

Chapter one

The courses and topsails are set
The anchor swings from the bow
Ashore previous
Now embarked
Making easting
Up helm
And away
Weary
What to me
What to me indeed
Aye, aye, only sailing
Worse and worse
Ashore is now out of the question
No port
Off soundings
In unfrequented and least known portions of these seas
The mild equatorial breeze
Exchanged for cold, fierce swells
Northern voyaging
The brown planks
Silent from stem to stern
The entire western horizon
Flew through a low arch
Chapter two
Closes eyes
Faith begins to fail
For the geography
Parallels and meridians
Become emphatically what they are merely designated as being
Imaginary lines drawn round the earth's surface
At length
Doubts overtake
Competency to navigate
Must have lost way

And drifted

Thoughts thicken

Chapter three

Watch to keep all by myself

With nothing but the horizon in sight

Waved round

My life for it

Sailed over the salt

Chapter four

The sky seemed so earnest and upright

To tell the plain truth in spite of

Love

I had many misgivings as to readiness

Perches on the foremast

On the lookout

Trying best to chase away

Time to be lost

Carrying farther and farther from the parallel

Without chart or quadrant

So far out of reckoning

An indifferent lookout

Chapter five

In these seas

Without starting tack r sheet

Hardly moving the helm

Chapter six

The humming of the still sails aloft

The waves against the bow

And the deep breathing of the dreaming sailors around

Chapter seven

Good craft

Rocked so often in oak

Then broad deep

So far from home

Ship

Where sails
Planks
The drowning eddies did their work
Sunk
Sea
The blast
Storm sails set
Helm
And every sailor at post
Craft may have foundered
Chapter eight
A thousand miles from land
The night was even blacker
Night near the line
Half shrouded the stars
Aft toward the quarterdeck
Overboard
Astern of the ship
Way in the water
Overboard
Astern
Overboard
Sunk in the trough of the waves
Aye aye
Chapter nine
Shouldered
From crest to crest
As from hand to hand
Chapter ten
Going large before the wind
The jib set wing and wing with the main sail
Chapter eleven
Sheer plank
Chapter twelve
Nothing in sight
Chapter thirteen

Side by side
With the round horizon
Chapter fourteen
Water alone
Chapter fifteen
Patch upon patch
Chapter sixteen
Folding swells
Overboard for a bath
Low humming under our bow
Our boat like a bird
Overhead
Blue
Under
Blue
Chapter seventeen
To the westward
More and more
Chapter eighteen
Nearer and nearer
Chapter nineteen
The helm was left
Again swung round
Chapter twenty
When the foreyard swung round
Overboard
Chapter 21
The water thumped
Under bows
Sea to sea
Chapter 22
Side to side
Nearer and nearer
The salt between them