



America was shaped by explorers racing to the New World, men-of-war plotting to catch or elude being caught, entrepreneurial crews of clipper ships rushing their cargos to port, and fishermen seeking to be the first to get their catch to market. Modern day sailboat racing reenacts those historical efforts to be the first. And then there is the magical allure of wind, water and sail and their affect on the human spirit. These are the reasons why, for centuries, sailing has been inextricably linked to American literature.

We have selected quotes from several authors - both American authors and those who influenced them - to highlight this connection. We have also chosen to open this exhibit with three quotes which provide a literary context.

Image: "SWELL" by [Thomas Allen](#) .

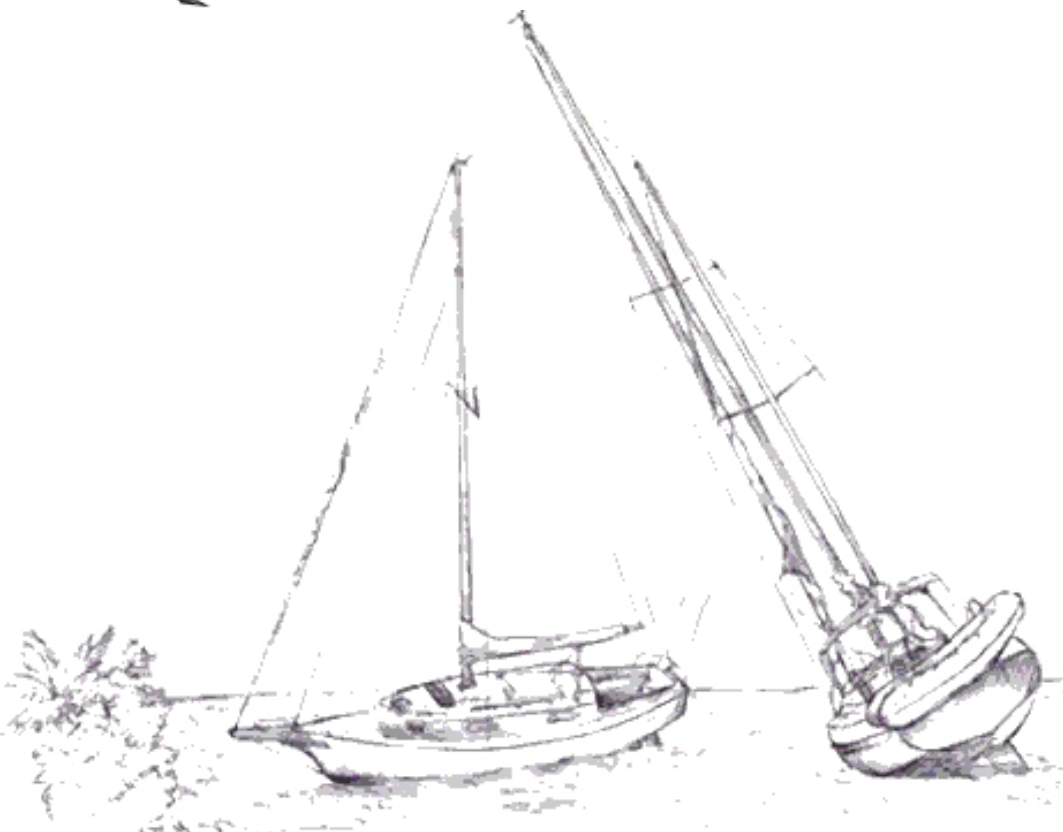
*...over the breaking billows, with bellying sail,
and foaming break, like a flying bird...*

- Beowulf

...with the wind, the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...like a sea or a me)

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.



...with the wind, the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...of a grounded ship, one must sometimes go forward by going back.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.

...the wind is the only friend you have on sea.



~~How do you know if you're a sailor? Well, you know if you're a sailor if you can sail a ship. And if you can sail a ship, you know you're a sailor.~~

~~I'm not a sailor, but I'm learning how to sail my ship.~~

~~And if you're a sailor, you know you're a sailor because you can sail a ship. And if you can sail a ship, you know you're a sailor.~~