

Timmy the Tug and Billy Barge

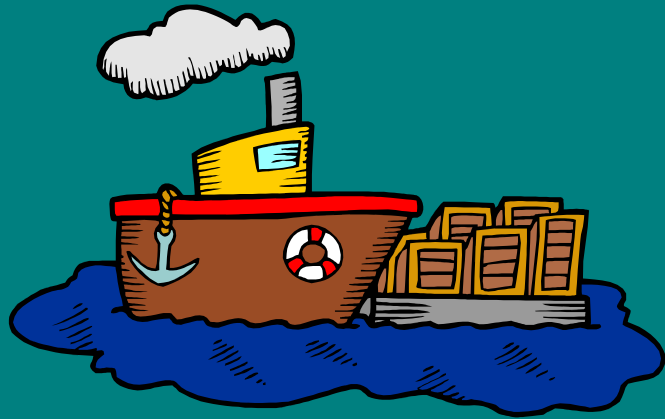
A story of Teamwork

For Zoë who reminds me that sometimes
people need a helping hand and reaches
out to hold mine.



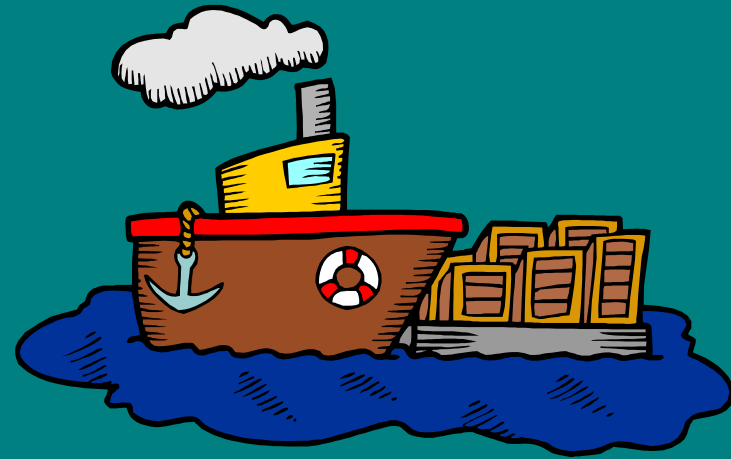


The River was a busy place with boats, and people from all around the world. There were Piers that had Cruise ships carrying families on vacation, and piers with large ships that carried stuff to and from other countries.



Pier 8 is where Timmy the Tug and Billy the Barge lived. There was nothing particularly special about Timmy or Billy, but together they were able to sail their routes quicker than the other ships on the river.

They were a **team** and each of them helped the other. Timmy was small so he needed to get up some speed to move the heavy barges. Sometimes he would move too fast and bump the barges hard, but Billy didn't complain he learned to move ahead of Timmy's wake so when they finally touched there wasn't any bumping. Billy on the other hand would sometimes lean to much to the left or the right and start to go off course, so Timmy would just adjust his rudder and keep them going straight



On their trips the team would talk about the adventures they would someday have. They imagined sailing across the ocean, past sea monsters and through stormy seas, carrying treasure to some distant island.

