



River Boy

Song of the river

A verse from this song is quoted in chapter three of *River Boy*.



'A Nautical Yarn' Keighley Goodchild

I sing of a capting not unknown to fame;
A naval commander, Bill Jinks was his name,
Who sailed where the Murray's clear waters do flow,
Did this freshwater shellback, with his Yeo heave a yeo.

To the Port of Wahgunyah his vessel was bound
When night comes upon him and darkness around;
Not a star on the waters its clear light did throw;
But the vessel sped onward with a Yeo heave a yeo.

"Oh! Capting, oh! Capting, let's make for the shore,
For the winds they do rage and the winds they do roar!"
"Nay, nay," said the capting, "though the fierce winds may blow
I will stick to my vessel with a Yeo heave a yeo."

"Oh! Capting, oh! Capting, the waves sweep the deck,
Oh Capting, oh! Capting, we'll soon be a wreck —
To the river's deep bosom each seaman will go!"
But the capting laughed lightly, with his Yeo heave a yeo.

"Farewell to the maiding — the girl I adore;
Farewell to my friends — I shall see them no more!"
The crew shrieked in terror, the capting he swore —
They had stuck on a sandbank, so the men walked ashore.

Ian Mudie, *River Boats*, Rigby Ltd, Adelaide 1961, p. 126

Use your own words to explain what the song is about.

Now create your own short song about paddle steamers. Choose the tune of a song that you know, and use the back of this page to write the words.