

Leave her, Johnny, leave her

Sea Shanty



1) Oh the times was hard and the wages low,
Leave her, Johnny, leave her!
But now once more ashore we'll go,
An' it's time for us to leave her!

Chorus (repeated after each verse):

Leave her, Johnny, leave her!
Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her!
For the voyage is done and the winds don't blow,
And it's time for us to leave her!

2) Oh I thought I heard the old man say, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
Tomorrow ye will get your pay! *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

3) Oh the work was hard and the voyage was long, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
The sea was high and the gales were strong. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

4) Oh the wind was foul and the sea ran high, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
She shipped it green and none went by. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

5) Oh the wind was foul, all work, no pay, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
To Liverpool docks from Frisco Bay. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

6) We was made to pump all night and day, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
And we half-dead had bugger-all to say. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

7) We'd be better off in a nice clean gaol, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
Will all night in and plenty of ale. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

8) She's poverty-stricken and parish-rigged, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
And the bloomin' crowd is fever-stricked. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

9) Oh the rats are gone and we the crew, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
It's damned high time we left 'er too. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

10) Oh the work was hard and the voyage was long, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
the sea was high and the gales were strong. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

11) Oh a dollar a day is a shellback's pay, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
To pump all night and haul all day. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*

12) Oh, I pray that I shall never see, *Leave her, Johnny, leave her!*
A hungry ship the likes of she. *An' it's time for us to leave her!*