

The Tiny Whale

By Jenny Lombard

CHARACTERS:

- THE CAPTAIN: A big doofus. He has a large mustache.
- THIRD MATE: A very smart dum-dum. He has a small mustache.
- THE TINY WHALE She is very tricky. She has no lines. A person could play her or you could use a toy, such as a rubber duck.

SETTING:

All the action takes place on a boat, S.S. Chowderhead. Somewhere in the middle of the ocean.

Props you will need and how to make them

- Hats You will need a few hats for this play. First off, you will need three sailor hats. If you don't have sailor hats, you can make three hats out of newspaper. One should say "CAPTAIN". The others should say "THIRD MATE" and "FIRST MATE." You will also need a warm winter hat and a floppy summer hat with a brim
- Mittens and Scarf Mittens and scarf.
- Boat Turn your coffee table upside down or put some couch pillows on the floor.
- Spyglass Use a cardboard paper towel roll.
- Flamingo Make a paper airplane out of a pink piece of paper. Draw an eye and a beak. Now, doesn't that look like a flamingo?
- Cold Drink This should just look like a cold drink. Don't put any liquid in it.
- Mop Mop.
- Harpoon A broom or broom handle.

- Lifesaver A floating ring that is used on boats to save people from drowning. You can use an inflatable pool ring or if you don't have one of those, a round pillow or even a Frisbee will do.
- Mustaches You can make them out of paper and stick them on with tape. Or you don't have to wear them at all. They are not important to the play. I just like mustaches.

Also: It's helpful if you know the song "Row, row, row the boat" because the characters sing it.

CAPTAIN and the THIRD MATE are in their boat. The THIRD MATE is rowing the boat and singing. The CAPTAIN has a map and a spy glass.

THIRD MATE

"Row, row, row, your boat, gently down the stream...."

CAPTAIN

Now let me see.....

THIRD MATE

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily...."

CAPTAIN

The sun is up there.....

THIRD MATE

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily...."

CAPTAIN

The ocean is there....

THIRD MATE

"Merrily merrily merrily merrily..."

CAPTAIN

Also over there....and there....and there...

THIRD MATE

"Merrily merrily merrily merrily..."

But where are we? CAPTAIN

“Merrily merrily merrily merrily...” THIRD MATE

THIRD MATE! CAPTAIN

Yes, My Captain!? THIRD MATE

Don’t you know any other words to that song? CAPTAIN

You mean like the part that goes “Life is but a dream?” THIRD MATE

Yes! CAPTAIN

No. Sorry. I forgot that part. THIRD MATE

Grrrrrr! CAPTAIN

I’m sorry Captain. Do you want me to swab the deck? THIRD MATE

Not now! Can’t you see I’m trying to think? I’m trying to figure out where we are. CAPTAIN

The CAPTAIN looks at his map.

It’s as I thought. We’ve drifted off-course. Quickly - put this warm hat on before you freeze to death. According to this map we’re smack dab in the middle of the North Pole! CAPTAIN

Whatever you say. You’re the boss, boss. THIRD MATE

The THIRD MATE puts on the hat.

CAPTAIN

Toasty warm?

THIRD MATE

You could say that. You could also say I'm burning up.

CAPTAIN

Good. Here, have some mittens too. And a scarf.

The THIRD MATE puts on mittens and a scarf. A flamingo flies by

THIRD MATE

Did you see that?

CAPTAIN

See what?

THIRD MATE

That Flamenco that just flew by.

CAPTAIN

Are you referring to a large pink bird that lives in tropical climates?

THIRD MATE

That's the one.

CAPTAIN

Well, mate, I have news for you. It's called a "Flamingo" not a "Flamenco". "Flamenco" is something else entirely. A type of a dance, I believe.

THIRD MATE

So it wasn't a Fliminbo?

CAPTAIN

Flamingo.

THIRD MATE

Right. Like I said. Flimunco.

CAPTAIN

The name of the bird is Flamingo.

THIRD MATE

Whatever. Let me get just straight, you're saying that flumungos don't live around here?

CAPTAIN

That's right.

THIRD MATE

Even though I saw one - with my own eyes- fly by.

CAPTAIN

Third Mate, who is in charge of this boat, the S.S. Chowderhead?

THIRD MATE

You are, sir.

CAPTAIN

That's right. I am. I am captain of this fine vessel. I'm the only guy with the know-how. Therefore mate, I am in charge. And I assure you, only penguins live at the North pole.

