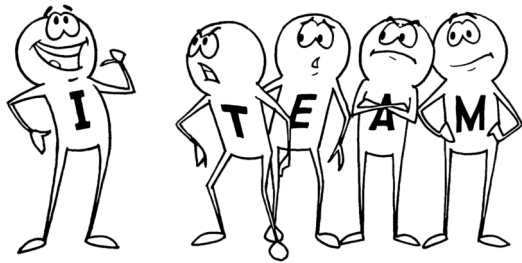


We're #1

A Story about...Teamwork



Joel Leskowitz

Illustrated by Don Wallace

The Walk the Talk Company
Helping organizations...

We're #1

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No part of this book...

etc. etc.

Introduction

They are all around us...

We are all part of one – or maybe more than one. In fact, a moment doesn't go by when we're not served, influenced, impacted, and hopefully inspired by one. What are those "ones" we're talking about? They're TEAMS!

Over the past many years, there's been a lot said and written about teams. Leadership gurus have tossed around buzz words – often describing teams in terms of complex "paradigms" and systems. But at their essence, teams are actually quite simple. They're formed to leverage individual creativity and intelligence to accomplish more.

Ideally, teams exemplify the saying, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." They are good things that should increase organizational productivity and individual satisfaction.

But, as we know, that's not always the case.

In fact, teams often are a source of frustration for the people who comprise them ... and for the companies and organizations that form them. Some teams actually squash individual creativity. Other teams are ruled by a few. Perhaps you have your own team horror stories. Many folks do.

So, what does it take to be a vibrant, successful individual *and* be part of a vibrant, successful team? Or, to put it differently,

How do you make a vibrant, successful team

AND

give team members the freedom to express their
creativity and intelligence?

We're #1 tells the story of one character's journey from "I" to "we." In fact, We're #1 is the story of I – literally!

Yes, that's poor grammar, but the "I" character I'm speaking of is actually the letter "I," one of 26 letters who work at the ABC Language Factory making words. The teamwork they exhibit forms the basis for this workplace fable. Hopefully you will both enjoy and learn from I's journey of discovery.

We're #1 is based on a delightful short story my father wrote called *I'm #1!* When I read it, I immediately saw its application as a teamwork lesson for business organizations.

To have an opportunity to adapt and share this story with you has truly been fulfilling for me. Fittingly, We're #1 is dedicated to my father, Irving Leskowitz. Pop, you've taught me so much about the power of words, teams ... and life. Thank you!

Writing this story has been a labor of love. I hope you will be inspired by We're #1 and that you'll use what you read to enhance your personal success – and the success of everyone else on YOUR TEAM.

Joel Leskowitz