

Captain Stormalong

Tall tales don't always tell the truth! See if you can separate fact from fiction: read the tall tale of Captain Stormalong below, then list parts of the story that could be true and the parts that probably aren't in the chart on the right.

Captain Alfred Bulltop Stormalong was one of the greatest sailors in the world, and perhaps the largest too. He was born in Massachusetts. As a boy he was a bit different than other boys his age. He was already 2 fathoms--or 12 feet--tall! Some people say he grew up to be more than 30 feet tall. Captain Stormalong's ship was named the Courser, and was so wide that it couldn't even fit in the Boston Harbor. Its mast was so tall that it scraped the moon, and its keel was so deep that it scraped the ocean floor.



Captain Stormalong was famous for many things. But perhaps his most famous story was how he defeated the kraken--a giant sea creature! The enormous kraken was half octopus and half sea snake, and could crush a ship with just one swipe of its tentacles. The first time they battled, Stormalong jumped out of his ship, creating a tidal wave that went all the way to China.



True	Make-Believe

He swam to the bottom of the sea to face the kraken, but it was too fast and got away. So the next time, Stormalong was ready with a lasso, and looped a giant rope around the kraken's neck, just like the cowboys do. The angry kraken swam and swam, towing the ship behind it, when suddenly it swam into a mighty whirlpool. The kraken and the ship went 'round and 'round until finally Stormalong let go of the rope. His ship was flung through the air and safely back onto the water, while the kraken went down in the whirlpool, never to be seen again.