THIRD MATE

In that case, that was the strangest looking penguin I ever saw!

The Flamingo flies past again. This time, the CAPTAIN sees it.

CAPTAIN

Wait a second!

The CAPTAIN looks at his map and realizes something.

CAPTAIN

Ah ha!

He turns the map upside down. He pulls the winter hat off of the THIRD MATE'S head and replaces it with a straw hat. He hands the THIRD MATE a cold drink with a straw in it.

THIRD MATE

What's wrong?

CAPTAIN

We're in the Gulf of Mexico. My map was upside down. Now where were we.....

THIRD MATE

A-hunting whales.

CAPTAIN

Very good mate. You are sharp. Sharp like a tack! I like that in a mate. We were hunting whales. And when we see the giant whale, what are you supposed to do?

THIRD MATE

I'm supposed to hand you your harpoon, Captain.

CAPTAIN

That's right. My harpoon. As we discussed, many, many times. The Third Mate is the keeper of the harpoon while none but Captain may throw it.

THIRD MATE

Don't worry Captain, you can count on me.

The TINY WHALE appears. She swims back and forth in front of the boat. As with the flamingo, only the THIRD MATE sees her.

THIRD MATE

Umm....Captain. What does a whale look like again? Just in case I see one?

CAPTAIN

Well, a whale has a tail.

THIRD MATE

I see.

CAPTAIN

A whale has fins.

THIRD MATE

Right, fins. Fins are good.

CAPTAIN

A whale has a spout. That's how it breathes.

THIRD MATE

You don't say. Well in that case....I think I see a....

CAPTAIN

Oh, and there's one more thing.

THIRD MATE

What thing is that?

CAPTAIN

A whale is large.

THIRD MATE

How large?

CAPTAIN

Mammoth. Hulking. Massive. Enormo.

THIRD MATE

Big.

CAPTAIN

In a word, yes.

THIRD MATE

Darn.

CAPTAIN

What do you mean, "Darn". Do you see something?

THIRD MATE

Well, I saw something swimming around. It had a tail, fins and a spout like a whale. But it was tiny.

CAPTAIN

That wasn't a whale, then. Whales can't be tiny.

THIRD MATE

What about teeny tiny?

CAPTAIN

What?

THIRD MATE

A whale can't be tiny but can a whale be teeny tiny?

CAPTAIN

If a whale can't be tiny, how can it be teeny tiny? Teeny tiny is tinier than tiny.

THIRD MATE

Okay then, what about teensy weensy?

CAPTAIN

Third Mate.

THIRD MATE

Yes?

CAPTAIN

Please swab the deck.

THIRD MATE

Aye-aye, sir.

The THIRD MATE takes out a mop and swabs the deck.

THIRD MATE

The deck is swabbed, CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN

Very good. Now, you've sparked my curiosity. Even though there is no such thing as a tiny whale I would like to see this teensy weensy...thing. Where is it?

THIRD MATE

There.

CAPTAIN

Wait a second now. Let me get my spyglass out.

The CAPTAIN takes out his spy-glass and looks.

CAPTAIN

I don't see it.

THIRD MATE

A little to the North. Now, west. Back to the south. Now up. Down. That's right.

The THIRD MATE tries to direct the CAPTAIN'S spy-glass towards the Tiny whale. The only problem is, he is standing in front to the CAPTAIN the whole time.

THIRD MATE

See it?

CAPTAIN

Hmmmm... The sea is an odd color today. Now what's that I see? It looks like a....no it couldn't be? A belly button? THIRD MATE!!!!

THIRD MATE

YES?

CAPTAIN

You're in my way!!!!

The CAPTAIN pushes the THIRD MATE out of the way. He sees the TINY WHALE swim by. The TINY WHALE spouts. The CAPTAIN gets excited.

CAPTAIN

THAR SHE BLOWS!!!!!!!!!!

THIRD MATE

WHAR?

CAPTAIN

THAR, MATE, THAR!

THIRD MATE

But.....

CAPTAIN

Are you blind, man!? Right thar!

THIRD MATE

BUT.....!

CAPTAIN

She's a mighty creature, by gum! Mate, the time has come! Hand me my harpoon!

The THIRD MATE just stands there.

CAPTAIN

I said, hand me my harpoon!!!! When I say "hand me my harpoon" you, the keeper of the harpoon, are supposed to hand it to me!

THIRD MATE

I know that, sir but...

CAPTAIN

BUT WHAT?

