



One beautiful day in Cape Cod, New England, a huge tidal wave suddenly came crashing down on the shore. The people in the village rushed out to see what was making the loud bellows that sounded like a herd of homesick cattle. They could not believe their eyes. Crawling on the beach was a giant baby who was eighteen feet tall!

His eyes were blue-green like the sea and his voice was as loud as a foghorn. The villagers carried him to town in a big farm wagon and fed him barrels of milk. It took ten people to pat him on his back in order to burp him.

His first burp nearly blew off the roof of the meeting house.

“What should we name him?” asked everyone.

A young boy said, “Alfred Bulltop Stormalong! We can call him Stormy for short!”

He was a happy baby. His parents used a whaleboat as a crib for Stormy. His father anchored the boat in the bay and let the waves rock Stormy to sleep. However, if the baby rolled over, he could cause a tsunami! He was fed whale milk and clam chowder because it was easily found in New England.

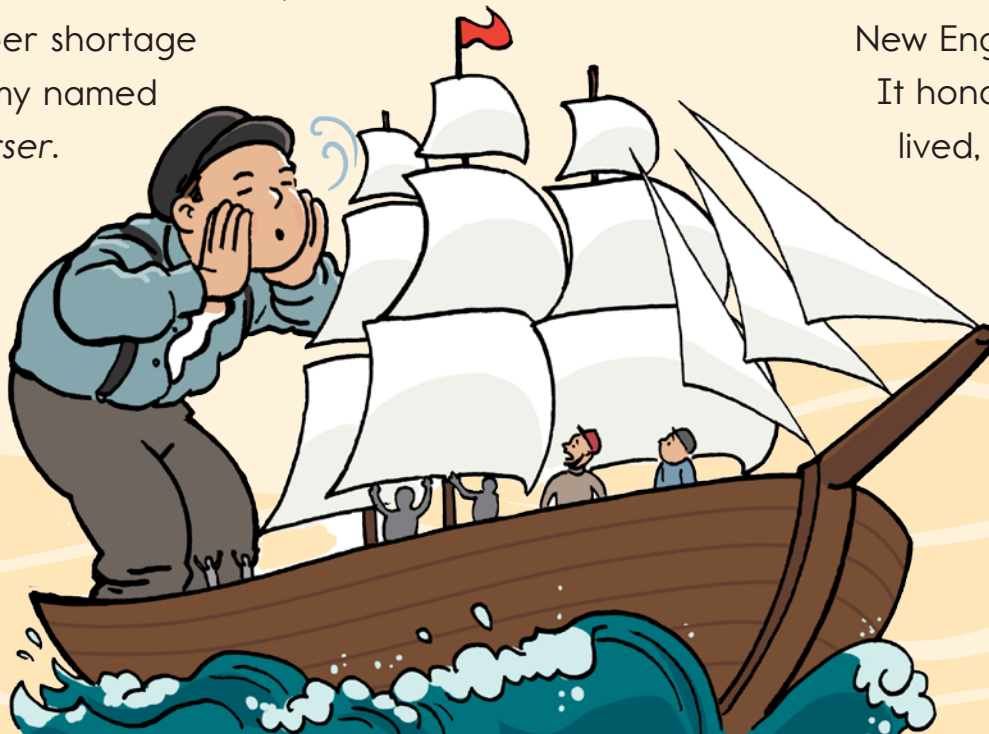
As Stormy grew up he became an excellent student. He knew every nearby bay, point, gulf, and island. At the age of twelve, he became part of the crew of the clipper ship called *The Lady of the Sea*. At the height of 36 feet, Stormy became the biggest cabin boy in the world!

During Stormy’s first voyage, *The Lady of the Sea* became stuck in the doldrums. She just sat in the water. She lay quiet in a fog thick as a grey curtain.

Stormy knew the captain was worried, so he walked to the back of the ship. He took a deep breath and blew. The sails started to flutter. Stormy took another deep breath and popped three buttons off of his shirt. The ship picked up speed and sailed away.

“Hooray for Stormalong!” shouted the captain and the crew.

When Stormy grew too big for *The Lady of the Sea*, New England sailors set about to build the biggest clipper ship in the world for Stormy. After it was built, there was a lumber shortage in America. Stormy named his ship *The Courser*.



On its voyage out of Boston Harbor, the crew had to put padding on the tops of the gigantic masts so they wouldn't punch holes in the sky. It even took four weeks to get the entire crew on deck for inspection!

Stormy became the greatest sailor to ever sail the seas. Some say he had salt water in his blood.

When Stormy died, thousands of sailors attended his burial. To this day, many sailors think the initials A.B.S. stands for “Able-Bodied Seaman.” The old sailors from the New England region know better. It honors the best sailor who ever lived, Alfred Bulltop Stormalong.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In the early 1800s, **shipbuilding** was one of the main ways people earned their living in New England.