

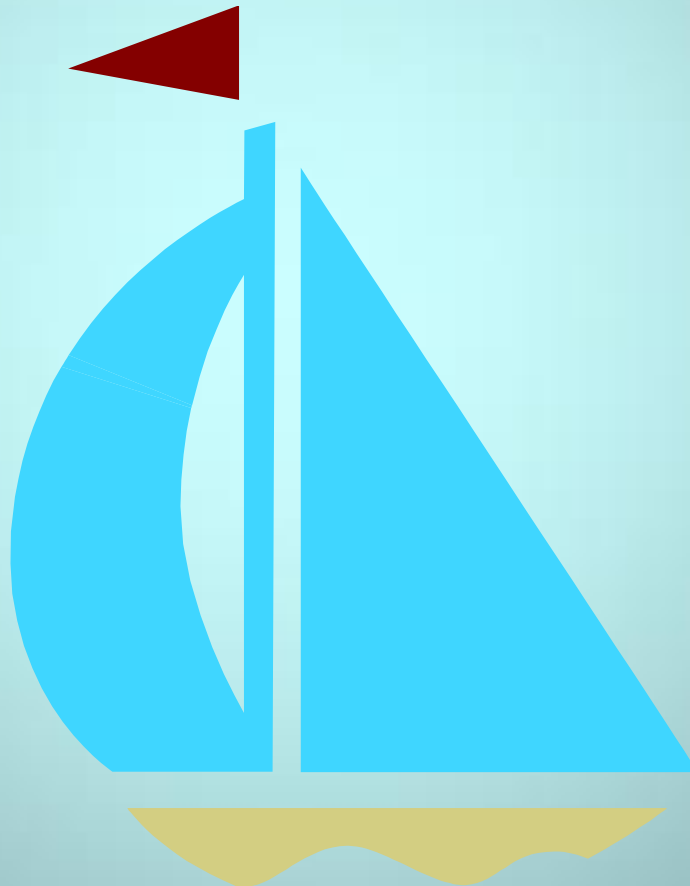


Captain Goldsmith,
Freddy and Francine
and the
Fighting Island Sea Serpent



Captain Oliver Goldsmith sailed his sail boat up and down the Detroit River. He named his sail boat, “Nevermore.”

Freddy and Francine lived on Granny Godfroy’s farm in Ecorse, right beside the Detroit River. Every day they watched for Captain Goldsmith’s sail boat





One day Captain Oscar Goldsmith stopped his sailboat at the dock in front of Granny Godfroy's farm on the Detroit River.

"Can Francine and Freddy come on a sailing trip with me this afternoon?" the Captain asked Granny Godfroy.

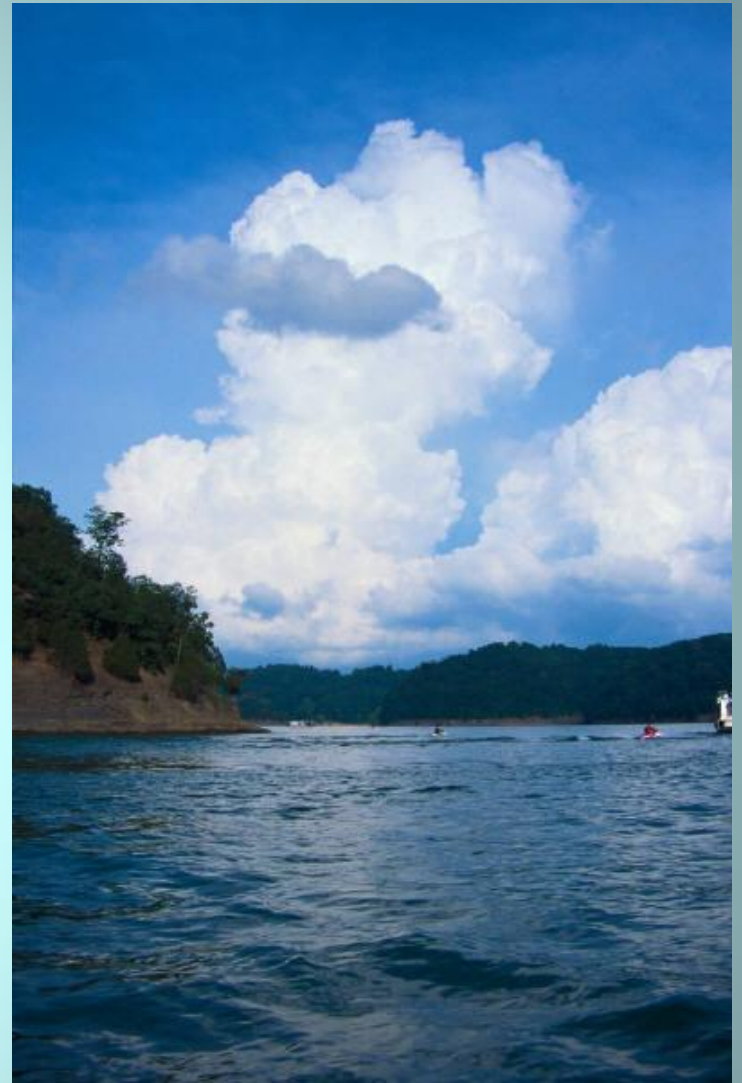
Granny was so busy watering her garden that she said, "Yes, they can go with you as long as you bring them back before dark."