THIRD MATE

But that's not a whale, sir.

CAPTAIN

Oh, Third Mate, Third Mate, Third Mate, Third Mate.

THIRD MATE

Oh, Captain, Captain, Captain, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Mate how long have we been working together, you and I. A few years, I bet.

THIRD MATE

Something like that, sir.

CAPTAIN

We've been through thick and thin together...

THIRD MATE

Also thin and thick, sir.

CAPTAIN

And I've always tried to do my best by you. And I've never asked for anything in return, have I?

THIRD MATE

Just swabbing the deck, sir.

CAPTAIN

That's right. Just swabbing the deck. But now mate, the time has come. I want you to give me that harpoon.

THIRD MATE

I can't do that. You know I can't.

CAPTAIN

Very well, you leave me no option.

The CAPTAIN grabs the THIRD MATE's ear.

THIRD MATE

Please let go of my ear, sir. It's the only one I have.

CAPTAIN

You have two ears, mate, not one.

THIRD MATE

Oh.

CAPTAIN

The reason I am holding your ear in this manner is because I want you to look, Mate. Really look. Look hard at that...thing....right thar. What do you see?

THIRD MATE

I see a whale, sir, that is not a whale because it is too tiny.

CAPTAIN

AH HA!!!!

THIRD MATE

Captain, remember that ship's doctor we bumped into last week? He said you shouldn't get too upset, it's bad for your health

CAPTAIN

Never mind that ship's doctor. Mate, I think we are getting to the bottom of this. Tell me, have you noticed that when something is small and it is close to you, it looks tiny.

THIRD MATE

Well, now that you mention it, yes I have.

CAPTAIN

BUT.... when something is big and far away from you, it also looks tiny, does it not?

THIRD MATE

Now, I never really thought about that, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Think about it now, Mate.

THIRD MATE

[To himself, thinking]

Tiny things, close up, big things, far away. Hmmmm... I guess you're right sir.

CAPTAIN

Now, let me explain something to you. That whale is far away, so it looks tiny. But really, that whale is not small.

THIRD MATE

No?

CAPTAIN

No. That whale is huge. Gigantic. Vast.

THIRD MATE

Now let me see if I've got this straight. What you're saying is, that's not a tiny whale that's really close. That's a far away whale that's really really....bejungous.

CAPTAIN

That's the idea but...what is this word bejungous!?

THIRD MATE

I'm not exactly sure but it sounds pretty big, doesn't it!

CAPTAIN

MATE!

THIRD MATE

WHAT!

CAPTAIN

HAND ME MY HARPOON

THIRD MATE

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!!!

The THIRD MATE hands the CAPTAIN his harpoon.

CAPTAIN

Full speed ahead, matey!

THIRD MATE

Aye aye, Cappy.

The CAPTAIN starts to sing loudly.

CAPTAIN

"ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT, GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM
MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY.....Come on mate, join in! MERRILY,
MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY...."

The TINY WHALE swims away.

The THIRD MATE tries to get the CAPTAIN'S attention.

THIRD MATE

Captain, sorry to interrupt but...

CAPTAIN

LIFE IS BUT A.....

THIRD MATE

Boss, Oh boss.

CAPTAIN

DREAmmmmm?

The CAPTAIN notices that the TINY WHALE is gone.

CAPTAIN

OH. Oh. Mate.

THIRD MATE

Now Captain. It's going to be okay.

CAPTAIN
(crying)

WAAA. WAAA. WAAA.

THIRD MATE

There, there, Captain. There'll be other whales.

CAPTAIN

But I don't want another whale! I want that whale, Mate! That bejungous whale who sometimes looks tiny.

THIRD MATE

Well, look on the bright side. If the whale comes back, you've got the big harpoon. You're ready.

CAPTAIN

That is true.. I do have the big harpoon. In my hand.

THIRD MATE

I didn't mention this before but that harpoon – it's really you, captain.

CAPTAIN

You think?

THIRD MATE

The whole thing. The hat, the harpoon. It's a look.

CAPTAIN

Thanks for saying that. I guess.

THIRD MATE

You're welcome.

CAPTAIN

As I sit here, uselessly, watching life pass me by, waiting for the big whale that looks tiny at least I know I look good.

The CAPTAIN walks to the end of the boat.

THIRD MATE

What are you doing?

CAPTAIN

What does it look like I'm doing? I'm throwing myself off the end of the boat.

THIRD MATE

You don't want to do that.

CAPTAIN

Give me one good reason.

