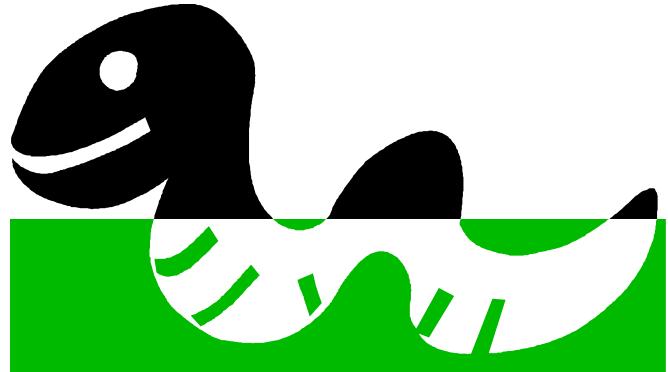


# Captain Goldsmith, Freddy and Francine, And the Fighting Island Sea Serpent





Captain Oscar Goldsmith sailed his sailboat up and down the Detroit River. He called his sailboat "Nevermore."

Freddy and Francine lived on Granny Godfroy's farm right beside the Detroit River. Every day they watched for Captain Goldsmith's sailboat.



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?" Captain Goldsmith asked Granny Godfroy.

Granny was busy sewing with pins in her mouth, but she said, "Yes, they can go with you as long as you bring them back before dark?"

Francine and Freddy 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 City Hall peeking 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.



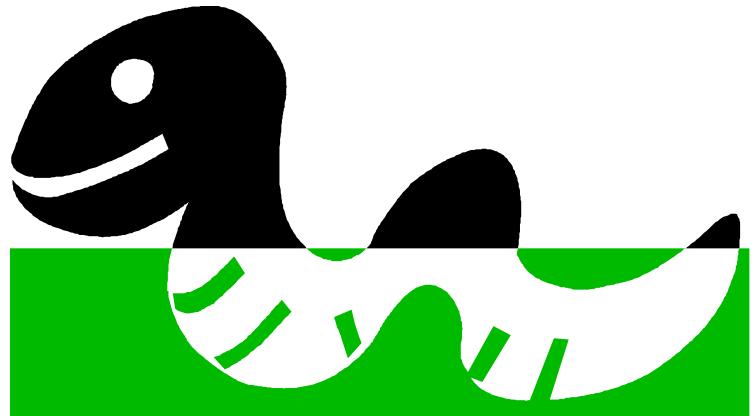
“Afraid of what?” Francine asked Captain Goldsmith.

“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’ we look through a real glass?”

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?" Francine asked the Captain.

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

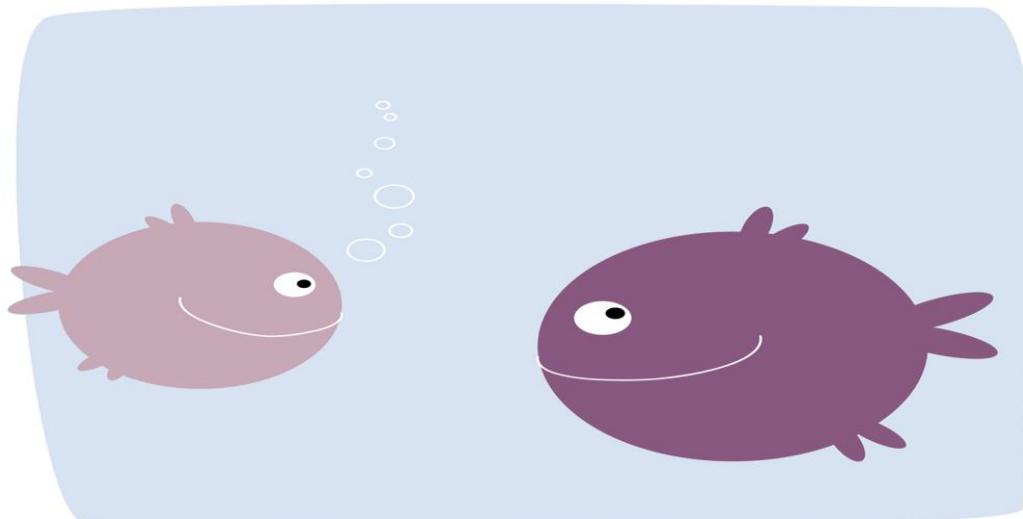
"Two tails and..."

"Two tails, huh!" said Francine scornfully. "What else?"

"It has teeth," said the Captain.

"What about a mouth?" Freddy wondered.

"It had to have mouth because it bellowed," the Captain said.





"How about its nose?" Francine asked. "Does it have a big nose?"

