

# Story Quest

Complete  
3/6  
them all!

Adventures close to home



## Pitch Perfect

### Burslem Park

Join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt on  
a Story Quest around Burslem Park!

[storyquest.org.uk](http://storyquest.org.uk)

#StoryQuest

## Dear Story Questers,

This activity storybook is one of a series of adventures written especially for **YOU!**

Each story sees me (Josh), my best friend Yasmin and my Grandpa Matt explore a different area of Burslem or Tunstall, and we're inviting **YOU** to join us on our adventures.

As you read each story and follow in our footsteps, there are lots of activities for you to do – games to play, sights to spot, riddles to solve – but, best of all, you'll get to enjoy your very own Story Quest alongside us and, as Grandpa Matt always says...

*Adventuring outside can be full of surprise  
Wonders await when you open your eyes!*

This Story Quest takes place around:  
**Burslem Park, Stoke-on-Trent**  
Starting point: Hamil Road entrance, opposite Port Vale FC

For this football-themed adventure, you might want to bring a ball with you.

Once you've enjoyed this adventure, there are loads more to get stuck into, plus you'll find some extra activities at the back of this book.

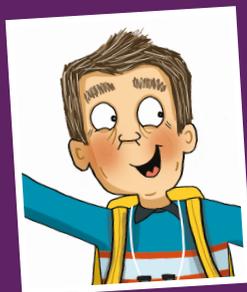
Have fun, Story Questers!



**Josh**  
(age 10)



**Yasmin**  
(age 11)



**Grandpa Matt**  
(age never you mind!)

**Duration:** This adventure will take **one to two hours**, depending on how quickly you do all the activities and how long you want to spend exploring this beautiful park!

**Activity level rating:** An energetic, fun-filled adventure

## Join us on our Story Quest!

- 1 Complete a short form at the Port Vale FC shop or at [storyquest.org.uk](http://storyquest.org.uk) to be eligible for a reward
- 2 Read on and come with us on an adventure around Burslem Park, Stoke-on-Trent
- 3 Take this map back to the Port Vale FC shop and get a stamp above from a Story Quest ambassador, or answer a question based on the trail at [storyquest.org.uk](http://storyquest.org.uk)
- 4 Collect your special reward
- 5 Share photos of your Story Quest on social media using **#StoryQuest**

There are 5 more Story Quests to take part in around Burslem and Tunstall! Join us on all 6 to be entered into an extra special prize draw!

Pick up a leaflet to find out the other locations, or find everything you need to know at [storyquest.org.uk](http://storyquest.org.uk)



LOTTERY FUNDED

**STOKE  
READS**



Ask a Story Quest  
ambassador if you  
need any help!

Moorland Road

Park Road

Hamil Road

Victorian Terrace Gardens

Bandstand

Mosaic

Mayfly sculpture

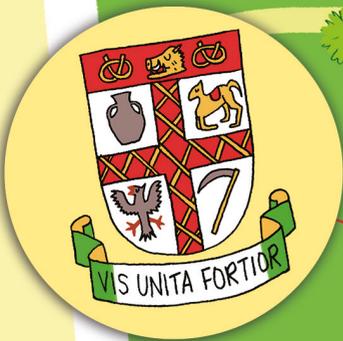
Pagoda

Pavilion Cafe

Kickabout Area

Playground

"I like to see Grandpa Matt reading and ask him about his favourite books. We have lots in common so this gives me ideas for books I might like, and I like seeing how important he thinks reading is."



Port Vale Football Club



### 3. Pitch Perfect

Standing outside Burslem Park, Yasmin bounced her football one, two, three times. She was buzzing with energy ahead of her trial for the county football team.

“Come on Josh. Come on Matt,” she muttered. Her mum and dad were working today, so Josh and Matt had promised they’d come to support her. Just then, Yasmin heard an *absolute racket* drifting up the road.

*“Our pal Yas is magic.  
She wears a magic hat.  
And when she saw the County Cup  
She said ‘I’m having that!’”*

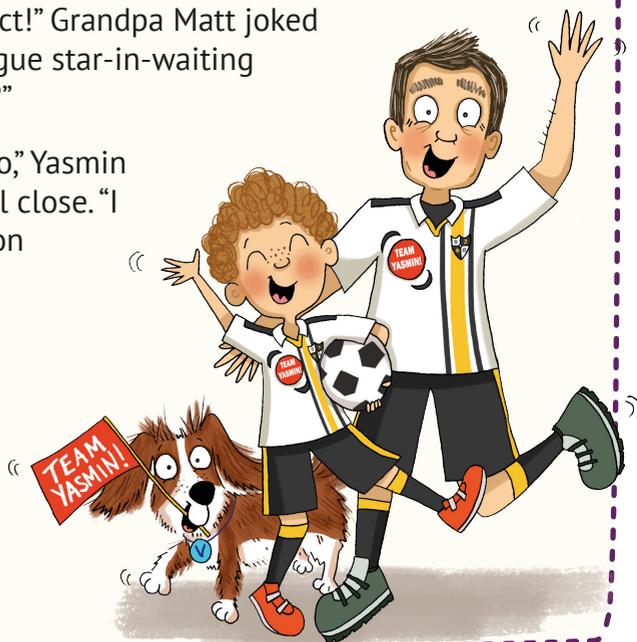
Yasmin’s face broke into a huge smile as the source of the racket came into view. It was Josh and Matt, dressed head to toe in Port Vale colours, with homemade *Team Yasmin* badges pinned to their shirts.

“I hope my playing is more in tune with the rest of the team than your voices!” she laughed.