Freddy and Francine climbed aboard Captain Goldsmith's sailboat. They watched the farms and houses in Ecorse glide by as they sailed down the Detroit River. They peered at the tall bell tower on the Ecorse City Hall poking up over the treetops.

"There's Fighting Island!" Freddy shouted.

"Something's moving in the water by Fighting Island," Francine said.

"I was afraid of that," said Captain Goldsmith staring at Fighting Island through his glasses.



“Afraid of what?” Francine asked Captain Goldsmith.

“I’m afraid of the Sea Serpent of Fighting Island,” Captain Goldsmith shivered.

“There’s no Sea Serpent on Fighting Island!” Francine said scornfully.

“There could be,” Freddy said. “Why don’t we look for him?”

Freddy and Francine looked through a magnifying glass that they found in Freddy’s pocket, but they couldn’t find any Sea Serpent.

“I see a fish, but I don’t see a Sea Serpent,” Freddy said.

“What does the Sea Serpent look like?” Freddy asked Captain Goldsmith.

“Ah, I remember very well what it looks like,” Captain Goldsmith said. “It has uh, uh, two tails and...”

“Two tails, huh!” said Francine scornfully.

“What else?”

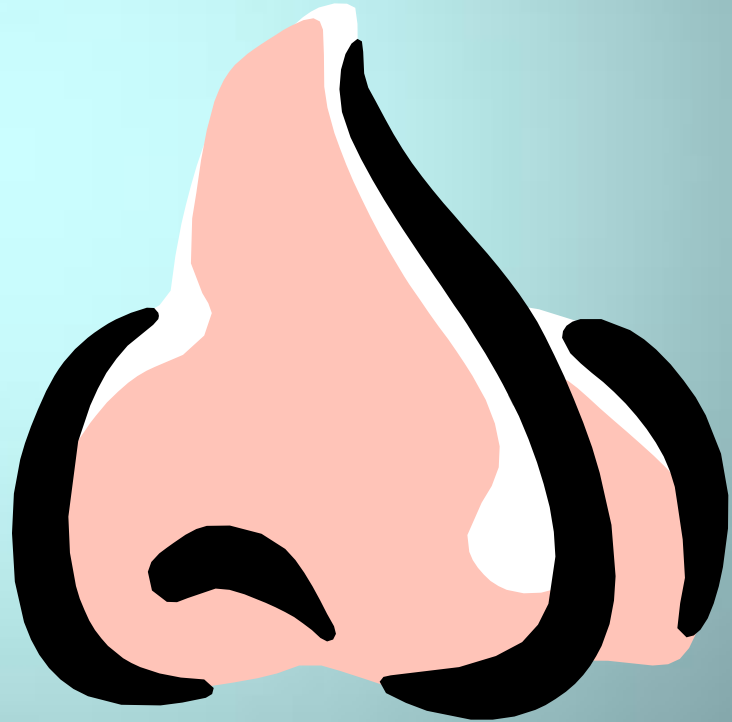
“It has teeth,” said Captain Goldsmith.

“What about a mouth?” Freddy wondered.

“It had to have a mouth because it bellowed,”
the Captain said.

“How about a nose? Did it have a big nose?”
Francine asked.

“It has a nose as big as mine,” Captain
Goldsmith said.



“It must have a big enough nose to smell all of Ecorse Township,” Francine said. “That’s 54 miles. That leaves lots of room for smelling.”

“What else does he look like?” Freddy wondered.

Captain Goldsmith scratched his head. “He has a head like a barrel, two arms about five feet across, and two tails. He’s green in color.”

“Wait a minute,” Francine said. “Why does the Sea Serpent have to be a he? A girl can make as good of a sea serpent as a boy!”

“When we see the Sea Serpent of Fighting Island, we can ask it if it is a boy or girl,” Freddy said.

“Boy or girl, it is a fearsome creature,” said Captain Goldsmith.

Just as he said that a loud OOOGAHHHHHHHHH disturbed their peaceful summer afternoon on the Detroit River. The water whipped into waves and people lined the shore to see what all of the noise was about. “What’s going on out there?” they shouted.

“Nothing’s going on,” Captain Goldsmith yelled to the people on shore. See how peaceful Fighting Island look? You can go back home now.”

“Fighting Island looks peaceful!! That’s sounds silly!” Francine said.

“He means the Sea Serpent’s not here. Why don’t we go home?” Freddy asked, thinking of the good supper that Granny Godfroy would have waiting for them. Captain Goldsmith sailed the sailboat around Fighting Island and they started back to Granny Godfroy’s farm on the Detroit River in Ecorse.

