**The Mermaid (Jim Friedman / Shel Silverstein)**

**Intro: F / C (x4)**

**C**

When I was a lad in a fishing town

**F C**

Me old man said to me:

**Am**

"You can spend your life, your jolly life

**D G**

Just sailing on the sea.

**C**

You can search the world for pretty girls

**F Em**

Til your eyes are weak and dim,

**F C Am**

But don't go searching for a mermaid, son

**F G C**

If you don't know how to swim"

**Chorus:**

**F C**

'Cause her hair was green as seaweed

**F C**

Her skin was blue and pale

**F C**

Her face it was a work of art,

**F C**

I loved that girl with all my heart

**F C Am**

But I only liked the upper part

**F G C C / G (x2)**

I did not like the tail

**C**

I signed onto a sailing ship

**F C**

My very first day at sea

**Am**

I seen the Mermaid in the waves,

**D G**

Reaching out to me

**C**

"Come live with me in the sea” said she,

**F Em**

Down on the ocean floor

**F C Am**

And I'll show you a million wonderous things

**F G C**

You've never seen before

**C**

So over I jumped and she pulled me down,

**F C**

Down to her seaweed bed

**Am**

A pillow made of a tortoise-shell

**D G**

She placed beneath my head

**C**

She fed me shrimp and caviar

**F Em**

Upon a silver dish

**F C Am**

From her head to her waist it was just my taste

**F G C**

But the rest of her was a fish

**(Chorus)**

**C**

But then one day, she swam away

**F C**

So I sang to the clams and the whales

**Am**

"Oh, how I miss her seaweed hair

**D G**

And the silver shine of her scales

**C**

But then her sister, she swam by

**F Em**

And set my heart awhirl

**F C Am**

Cause her upper part was an ugly fish

**F G C**

But her bottom part was a girl

**F C**

Yes her hair was green as seaweed

**F C**

Her skin was blue and pale

**F C**

Her legs they are a work of art,

**F C**

I love that girl with all my heart

**F C**

And I don't give a damn about the upper part

**F G C**

Cause that's how I get my tail.

**The Mermaid (Traditional / Andrew Draskoy)**

**G C G**

It was Friday morn when we set sail

**C D G**

And we were not far from the land

**G C G**

When the captain, he spied a mermaid so fair

**C D G**

With a comb and a glass in her hand

**Refrain:**

**G**

And the ocean's waves do roll

**G7 D**

and the stormy winds do blow

**G C G**

And we poor sailors are skipping at the top

**C D G**

While the landlubbers lie down below, below, below

**C D G**

While the landlubbers lie down below

**G C G**

And up spoke the captain of our gallant ship

**C D G**

And a fine old man was he

**G C G**

This fishy mermaid has warned me of our doom

**C D G**

We shall sink to the bottom of the sea

**(Refrain)**

**G C G**

Then up spoke the mate of our gallant ship

**C D G**

And a fine spoken man was he

**G C G**

Sayin' I have a wife in Brooklyn by the sea

**C D G**

And tonight a widow she will be

**(Refrain)**

**G C G**

Then up spoke the bosun of our gallant ship

**C D G**

And brave young lad was he

**G C G**

Sayin' I have a sweetheart in Salem by the sea

**C D G**

And tonight she'll be weepin' for me

**(Refrain)**

**G C G**

And up spoke the cook of our gallant ship

**C D G**

And a crazy old butcher was he

**G C G**

I care much more for my pots and my pans

**C D G**

Than I do for the bottom of the sea

**(Refrain)**

**G C G**

Then up spoke the cabin boy of our gallant ship

**C D G**

And a nasty little lad was he

**G C G**

And said, “I’m not sure I can spell ‘mermaid’ ”

**C D G**

But I’m going to the bottom of the sea

**(Refrain)**

**G C G**

Then three times around spun our gallant ship

**C D G**

And three times around spun she

**G C G**

And three times around spun our gallant ship

**C D G**

And she sank to the bottom of the sea

**(Refrain) (2x)**