THIRD MATE

Well, it's wet. And there are sharks.

CAPTAIN

Of course it's wet and there are sharks. It's the ocean. Goodbye mate. Goodbye whale. Goodbye cruel world.

THIRD MATE

Wait! I just thought of something!

CAPTAIN

What?

THIRD MATE

A plan to get the whale.

CAPTAIN

Well, go ahead. I'm all ears.

THIRD MATE

All ears? But I thought you said....

CAPTAIN

Mate. Don't get distracted. We were talking about the plan.

THIRD MATE

Oh, the plan. Right! Well, the plan is....we should.....then we have to.....and when that happens we'll.....then finally we.....!

CAPTAIN

So I guess what you're saying is, the plan is that first we need to think of a plan!

THIRD MATE

Exactly Captain!

CAPTAIN

By jove mate, why didn't I think of that?

The CAPTAIN begins to pace around the boat. The THIRD MATE follows him.

CAPTAIN

Ask yourself this question, mate: Who has a bigger brain, a whale or a man?

THIRD MATE

Is that a trick question?

CAPTAIN

We do, mate! And we will use our great big brains to trap the whale. Mate, what do whales eat?

THIRD MATE

Plankton?

CAPTAIN

Very funny mate. Whales do not eat Plankton. They eat people.

THIRD MATE

People?

CAPTAIN

I'm fairly certain. Now here's what we'll do. We'll have to use a person to use as bait. The person will stick their leg into the ocean and the whale will swim by, see the leg and get hungry. She'll try to bite the leg, but when she does that, I'll throw the harpoon.

THIRD MATE

So that's the plan!

CAPTAIN

Yes that's the plan.

THIRD MATE & CAPTAIN

Hi Five. In the middle. Down low. Too slow.

They high five each other.

THIRD MATE

One problem captain! Where will we ever find someone stupid enough to be bait for a man-eating whale? Ha ha!

The CAPTAIN stares at the THIRD MATE.

THIRD MATE

Why are you looking at me like that? You don't mean.....No, no way!

CAPTAIN

[putting his arm around the THIRD MATE]

Mate, right now you are the Third Mate, are you not?

THIRD MATE

Yes, I am the Third Mate.

CAPTAIN

The lowly Third Mate. You have to follow orders all day long don't you? When the First Mate says jump, you have to jump. When the Second Mate says bark, you have to get down on all fours and bark like a dog, don't you.

THIRD MATE

But captain, we don't have a First Mate or a Second Mate!

CAPTAIN

Nevertheless! If we did, they would be the boss of you! What's that like for you, I wonder?

THIRD MATE

Kind of a drag sir.

CAPTAIN

I'm sure. But what if you were not the Third Mate anymore. What if you weren't even the Second Mate? What if you were the First Mate and answered only to me?

THIRD MATE

Wow.

CAPTAIN

Mate. I've been saving something for you.

The CAPTAIN takes out a hat that says "FIRST MATE". He puts it on the THIRD MATE.

CAPTAIN

Oh, and there's one more thing. If you are a very, very good First Mate, then someday I might let you throw the big harpoon.

FIRST MATE

Gosh! I'm getting all choked up. I don't know what to say....

CAPTAIN

Then don't say anything. Stick your leg out of the boat. And don't worry. As soon as the big whale comes around, I'll pull you out.

The FIRST MATE sticks his leg into the water. The TINY WHALE swims by. She tickles his toe.

FIRST MATE

Help! Help! She's eating me!

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The FIRST MATE falls back into the boat. When he does the CAPTAIN falls in.

CAPTAIN

MAN OVER BOARD!

FIRST MATE

Hang on Captain! I'll save you!

The FIRST MATE throws the CAPTAIN the lifesaver.

CAPTAIN

Oh no! Here she comes to eat me! The whale!

The TINY WHALE swims around the CAPTAIN. He notices something.

CAPTAIN

Wait a second! That whale! She's tiny!

FIRST MATE

Like I said! How's the water, Captain!

CAPTAIN

The water is fine! Do me a favor - hand me that cold drink and the hat.

FIRST MATE

Here you go.

The FIRST MATE hands the CAPTAIN the straw hat and the cold drink. The CAPTAIN lies back in the lifesaver.

CAPTAIN

Now this is the life!

The FIRST MATE picks up the harpoon and starts to row. The TINY WHALE swims around.

FIRST MATE

“Row, Row, Row your boat, gently down the stream.....”

THE END