bits you do that. 3, 4, 1...



- ALL *The point of no return,
now the ship is gonna burn in Africa. (Burn, burn, burn)
You're going down below,
dancing to Diabolo in Africa. (Down, down, down)*
- CARRIE 3, 4...
- ALL *The rig is burning,
the flash of lightning is in the air. (Burn, burn, burn)
Timbers breaking,
I see the water rising everywhere. (Down, down, down)
And we're riding out the storm.
We've never been so far from home.
And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –
Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*
- CARRIE You've learned most of the song so I'd like to focus on the end where there's an instrumental based on the 'down, down, down, rhythm. You can join in using your own instruments, but let's clap it out first. Half the class should clap the 'down, down, down' rhythm – which you'll hear on drums – like this:
- MUSIC DRUMS
- CARRIE Followed by the other half stamping the two notes in response – like this:
- MUSIC STAMPS
- CARRIE You try it now. If you think the words 'down, down, down' as you clap the first three notes that should help you. 1, 2, 3, 4...
- SONG *down, down, down*
- CARRIE To do the whole instrumental you play that rhythm four times with a silent bar between each. Then after the fourth time, without waiting, everyone plays 'down, down, down'. Clap again, or use instruments like drums and symbols...or even metal buckets or dustbin lids. Whatever you can find! Here we go from the last line of the song...
- SONG *Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*
- CARRIE 2, 3, 4...



The Tempest

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp,*

CARRIE 1, 2, 3, 4...

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp,*

CARRIE 2, 3, 4...

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp,*

CARRIE 1, 2, 3, 4...

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp,*

CARRIE Here we go!

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp, clap clap clap.*

How did you get on? After the fourth time did you all remember to play one bar of 'down, down, down' together? Yeah, let's try it one more time.

SONG *Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.*

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp,*

clap clap clap, stamp stamp,

clap clap clap, stamp stamp,

CARRIE Here we go!

INSTRUMENTAL *clap clap clap, stamp stamp, clap clap clap.*

CARRIE Well I think that ship is pretty much sunk. So we should stop for today. We do have time to put the whole song together though. Verse one, verse two and our instrumental. Stand up – and be ready to breathe right after the descending section. That goes for both verses. This song is definitely high energy so put as much into your singing as you possibly can. Good luck!

3, 4, 1...



ALL

Verse 1

[Bosun and sailors]

*Looks like we're goin' down!
 Wish I was on solid ground in Africa.
 The ship won't take the strain –
 will I see the shore again in Africa?
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 the flash of lightning is in the air. (Burn, burn, burn)
 Timbers breaking,
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 And we're riding out the storm.
 We've never been so far from home.
 And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –*

[Ariel and sprites]

Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.

CARRIE

3, 4, 1...

Verse 2

ALL

[Bosun and sailors]

*The point of no return,
 now the ship is gonna burn in Africa. (Burn, burn, burn)*

[Ariel and sprites]

*You're going down below,
 dancing to Diabolo in Africa. (Down, down, down)*

[Bosun and sailors]

*The rig is burning,
 the flash of lightning is in the air. (Burn, burn, burn)
 Timbers breaking,
 I see the water rising everywhere. (Down, down, down)
 And we're riding out the storm.
 We've never been so far from home.
 And the wind and rain driven by the hurricane –*

[Ariel and sprites]

Gonna rock the ship, rock the ship tonight.

Instrumental

*clap clap clap, stamp stamp,
 clap clap clap, stamp stamp,
 clap clap clap, stamp stamp,
 clap clap clap, stamp stamp, clap clap clap.*

