

CAPTAIN/ BARNACLE BILL/ JIM (+DICK)

Captain Well Men, home at last, and what a voyage!

Bill We've only been to Goole Captain.

Captain Don't be so cynical Bosun. Goole can be a very dangerous place, voyages like that shouldn't be taken lightly. The way the men handled those pirates made me proud to be their Captain.

Jim Pirates? On the Humber? I don't remember that! I think he's been on the rum again.

Bill Enough of that Jim.

Captain I say they deserve a rest, dismiss them all Bosun.

Bill If you insist Captain. Right men, you're all sacked.

Captain No Bosun, when I say dismiss the men, I mean dismiss the men not dismiss the men.

Bill I thought so. Sorry men, you're still sacked.

Captain Oh Bosun leave it to me. Attention! By the left, dismiss! One, two one, two.....

Captain Its all very well you being cynical about Goole Bosun, but it's better than nothing. Trade is hard to come by these days, and Shippy McShipface is an expensive ship to run. We really must rally some business, or the men will be dismissed dismissed, not just dismissed. Its now or never I think, we need an epic expedition, somewhere with prosperity and bright lights.

Bill Blackpool?

Captain Noo, more adventurous than that. I was more thinking New York. Have a few words whilst around the town won't you, see what you can muster. I think I'll try to woo old Fanny Fitzwarren again. She's in dire need of some new stock in that shop.

Bill Too right she is, I went in for a toothbrush before we set sail last week, and she tried to sell me a bristle-less model.

Captain That doesn't surprise me. The only thing in large supply in her shop is rats.

Enter Dick

Dick Ahh, good morning sir. Do you need any hands Captain?

Bosun Another landlubber Captain.

Captain You want to be a sailor do you boy?

Dick Yes please sir.

Captain Name?

Dick Richard Whittington at your service, but please, call me Dick.

Captain Can you swim?

Dick Why, what's wrong with the ship?

Captain Nothing.

Dick Well do they sink often?

Bosun Only once!

Captain (*Frowns at Bosun*) Well, what will you bring to the party?

Dick My cat Tom here is an excellent mouse and rat catcher.

Bosun Sounds like a rubbish party!

Captain Quiet Bill. Ahh well in that case, welcome aboard the good ship Shippy McShipface Tom. Pleasure meeting you Mr Whittington. How much do you want for him?

Dick Oh no, we go everywhere together Captain.

Captain I thought as much, I suppose in that case you'd better come aboard as well Dick.