These are the original words of Drunken Sailor. It is a Sea Shanty.

A sea shanty is a type of folk song, sung at sea. Sea shanties were often sung by people to help them pass the time as they completed their hard work on board the ships.

As The Drunken Sailor is a folk song, there are many different versions of it. These songs were not written down and learnt but learnt aurally as they were passed down through generations.

You will notice that the first three lines of each stanza are the same and the last line of each stanza is the same each time.

What will we do with a drunken sailor? (This is verse 1)
What will we do with a drunken sailor?
What will we do with a drunken sailor?
Early in the morning!

Way hay and up she rises (this is a bit like a chorus and describe the boat)
Way hay and up she rises
Way hay and up she rises
Early in the morning!

Put him in a long boat till his sober (verse 2)
Put him in a long boat till his sober
Put him in a long boat till his sober
Early in the morning!