“I told you there wasn’t any Fighting Island Sea Serpent, boy or girl,” Francine told Freddy. Suddenly, the sailboat shot up in the air and when it came back down only half of it was left.

“The Fighting Island Sea Serpent!” Captain Goldsmith and Freddy and Francine shouted together?”

“Are you a boy or a girl?” Freddy bellowed.





Captain Goldsmith didn't wait for the Fighting Island Sea Serpent to answer Freddy's question. He sailed his boat back to Granny Godfroy's farm as fast as he could.

Captain Goldsmith nervously paced back and forth on the deck. "I don't know what to tell Granny Godfroy," he moaned. "She'll never believe that the Fighting Island Sea Serpent ate half of my sailboat! She'll say that I stayed on deck in the sunshine too long. She won't give me any supper!"

Freddy patted Captain Goldsmith's hand. "I'll tell Granny Godfroy there really was a Sea Serpent," he promised.

Francine hugged Captain Goldsmith. "I'll tell her that too," Captain Goldsmith. "Don't worry. She'll ask you to stay for supper."



"Why Captain Oscar Goldsmith! I don't believe a word of it!" Granny Godfroy scolded. "A Sea Serpent! The very idea! You've got my grandchildren believing that a Sea Serpent is lurking around Fighting Island!"

“I’m sorry, Griselda,” Captain Goldsmith spluttered. “Could we talk over a plate of your muskrat stew?”

Granny Godfroy hesitated.

“Please Granny, we really did see something on Fighting Island,” Freddy begged.

“We could and we WILL talk about the Sea Serpent over a plate of muskrat stew,” Granny Godfroy said.



Francine and Freddy helped Granny set the table. Granny ladled muskrat stew onto their plates . She cut a loaf of bread and put a pat of butter beside it. She poured hot tea for the Captain and herself and milk for Freddy and Francine. Then she sat down. “Now, Captain Oscar Goldsmith, tell me why I should believe your story.”

“Because the Sea Serpent ate half of the Captain’s sailboat,” Freddy said.

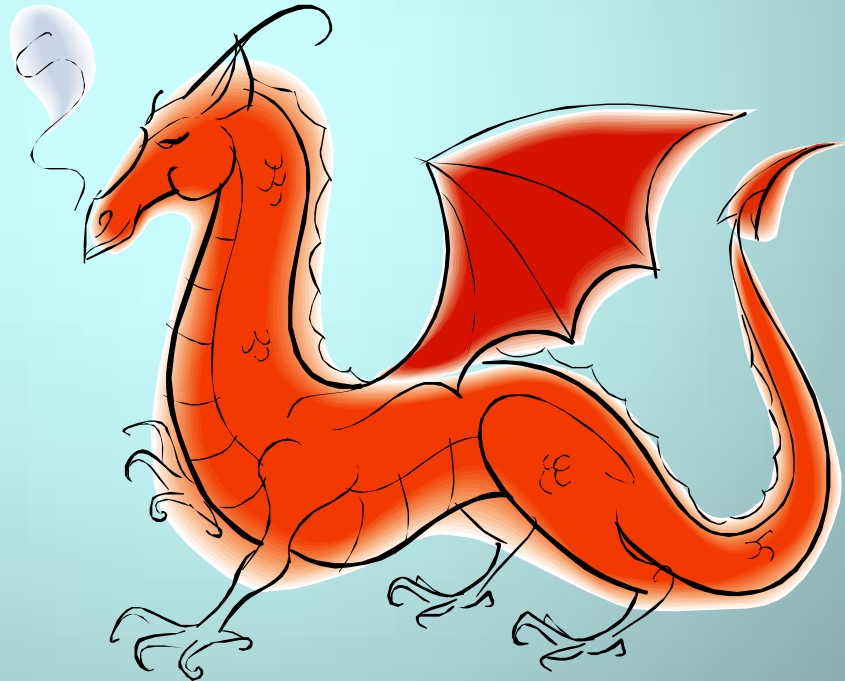
“Because the Sea Serpent wouldn’t tell us whether it is a girl or a boy,” Francine said.

“Even Sea Serpents have secrets, Francine!” Granny Godfroy said. “And as for eating half of y our sailboat, Captain Oscar Goldsmith..”



A loud noise from the direction of
the Detroit River interrupted her.

BURP!!!!!!!



The Fighting Island Sea Serpent's Secret

All of the people in this story are imaginary except Captain Goldsmith, although his first name probably wasn't Oscar. In June 1860 Captain Goldsmith reported finding a Sea Serpent near Fighting Island when he was master of the schooner Nevermore.

Twenty three years later in 1883, while he was master of the steamer Morley, he reported the same kind of Sea Serpent near Long Point in Lake Erie. That Sea Serpent didn't tell him whether it was a boy or girl either!!

