



# Treasure Island

## 3. Little bit of rum

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DAVID

Hello again - David Grant here. Today we meet the most famous pirate in English literature. Long John Silver. 'Them that dies will be the lucky ones!' This song is partly sung but mostly spoken and if you can copy Long John's accent, so much the better! Listen first:

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum.*

That's the beginning of today's chorus. Ready and -

SINGERS

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum.*

DAVID

Listen to some more...and sing back when I bring you in...

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're praying for those who have sinned.*

And -

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SINGERS

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're praying for those who have sinned.*

DAVID

Listen:

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're sailing four sheets to the wind.*

And -

SINGERS

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're sailing four sheets to the wind.*

DAVID

OK – now try the chorus yourselves.  
Ready and:

SINGERS

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're praying for those who have sinned.*

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're sailing four sheets to the wind.*



DAVID

And onto verse 1 - A beginner's guide to ships. Listen first!

*That strange looking thing on a long piece of string -  
that's the anchor.*

*This tall bit of tin overflowed to the brim -  
That's me tankard.*

*There's a long piece of wood where many have stood  
cursing the day they were born.*

*That's cause they knew they was gonna be walking the  
planka.*

DAVID

Let's learn it a phrase at a time...

*That strange looking thing on a long piece of string -  
that's the anchor.*

Ready and -

SINGERS

*That strange looking thing on a long piece of string -  
that's the anchor. (The anchor!)*

DAVID

*This tall bit of tin overflowed to the brim -  
That's me tankard.*

Ready and -





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SINGERS

*This tall bit of tin overflowed to the brim -  
That's me tankard. (Me tankard!)*

DAVID

*There's a long piece of wood where many have stood  
cursing the day they were born.*

And -

SINGERS

*There's a long piece of wood where many have stood  
cursing the day they were born.*

DAVID

*That's cause they knew they was gonna be walking the  
planka.*

And -

SINGERS

*That's cause they knew they was gonna be walking the  
planka.*

DAVID

Right. Whole verse! And -

SINGERS

*That strange looking thing on a long piece of string -  
that's the anchor.  
This tall bit of tin overflowed to the brim -  
That's me tankard.  
There's a long piece of wood where many have stood  
cursing the day they were born.*



*That's cause they knew they was gonna be walking the plank.*

DAVID

On now to the second verse - listen first.

*If you pull on this rope it may keep us afloat, we'll be riding the waves until morning.*

*In this part of the world there are pirates (I'm told)*

*They could strike any time without warning.*

*We sail through the night with the stars shining bright ,  
under the silvery moon.*

*So it's anchors away at the end of the day,  
as we head for the old blue lagoon.*

DAVID

So, it's similar to the first verse but you may have noticed it ends differently. I'll sing it and then you repeat. Here we go -

*If you pull on this rope it may keep us afloat, we'll be riding the waves until morning.*

Ready and -

SINGERS

*If you pull on this rope it may keep us afloat, we'll be riding the waves until morning.*

DAVID

OK, listen:



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*In this part of the world there are pirates (I'm told)  
They could strike any time without warning.*

And -

SINGERS

*In this part of the world there are pirates (I'm told)  
They could strike any time without warning.*

DAVID

Ok, listen!

*We sail through the night with the stars shining bright,  
under the silvery moon.*

And -

SINGERS

*We sail through the night with the stars shining bright,  
under the silvery moon.*

DAVID

There's a change here -

*So it's anchors away at the end of the day,  
as we head for the old blue lagoon.*

And -

SINGERS

*So it's anchors away at the end of the day,  
as we head for the old blue lagoon.*



DAVID

Let's do the whole of Verse 2! 'If you pull...' Ready and -

SINGERS

*If you pull on this rope it may keep us afloat, we'll be riding the waves until morning.*

*In this part of the world there are pirates (I'm told)*

*They could strike any time without warning.*

*We sail through the night with the stars shining bright, under the silvery moon*

*So it's anchors away at the end of the day,*

*as we head for the old blue lagoon.*

DAVID

Excellent! Now Verse 3...

*We have left, we have right, it's confusing alright and you know that we aint been to Harvard.*

*But when you're at sea you can't disagree,*

*so we calls them the port and the starboard.*

*When the rum starts to flow and there's trouble below, the rights and the wrongs don't apply.*

*If you turn your back you'll be under attack,*

*and soon you'll be hung out to dry.*

DAVID

Now as before, repeat each line after me. Here we go!

*We have left, we have right, it's confusing alright and you know that we aint been to Harvard.*



## Treasure Island

And -

SINGERS

*We have left, we have right, it's confusing alright and  
you know that we aint been to Harvard.*

DAVID

*But when you're at sea you can't disagree,  
so we calls them the port and the starboard.*

And -

SINGERS

*But when you're at sea you can't disagree ,  
so we calls them the port and the starboard.*

DAVID

*When the rum starts to flow and there's trouble below,  
the rights and the wrongs don't apply.*

And -

SINGERS

*When the rum starts to flow and there's trouble below,  
the rights and the wrongs don't apply.*

DAVID

*If you turn your back you'll be under attack,  
and soon you'll be hung out to dry.*

SINGERS

*If you turn your back you'll be under attack,  
and soon you'll be hung out to dry.*





DAVID

All the way through! And -

SINGERS

*We have left, we have right, it's confusing alright  
and you know that we aint been to Harvard.  
but when you're at sea you can't disagree,  
so we calls them the port and the starboard.  
When the rum starts to flow and there's trouble below,  
the rights and the wrongs don't apply.  
If you turn your back you'll be under attack,  
and soon you'll be hung out to dry.*

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're praying for those who have sinned.  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
little bit of rum, little bit of rum.  
We're sailing four sheets to the wind.*

DAVID

Now I'd like to teach the backing vocal or BV group a little harmony part to sing in the chorus. When everyone else is singing:

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum*

The BVs can sing this...



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*Rum, rum, rum, rum,  
...those who have sinned.*

Try that BVs. Ready and -

BV SINGERS

*Rum, rum, rum, rum,  
...those who have sinned.*

DAVID

Now stay on that note -

*Rum, rum, rum, rum  
...sheets to the wind.*

Ready and -

BV SINGERS

*Rum, rum, rum, rum  
...sheets to the wind.*

DAVID

Both lines BVs. OK, remember your note is - 'rum.'  
Ready and -

BV SINGERS

*Rum, rum, rum, rum  
...those who have sinned.  
Rum, rum, rum, rum  
...sheets to the wind.*



DAVID

Now, let's put the main singers and the BVs together – to see what it sounds like. Here we go. The main tune comes in first: '*Little bit of rum*'. Right, ready. 1, 2, 3, and -

SINGERS

*Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum  
We're praying for those who have sinned.  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum,  
Little bit of rum, little bit of rum  
We're sailing four sheets to the wind.*

DAVID

Before we sing the whole song we'll go back to the beginning.

Now listen to the introduction and ask yourself a question. How many beats are there in the bar?

There are 3 beats in the bar. It's a waltz. Let's count them. 1,2,3...1,2,3...1,2,3...

The composer chose this time signature to highlight the comedy of the song. I mean pirates are known for fighting, drinking and being hugely aggressive...Now can you imagine these guys waltzing around the deck of a ship? Certainly not...it's ridiculous isn't it!

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DAVID

I'm going to waltz off myself now so it's over to you for the whole song. Note that after verse 2, you sing the chorus twice.

Good bye me hearties! Arghearr!

