

# ALL HANDS ON DECK



## Tell a Tall Tale

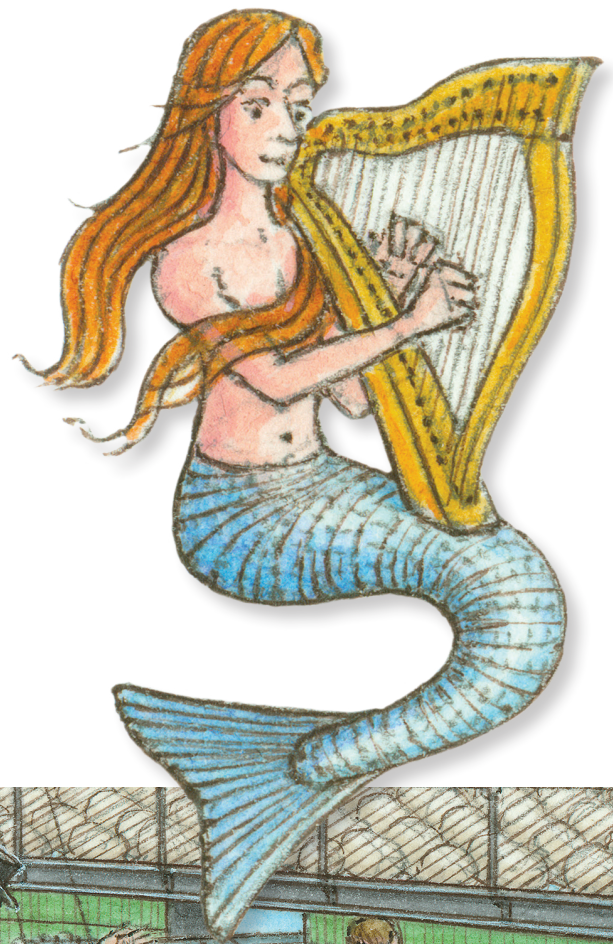
Sailors are known for spinning yarns (telling tall tales) about dramatic adventures they've had and outrageous things that they have seen.

Ask a friend to provide you with words to fill in the blanks in the following tall tales. Record the words on a separate sheet of paper. Then, read the story with the new words included.

### You will need:

Paper

Pen or pencil







## Story one

Now this terrible event took place when I was a (job), and our (adjective) (noun) was stranded in (location). We had not a breath of wind in a week, and one night a fog came down upon us. We knew that there was (something dangerous) all around us. What could we do? It was impossible to see from one side of the ship's (noun) to the other, and there was a (noun) dangerously close. Then I had a brilliant idea. I climbed the mast, cut up the fog with a sword, and tied it in a ditty bag with a (noun).

Cook served up portions of fog with gravy, and in two days we had eaten our way out to clear skies.

## Story two

You might not believe this yarn, but I swear on my granny's grave that it's true. It was when our (adjective) (noun) was cruising in (adjective) seas in (location). I was standing in the ship's (room) when my parrot (name), who never usually left my shoulder, flew off and out of sight. He headed towards the (adjective) lands nearby, and I thought he was gone for good. So I was delighted when, just hours later, he returned – and with a leaf of purest gold in his beak! Of course I hid this from our (adjective) officers. The parrot repeated this trick the next day, and the one after. I would have been a rich man if our lousy, (adjective) ship's cat had not captured poor (parrot's name) and reduced him to a lifeless pile of brightly colored feathers.

## Story three

I'm going to tell you an extraordinary story. It was back when I was a (job). We were cruising the (location) aboard a (noun) in the (adjective) seas off (adjective) coasts. We had turned (direction) to avoid a (hazard), when we suddenly heard a haunting song. There, sitting on a (noun) were three beautiful maidens. Their song instantly enchanted my (adjective) shipmates, who steered towards the rock. But I blocked my ears with (noun) and leaped from my position on the (location). I grabbed the helm, set a safe course, and tied the wheel with (noun). Then I fought off my shipmates until we were safely out of earshot.

To this day, I dream of those beautiful sirens every night.