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

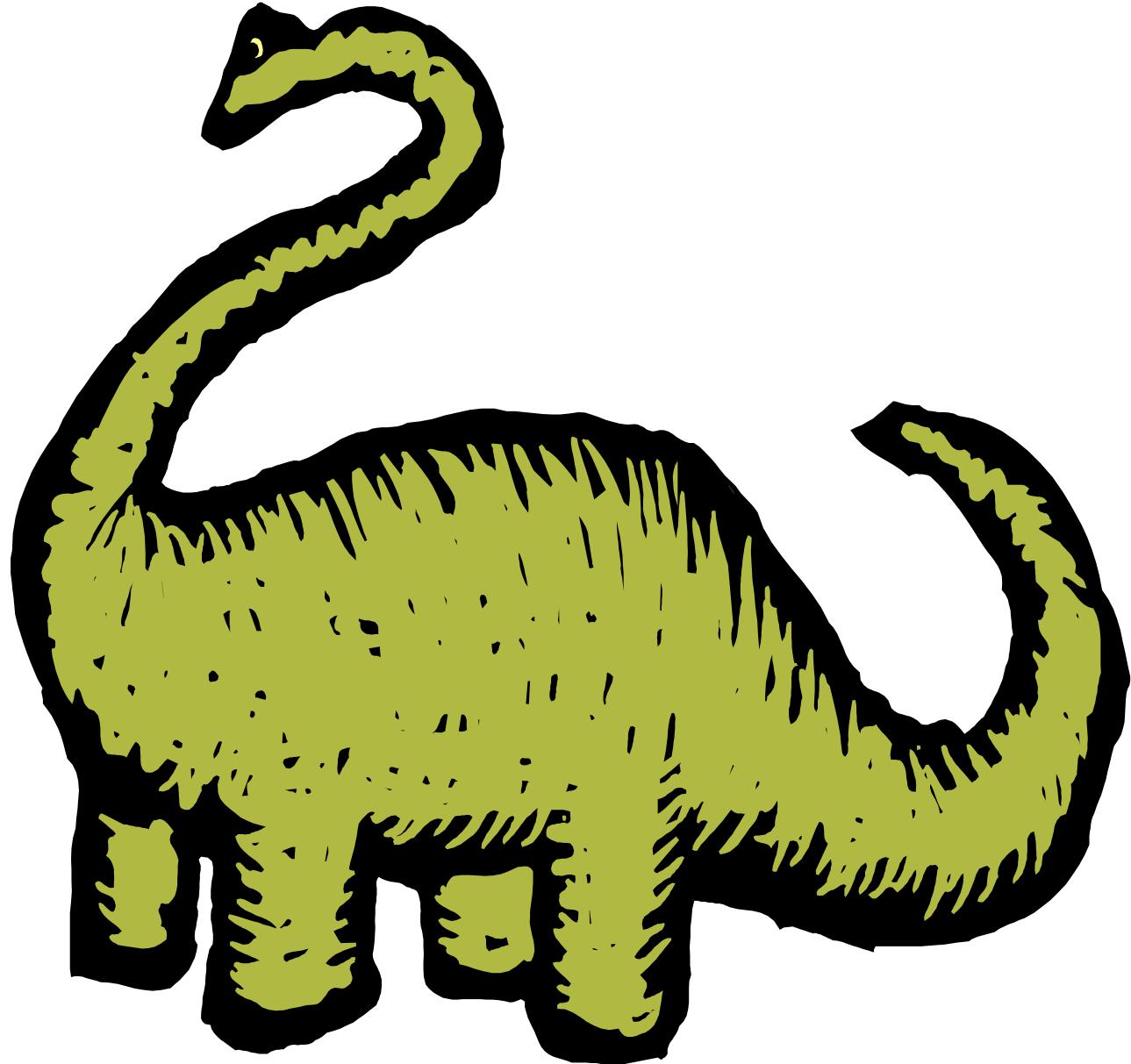
"It must have a big enough nose to smell all of Ecorse Township," Francine said. "That's 54 miles. That leaves a lot of room for smelling."

"What else does the sea serpent 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 is green and black 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 a girl,” Freddy said.

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

Just as he finished talking, a loud OOOOAHHHH! 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.