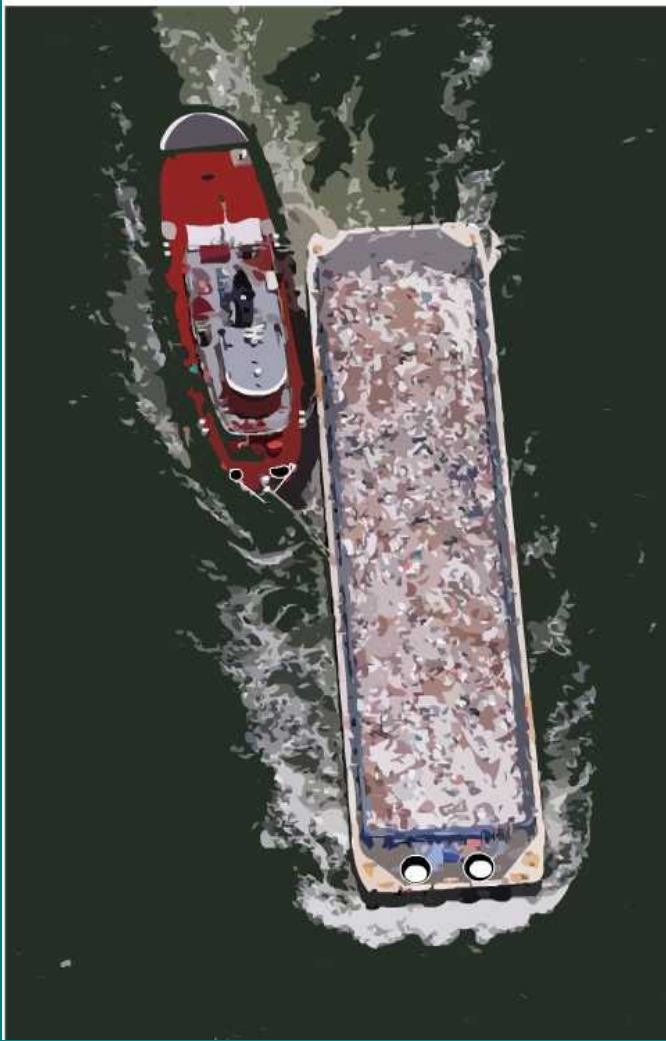


One Day Timmy overheard one of the Sea captains talking about what a good tug he was and how he could sail faster than any of the other tugs.

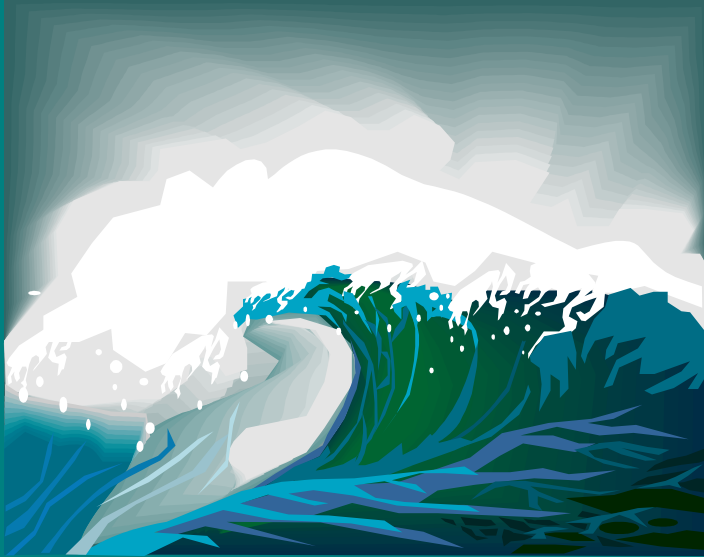
Billy overheard another captain saying how he thought Billy was the best Barge in the harbor able to deliver his cargo without anything moving out of place.

The next day, instead of talking about sea adventures like they usually did to pass the time. The two started to boast about each of their talents. Timmy was talking about how fast he was, and Billy was talking about how he was able to balance his payload and keep it from moving around. Soon they got into a discussion about who was better. Timmy thought he was because he helped them to get their job done quicker. Billy thought he was better because made sure that everything got to it's destination in one piece. Timmy decided he would show Billy he stopped making adjustments and the two started to go off course. They even got stuck for a minute on a sandbar. They were very late making their delivery that day. The next day when Timmy came in to fast Billy didn't move and they bumped hard shifting the cargo and breaking some stuff.

