

THE BALLAD OF THE MAERSK ALABAMA

In the month of April oh oh nine / Off Africa's eastern shore
An American ship is southward bound / At fifteen knots or more
Her cargo of food to sustain the lives / Of the continent's starving poor
But evil men have other plans / That her crew must soon endure

They brazenly attack the ship / To begin their pirate scheme
But they strike no terror in American hearts / Tho' they threaten and yell and scream
A scuffle ensues - one pirate less / Subdued by a stronger hand
"This might be harder than we thought," / Thinks the head of the pirate band

*And then he hears a quiet voice - not a little voice, just a quiet one:
What works on others / Won't work on us
As you'll find out in the end
You may strike fear into the other guys
It won't work on us, my friend!*

Our mariners will never cooperate / Though the cowards rant and rave
Their mission has failed - they won't get the ship / But they might get a watery grave!
Captain Phillips decides on a daring plan / As only a brave man would do:
Let the thugs take a boat with himself aboard / As a hostage for his crew

His next days pass in misery / As negotiators try
To get the Captain back again / Before someone has to die
The US Navy arrives on scene / Still the desperate gang won't yield
Not predators now, they've become the prey / And they know their doom is sealed

*And then the pirate chief remembers that quiet voice:
What works on others etc etc*

Point a gun at our Captain? - it's your last mistake / With your lives you soon will pay
As the Navy Seals do what they do best / From a hundred yards away
A gamble taken and a gamble won / On three targets hard to see
Three shots - three hapless pirates dead / And Captain Phillips is finally free!

So let the pirate world take note: / When you see red, white, and blue
Turn your boats around and run like hell / It's the sensible thing to do
The men who sail 'neath the Stars and Stripes / Have no stomach for your game
Try your buccaneer tricks on a U.S. crew / And prepare to die in shame!

*Remember:
What works on others etc etc*

You've made us proud, Alabama's crew / And a thousand welcomes home
From that dismal corner of the world / Where we've let these pirates roam
You stood up to those useless thugs / Who terrorise the seas
We need backbone like yours to stop their pranks / Or they'll keep doing as they please!

*But maybe these sea-going muggers have learned a lesson:
What works on others ...*