This week your child is reading *Stormalong*, a tall tale that tells about a bigger-than-life sailor who lived many years ago.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Have your child imagine that he or she is on a vacation at the sea. Then role-play a telephone call with your child in which he or she describes the sea. Try to use some of these words.

- seafaring
- tidal
- foaming
- memorable

**Cast of Characters**  Name the characters in a television show that your child likes to watch. Ask your child to describe what each of the characters is like. Which characters would be a good friend? Which characters would you like to get to know? Ask your child to give reasons for his or her choices.

**Much Taller Tales**  Have your child name some of the things that Stormalong does in the tall tale, such as pulling in the ship’s anchor by himself or planting five million potatoes. Then work together to think of other things that Stormalong might have done.

**Challenge**  Help your child write a classified ad in which Stormalong is looking for work.
**Songs of the Sea**  Read and discuss this selection with your child. Then talk about how the song might make working on the foaming seas easier.

**Sea Shanties**

The story of Stormalong is also told in a kind of song called a sea shanty. Sea shanties are songs that sailors used to sing as they worked. Seafaring men sang shanties as they pulled in the anchor or the lines for the sails. Singing made the work easier for sailors. Now read the lyrics for this memorable sea shanty.

**Good Bye, Fare Thee Well**

We’re going away to leave you now,
Good bye, fare thee well,
Good bye, fare thee well,
We’re going away to leave you now,
Hooray, me boys, we’re homeward bound.

**Stormalong the Song**  Together, find a version of the Stormalong song on the Internet. Then read the song and talk about how it is the same and different from the story your child read about Stormalong.

**Book Links**

- *Hewitt Anderson’s Great Big Life*, by Jerdine Nolen
- *American Tall Tales*, by Mary Pope Osborne

**Internet Challenge**  Together, find a website that tells about sailing ships from long ago. Help your child make a diagram of a ship.