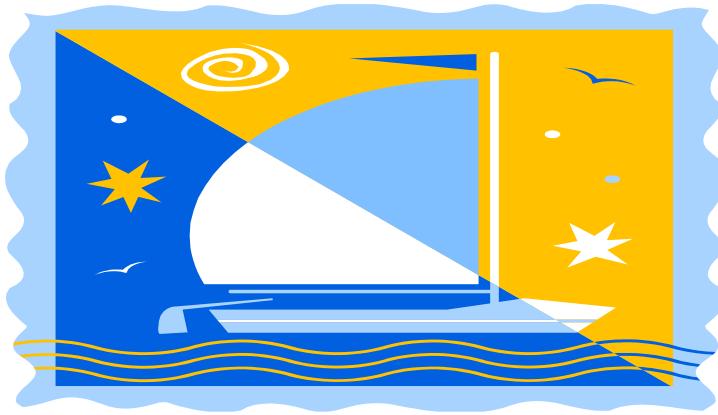


“There’s nothing going on,” Captain Goldsmith yelled to the people on shore. See how peaceful Fighting Island looks? You can go back home now!”

“Fighting Island looks peaceful? That doesn’t sound right,” Francine said.

“He means the sea serpent’s not here. Why don’t we go home?” Freddy said. He thought about the good supper that Granny Godfroy would have waiting for them.





Captain Goldsmith sailed the boat around Fighting Island and they started back to Granny Godfroy's farm further up the river toward River Rouge.

"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.

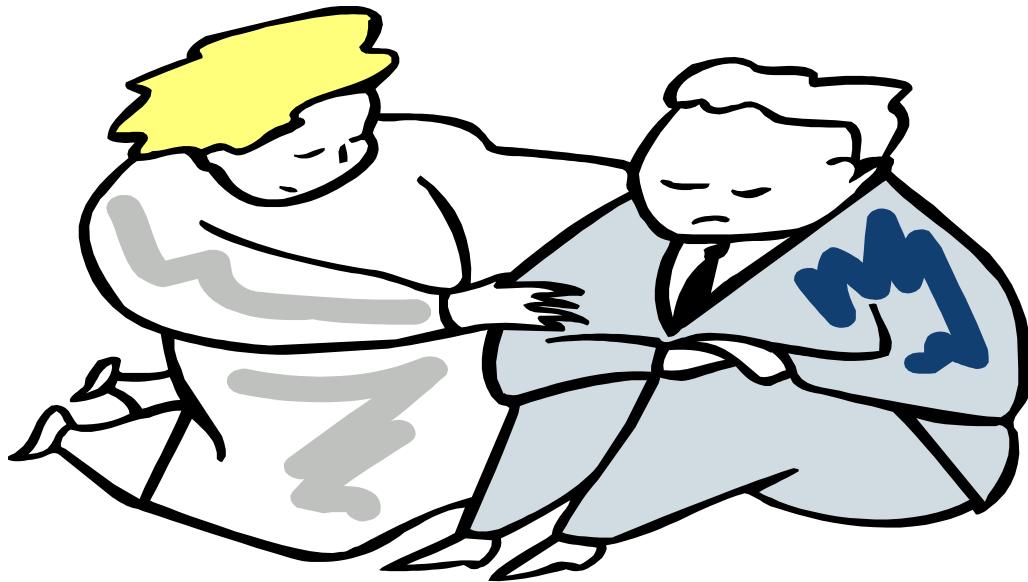


"I don't know what to tell Granny Godfroy," Captain Goldsmith moaned. "She'll never believe the Fighting island Sea Serpent ate half of my sailboat! She'll say I stayed on deck in the sunshine too long! She won't invite me to supper!"

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 Granny Godfroy there really was a sea serpent too. We'll tell her what happened. She'll ask you to stay for supper, I promise!"



