

The Catch

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Marine Museum

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Marine Museum

How many children does it take
to turn a capstan is a question
asked, and answered, daily
in the yard of the Marine Museum
in the summertime.

Children strain at the big spoke
stuck in the child-high,
fireplug-shaped capstan,
hang from the anchor-chain
in strings of bunches like

kelp or rockweed, the big ones
hauling, the little ones dangling.
That there's no deck, no anchor,
and no ship--no matter. How many
children? All you've got.