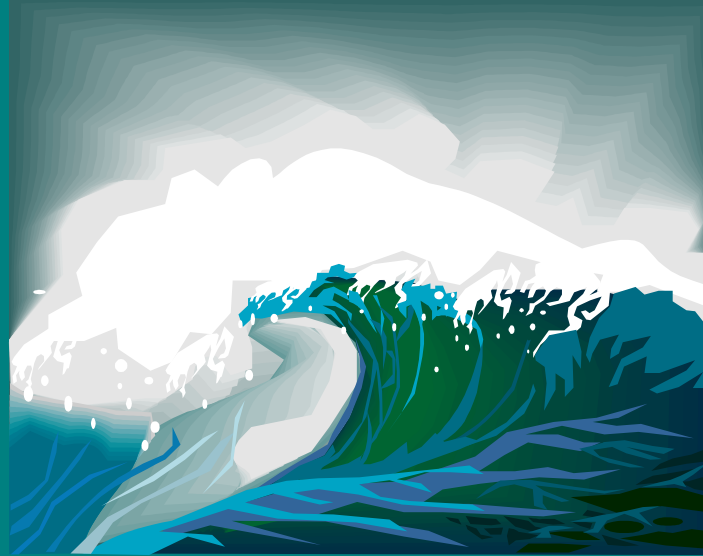
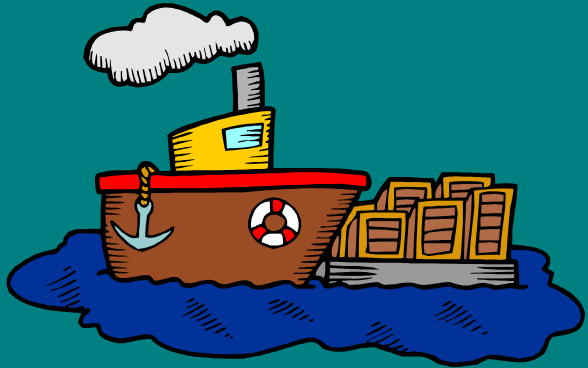
Soon the Harbor Master had enough of the late and broken deliveries. He assigned Timmy and Billy's Route to another team. Timmy was given a new Job. He was to assist the big Ships that were docking at the pier. Unlike Billy these big ships did complain - **a lot**. When Timmy got a running start and bumped into them they called him a lubberly little tug. Timmy did not like his new job at all. By the end of the day felt awful, and he missed Billy.



Billy got a really bad job. He was loaded with garbage, towed out to sea, and left there until they could figure out what to do with the garbage. Billy was sad and lonely the only company he had was the seagulls, but they weren't much for talking; they just swooped down and picked trash off the barge. One of the seagulls even pooped on him.



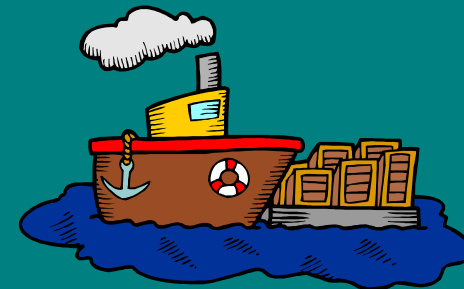
One Night there was a storm rolling in. All the ships in the harbor were docked and safe, but not Billy. Billy was all alone out at sea. Timmy decided that he had to help his friend. He sailed as fast as he could down the river and out into the open sea to where he thought Billy might be. The waves were getting high and Timmy had to work hard to get over them. At last he reached Billy who was getting tossed around by the waves. Billy was happy to see Timmy, but there was no time to lose the storm had reached them and they had to get back to the harbor as soon as possible.



The storm was fierce and the waves were high but by working as a team they made it back, a little worse for the wear, but in one piece. In the morning the Harbor Master was shocked to see Billy. He thought that he might have sunk in the storm.

The Harbor Master had Timmy tow Billy down to the Landfill to be unloaded then he had the two cleaned and fixed-up. The team was given their old route back.

They made their deliveries on-time and in one piece from now on. During their trips however, they no longer talked about imaginary adventures. They now they had their own real adventure to relive, and that was enough...for now.



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