

Bluey and See-Saw

The brain is a fascinating organ. One moment you're watching a kids cartoon and the next moment you're transported to your childhood, decades ago.

This happened a couple of days ago. The kiddo was watching a Bluey episode about a see-saw. I only caught the last few scenes. The life lesson was supposedly about teamwork - all the kids, when working together, could lift the dad, with two rocks, too heavy for any individual child.

In the end, the kids jump off, causing Bandit, the dad, to land on the ground. That's when it happened. From the depths of my mind, my brain fetched a memory that took me to the school recess of New Yoshodo Public School, Hissar, mid 90's, almost 30 years ago.

The class decided to have a match. Girls vs Boys, to see who can lift the other side on the playground see-saw. The girls, as many as could, piled on one side of the see-saw. The boys started piling on the other side. One of us got so engrossed in the goal that he got under the see-saw and gave it his all, pulling down with all his might.

Eventually, the girls side budged, and they started rising. And as they started rising, they all abandoned post. You don't need to be a Physics major to guess what happened next. And unlike cartoons, laws of Gravity don't wait for you to get to a safe place before capitulatory. The entire boys' side slammed down on the one who was under the see-saw, hitting him in the face, probably before he could even register that the resistance from the other side was gone.

By sheer luck, or divine intervention,
I take your fork, the metal just
missed his eye, so thankfully there
wasn't any serious damage done.
His eyebrow did split open, requiring
multiple stitches to put it back
together. I switched schools in the
next grade for unrelated reasons, but
I ended up in the ex-classmate year
later in a coaching class in high
school. He still carried the scar,
and the memories of the incident.

Is there a lesson in there somewhere?
Don't abandon your team at the first
sign of trouble?

If you're a leader, prevent the first
cut if you want to avoid a delay?

Give your projects your all, but ensure
your physical and psychological safety?
You can extrapolate all sorts of LinkedIn

friendly leadership and workplace lessons, but to me this was a very insightful peek into the workings of memory. Given the right environmental cues, you never know what will come out of the well of your long term memories..