

# TEAM = “Together Everyone Achieves More”

## *A Twist on an Old Fable... Who Really Won the Race?*



Before you do anything else, I want you to “take four,” fire up your computer, and view this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xevQ2yTyK9Y>.

### What is the moral to the *final* story of these two racers?

SHJO and your school music ensemble represent a “TEAM” – not only inspiring your own creative self-expression and skill development, but learning to communicate, connect “symphonically,” and come together with all the musicians to achieve **common goals**.

For similar advice, we can go all the way back to the famous Greek philosopher Aristotle:

**“The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”**

According to Wikipedia, **Synergy** is the creation of “a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts.” The term *synergy* comes from the word *synergos* (συνεργός) meaning **“working together.”**

Another way to reflect on this concept is with this parable “Whose Job Is It” (author unknown) demonstrating **apathy**:

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

If you want to create the life and musical success you want, don't be like Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. Be true to yourself. Take responsibility for your life! Don't let Everybody, Somebody, Anybody or Nobody stop you from doing what you need to achieve what you want and deserve for yourself and the TEAM!

The “take-a-ways” from this fable? What is your *charge* **“for the good of the TEAM?”**

- Take personal responsibility for defining what life and musical success means to you.
- Take personal responsibility for building your self-confidence. (Practice!)
- Take personal responsibility to participate in Saturday rehearsals regularly. (Attend every week!)
- Take personal responsibility for developing the competencies (skills) and preparations (focus on the hard passages) you need to succeed in the music.
- Take personal responsibility for putting sufficient time into the “SHJO TEAM.”
- Take personal responsibility for building and nurturing relationships in the orchestra that will help you promote success.
- Take personal responsibility in supporting the SHJO TEAM in “fun” raising (socials) and fund-raising projects... as we used to say back in the 60s and 70s, “be there or be square!”



At rehearsal last Saturday, I expressed concerns that the reality of inconsistent attendance and inadequate at-home practice is making it difficult to rehearse and achieve progress. However, rest assured, I know our concert will be *great!*

In every fifth-year anniversary milestone of SHJO, we have given back to those who have given us a very special gift... a permanent home. Our fund-raising efforts are lagging behind and we need all *Friends of SHJO* to “step up to the plate.”

On Sunday, you will have the opportunity to engage with other booster members and their leadership team to proceed toward our fund-raising goal of \$12,000 for a gift to our gracious hosts, the Upper St. Clair School District. Ads and patron donations received as we go forward will be acknowledged in future concert programs, and we look forward to your generous assistance.

Read our other SHJO enrichment resources and “Fox Firesides” at <http://www.shjo.org/foxs-fireside/>.

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[www.shjo.org](http://www.shjo.org)

