

## High Barbaree

Burl Ives

Look ahead, look astern, look the weather and the lee,  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
I see a wreck to windward and a lofty ship to lee,  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

O are you a pirate or a man o'war ? cried we  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
O no ! I'm not a pirate, but a man o'war, cried he,  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

Then back up your topsails and heave your vessel to;  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
For we have got some letters to be carried home by you.  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

We'll back up our topsails and heave our vessel to;  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
But only in some harbour and along the side of you.  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

For broadside, for broadside, they fought all on the main;  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
Until at last the frigate shot the pirate's mast away.  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

For quarters ! For quarters ! the saucy pirate cried.  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
The quarters that we showed them was to sink them in the tide.  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

With cutlass, and with gun, O we fought them hours three;  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
The ship it was their coffin, and their grave it was the sea.  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.

But O ! It was a cruel sight, and grieved us full sore,  
Blow high ! Blow low ! and so sailed we.  
To see them all a-drowning as they tried to swim to shore.  
A-sailing down all on the coasts of High Barbaree.