

# HENRY THE HANDYMAN



A Story About

Trusting Teammates

And Accepting Roles

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**By Sean Glaze**

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## Henry the Handyman

Carl was project supervisor  
On a tough rebuilding job.  
And the first guy that he brought on board  
Was a plumber friend, named Rob.

Rob was gifted with a wrench  
He could out-plumb all the rest.  
And that's why Carl had chosen him-  
This team would be the best.

Carl added others who would work  
To build something that was great.  
Wayne would work on all the wiring  
Steve would saw the lumber straight.



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Paul came with his paintbrush,  
And Danny arrived with a drill.  
But the team was not complete yet  
They needed a hammer man, still.

So Wayne made a suggestion -  
Said he knew a talented guy.  
And soon after Carl had called him,  
Henry showed up to apply.

Henry was happy to join the team,  
And excited to learn their plan.  
But Henry owned more than a hammer –  
He called himself a handyman.

Henry took in his whole toolbox  
When Carl had the team gather round.  
Then the group was given directions  
And shown where supplies could be found.



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They all had a skill to contribute -  
Each one was the top of his trade.  
But before their workday had ended  
Carl's construction plans were all delayed.

It seemed that the team had an issue -  
Someone called Henry a jerk!  
For instead of just swinging his hammer,  
Henry kept trying to do other work.

When Paul left his paint for a moment,  
And went outside to answer a call,  
Henry snuck over to give it a try  
And made a big mess on the wall.

Henry was great with a hammer -  
With one swing he could bury a nail.  
But he spent the day doing new things,  
And his novice attempts would each fail.



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Wayne got upset with his wiring,  
And Steve said his saw nearly broke.  
Danny said Henry had ruined some screws  
And yelled out that, "Drills should not smoke!"

The worst was what happened to Rob's pipes,  
When the wrench was in Henry's tight grip.  
The plumbing he did was just awful,  
And caused every connection to drip.

Each time Henry thought he was helping,  
He only made his teammates mad –  
Instead of the thing he was great at,  
Henry kept doing things he did bad.

The next morning they had a meeting,  
And Carl said, without sounding mean,  
"There are things that we all can contribute,  
Like smiling... or helping to clean..."

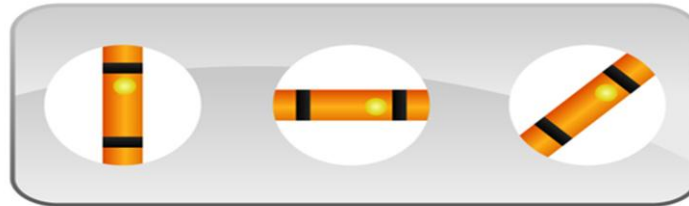


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“But each of us has a great talent -  
Something others cannot do as well,  
And that is why each man was hired –  
And that’s why our team should excel.



“So please understand these instructions,  
If you want to accomplish our goals -  
This project requires that all of us  
Trust our teammates, and stick to our roles.”



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Everyone else looked at Henry,  
They all knew the talk was for him –  
But Henry walked out with his toolbox...  
And the mood in the room became grim.

Henry wanted to be a good teammate,  
And he wasn't a quitter or jerk,  
So he came back, with only his hammer,  
Ready to trust them and do his best work.



That workday went much smoother,  
And the next few were better than that.  
Henry focused on swinging his hammer,  
And the team did what they were good at.

The project was finished on schedule;  
Its grandeur could not be denied...  
And when others praised the team's efforts,  
Each one of them swelled up with pride.

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Henry had learned quite a lesson,  
One that many teammates never get:  
We are each a just a piece of the puzzle -  
And we need to know where our skills fit.

Like Henry, we sometimes lose sight of  
The key strength that makes us unique;  
A handyman isn't as valued  
As the expert that great teams will seek!

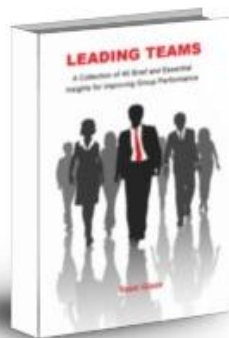
So, the two questions you should consider,  
The next time that you join a crew,  
Are, "**What skill should I share as MY hammer?**"  
And, "**What things should I not try to do?**"



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## ABOUT SEAN...

Sean Glaze is a speaker, author, coach, and team building facilitator who has enjoyed developing teamwork for over 20 years, helping groups to improve interactions and morale to boost performance for over 20 years.

Sean's company, Great Results Teambuilding, offers Fun [Team Building Events](#) and Interactive [conference Keynotes](#) that inspire corporate groups and organizations to improve communication, morale, and productivity with engaging messages and activities that transform laughter into lasting lessons.

Want a more cohesive team? [Contact Sean today!](#)

