EXPERIENCE COMPANION · AGES 10–15

Repair the Cort

Name _____

Date _____

From a news story: in August 2026 the Stewart J. Cort came to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, with a broken rudder shaft. Help the tugs bring her into the shipyard's dry dock and fix her.

Open it: inthelakes.ca/#mission=cort-repair · About 30–45 minutes

1 Backing

Chapter 1: backing down the bay, which side of the ship is on your left when you look aft (backwards)? Why does that make steering tricky?

Your numbers, from the screen:

What	My number
Distance you backed her	
Time at the helm, as the ship saw it	
Times she touched bottom	

2 In the dry dock

Chapter 2: the dock is 1,154 feet long and 140 feet wide. How much wider is it than the Cort?

Chapter 3: what happens when the dock is pumped out? What does she sit on?

Chapter 4, the repair: write each step in your own words.

Step	What the crew does
1 Look at the damage	
2 Rig the chain falls	
3 Unbolt the coupling	
4 Lower the rudder	
5 Draw out the broken shaft	
6 Fit the new shaft	
7 Raise the rudder	
8 Bolt the coupling	
9 Test the steering	

❸ In your own words

Why do the chain falls go on before the bolts come out? What could happen if they didn't?