

# The Wellerman

Trad. New Zealand Sea Shanty

There once was a ship that put to sea  
The name of that ship was the Billy-o-Tea  
The wind blew up, her bow dipped down  
Blow, my bully boys, blow (huh)

## **Chorus**

*Soon may the Wellerman come  
To bring us sugar and tea and rum.  
One day, when the tonguing is done  
We'll take our leave and go.*

She had not been two weeks from shore  
When down on her a right whale bore  
The captain called all hands and swore  
He'd take that whale in tow (huh)

## **Chorus**

Before the boat had hit the water  
The wha-le's tail came up and caught her  
All hands to the side, harpooned and fought her  
When she dived down below (huh)

## **Chorus**

No line was cut, no whale was freed  
The captain's mind was not of greed!  
But he belonged to the Whaleman's Creed  
She took that ship in tow (huh)

## **Chorus**

For forty days or even more  
The line went slack then tight once more  
All boats were lost, there were only four  
And still that whale did go (huh)

## **Chorus**

As far as I've heard, the fight's still on  
The line's not cut, and the whale's not gone  
The Wellerman makes his a-regular call  
To encourage the captain, crew and all!

## **Chorus x 2**