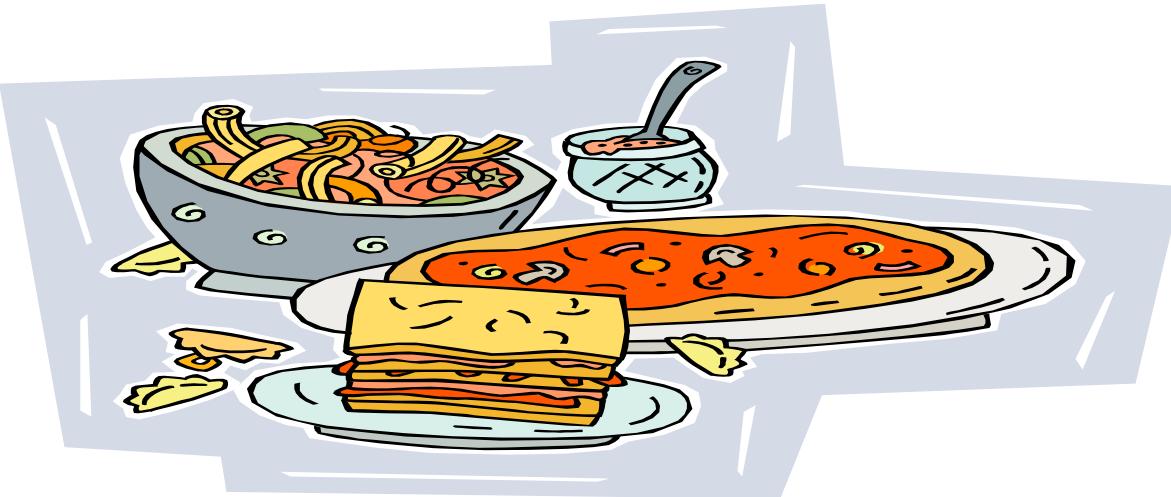


"Why Captain Oscar Goldsmith, I don't believe a word of it!"  
Granny Godfroy scolded. "A sea serpent, the very idea! And  
you've got my grandchildren believing that a sea serpent is  
lurking around Fighting Island!"

"I am so sorry, Griselda," Captain Goldsmith sputtered. Could  
we talk about it over a plate of muskrat stew?"

Granny Godfroy hesitated.

"Please Granny, we really did see a sea serpent on Fighting  
Island," Freddy said.



"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 and Granny ladled muskrat stew on their plates. Granny cut a loaf of bread and put a pat of butter on the table with it.



Granny Godfroy poured hot tea for Captain Goldsmith and herself and milk for Freddy and Francine. Then she sat down.

“Now Captain Oscar Goldsmith, tell me why I should believe your story.”

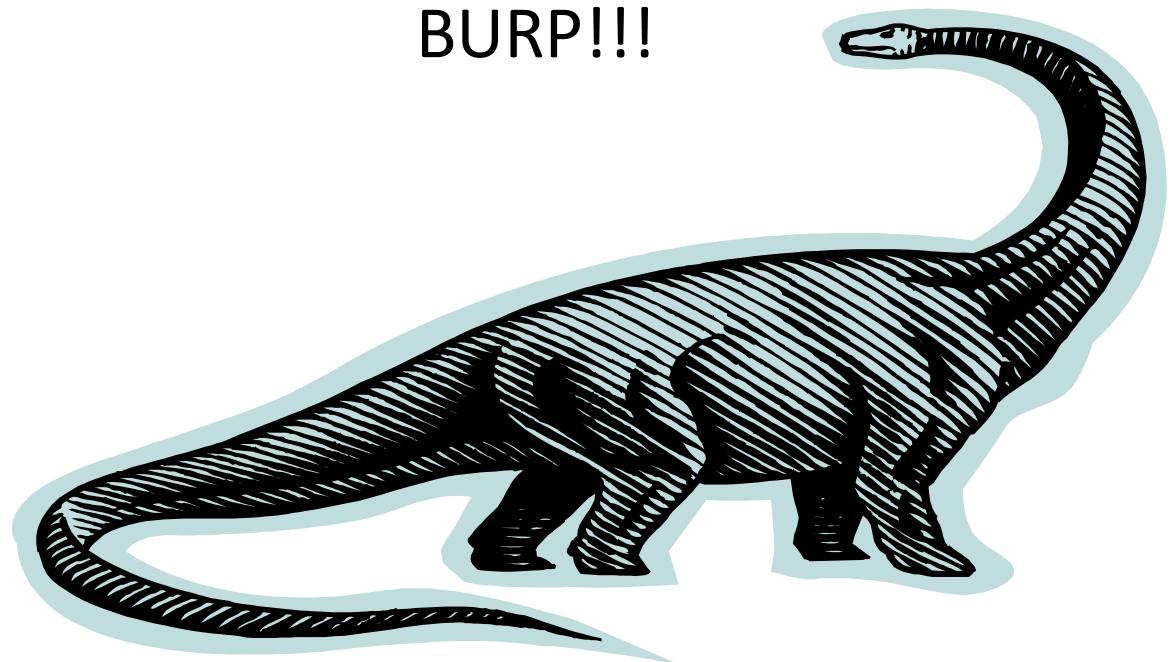
“Because the sea serpent ate half of the Captain’s sailboat,” Freddy said.

“Because the sea serpent wouldn’t tell us whether it is a girl or a boy,  
Francine said.

"Even sea serpents have secrets, Francine!" said Granny Godfroy. "And as far as eating half of your sailboat, Captain Oscar Goldsmith..."

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

BURP!!!



# The Fighting Island Sea Serpent Secret



All of the people in this story are imaginary except for Captain Goldsmith, although his first name wasn't Oscar. In June 1860 he reported finding a sea serpent near Fighting island when he was the mast of the schooner Nevermore.

Twenty three years later in 1883, while he was master of the steamer Morley, Captain Goldsmith reported the same kind of sea serpent near Long Point in Ohio. But that sea serpent didn't tell him whether it was a boy or girl either!

