

[Am] There once was a ship that put to sea
And the [Dm] name of the ship was the [Am] Billy of Tea
The [Am] winds blew hard, her bow dipped down
Oh [E7] blow, my bully boys, [Am] blow

Chorus after each verse

[F] Soon may the [C] Wellerman come
To [Dm] bring us sugar and [Am] tea and rum
[F] One day, when the [C] tonguin' is done,
We'll [E7] take our leave and [Am] go

She [Am] had not been two weeks from shore
When [Dm] down on her a [Am] right whale bore
The [Am] captain called all hands and swore
He'd [E7] take that whale in [Am] tow

[Am] Before the boat had hit the water
The [Dm] whale's tail came [Am] up and caught her
All [Am] hands to the side, harpooned and fought her
When [E7] she dived down [Am] below

No [Am] line was cut, no whale was freed;
The [Dm] Captain's mind was [Am] not of greed
But [Am] he belonged to the whaleman's creed;
She [E7] took the ship in [Am] tow

For [Am] forty days, or even more
The [Dm] line went slack, then [Am] tight once more
All [Am] boats were lost (there were only four)
But [E7] still that whale did [Am] go

As [Am] far as I've heard, the fight's still on;
The [Dm] line's not cut and the [Am] whale's not gone
The [Am] Wellerman makes his regular call
To [E7] encourage the Captain, [Am] crew, and all

Chorus with final line repeated