We're in a Storm at Sea

Early years

Song and session plan for Early Years

Introduction

We're *In a Storm at Sea* uses the classic device of repetition, which enables young learners to build confidence and security with words, meanings and linguistic structures.

This song is based on Act I Scene i of *The Tempest*. The song contains some direct quotes, in particular, '*We split, we split, we split!*' Young learners will be able to infer this meaning by context, so it doesn't need explicit explanation. 'Quick quick, the rats have quit!' refers to Prospero's Act I Scene ii speech about his earlier voyage: '*The very rats / Instinctively had quit it*' but it might be a mouthful!

This is set to a traditional tune that is in the public domain, of which there are several versions; one version for reference is 'We're Driving in Our Car' (available on BBC Teach); another is 'Jelly on a Plate.' A recording of this particular version is available.



Resources and Interaction

- This song doesn't need resources, just lots of actions, which are explained on the plan on the following page.

© 2021 Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Registered Charity Number 209302

We're in a Storm at Sea – PROMPT SHEET	
WORDS	**ACTIONS**
	Before singing: Act out getting on board an imaginary ship. Practise the actions that will occur during the song: • Making waves • Swaying and rocking • Clapping • 'Pattering' hands on thighs
We're in a ship at sea We're in a ship at sea Sway sway from side to side We're in a ship at sea	Make 'waves' with hands Make 'waves' with hands Sway Make 'waves' with hands
Hold on to the ship *Hold to the ship!* *123 and 456…* *WE SPLIT WE SPLIT WE SPLIT!*	Hold hands – either everyone in a circle or child with adult/ carer/parent Let go of hands and roll backwards!
We're in a ship at sea We're in a ship at sea Rock rock from side to side We're in a ship at sea	Make 'waves' with hands Make 'waves' with hands Rock – more violently than 'sway!' Make 'waves' with hands
Hold on to the ship *Hold to the ship!* *123 and 456…* *WE SPLIT WE SPLIT WE SPLIT!*	As before
We're in a ship at sea! We're in a ship at sea! Splash splash the rain goes splash We're in a STORM at sea!	Make waves with hands Make waves with hands Make 'rain falling' signs with hands Take notice of the change in wording
Hold on to the ship *Hold to the ship!* *1…2…3 and 4…5…6…* *WE SPLIT WE SPLIT WE SPLIT!*	As before. Slow down on 3rd line to increase suspense!
We're in a storm at sea We're in a storm at sea Clap clap the thunder claps We're in a storm at sea	Clap to the rhythm Clap to the rhythm Clap to the rhythm Clap to the rhythm
Hold on to the ship *Hold to the ship!* *1…2….3 and 4…5…6…* *WE SPLIT WE SPLIT WE SPLIT!*	As before Slow down on 3rd line to increase suspense!
We're in a storm at sea We're in a storm at sea Crash crash the waves go crash We're in a storm at sea	Clap to the rhythm Clap to the rhythm Clap to the rhythm – or use shakers if available Clap to the rhythm
Hold on to the ship *Hold to the ship!* *1…2….3 and 4…5…6…* *WE SPLIT WE SPLIT WE SPLIT!*	As before Slow down on 3rd line to increase suspense!
The sea has hit our ship! The sea has hit our ship! Quick! Quick! The rats have quit! The sea has hit our ship!	Patter hands quickly on thighs
Hold on to the ship *Hold to the ship!* *1…2….3 and 4…5…6…* *WE SPLIT WE SPLIT WE SPLIT!*	As before Slow down on 3rd line to increase suspense!