“I’m sure you’ll be *pitch* perfect!” Grandpa Matt joked back. “How’s our Premier League star-in-waiting feeling ahead of her big day?”

“Excited, but a bit nervous too,” Yasmin replied, clutching her football close. “I think the fact I’ll be playing on the actual Port Vale pitch is making me even more jittery.”

“But you’re a mighty midfield maestro!” Matt reassured her. “Forget it’s a trial, play your usual game, and you’ll have no problem.”



“He’s right,” Josh agreed. “You’ll smash it!”

“But I can’t stop thinking about everything that could go wrong.”

“It can’t go as wrong as the time I had a county trial when I was a lad,” chuckled Matt. “Let’s just say, while our names are similar, I certainly don’t share the skills of Stoke-on-Trent’s most famous footballing legend!”

### OVER TO YOU!

Who is Grandpa Matt talking about? Which famous footballing legend from Stoke-on-Trent has a name similar to his?

CLUE: Grandpa’s full name is ‘Matthew’

BONUS CLUE: the footballer played for Stoke City FC and England, and managed Port Vale FC.

“I know how we can take your mind off your nerves, Yas,” beamed Josh. “Let’s head into the park. I’ve thought of an exploring game that will help focus your mind and warm up your body. You have a couple of hours before the trial starts.”

“Great idea,” Matt agreed. “You really are a chip off this old explorer’s block! Let’s get going.”

“Aren’t you forgetting something?” Josh smiled.

“I don’t think so,” frowned Matt.

“Aren’t you going to say your special words? You know:

*Adventuring outside can be full of surprise  
Wonders await when you open your eyes!”*

“Well remembered, Josh, and today is certainly a big day of adventure for Yasmin. Let’s kick it off in style,” he chuckled. “Get it?”

## OVER TO YOU!

Look at the coat of arms on the gate to the Hamil Road entrance of Burslem Park then solve this riddle:

*I was used to cut crops in days gone by  
Barley, wheat, oats and rye.*

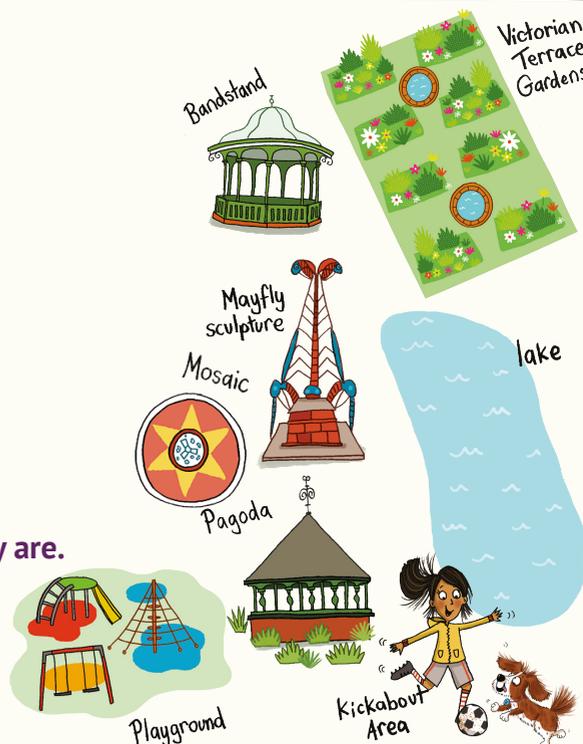
What am I? S ■ Y ■ ■ ■

“Right, let’s get the game started,” said Josh as they stepped inside the park. “Take a look at this map and try to remember the park’s main points of interest.”

## OVER TO YOU!

Find the map that’s located just inside the park entrance, then join in Josh’s exploring game by finding the following landmarks on it:

- Victorian terrace garden
- Bandstand
- Mayfly statue
- Lake
- Mosaic
- Pagoda
- Playground
- Kickabout area



Once you’ve found them, try to remember where they are.

**TOP TIP:** you could also take a photo of the map, or draw your own version to carry round with you.

“OK, the first stop on our adventure is the Victorian terrace garden,” Josh announced. “Use your brain to remember where it is, then use your body to get there as quickly as possible!”

With that, Yasmin darted down a path.

## OVER TO YOU!

Do YOU remember where the Victorian terrace garden is? Make your way there, then join in Yasmin’s warm-up by jogging around each of the rectangular lawns. Begin with the sections near the pavilion before moving onto the sections closer to the bandstand.

“That was a great way to start my warm up, Josh,” said Yasmin as they took a breather in the bandstand. “Where next?”

“Next stop is the mayfly sculpture. Can you remember where that is?”

## OVER TO YOU!

Can YOU remember where the mayfly sculpture was marked on the map? Head to this magnificent metal sculpture once you’ve worked out where it is.

After a short stroll towards the centre of the park, Josh, Yasmin and Matt stopped in front of the mayfly sculpture.

“*Good community equals unity,*” read Grandpa Matt as he examined the area around the sculpture.

## OVER TO YOU!

Find what Grandpa Matt is referring to and then answer these questions:

1) What animal is pictured on the tile directly beneath these words?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ F ■ Y

2) Who presented the base that the statue sits on?

■ ■ ■ / ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ / ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

“To find our next landmark, you need to solve this riddle,” said Josh.

## OVER TO YOU!

Solve Josh’s riddle to work out where to go next:

*I rhyme with bake, but I’m not a cake  
I’m a big kind of pond, home to ducks and fronds.*



Got it? Join Yasmin, Josh and Matt at this landmark.

**EXTRA CLUE:** it’s near the lodge at the Moorland Road entrance to Burslem Park.

“Well done, guys!” said Josh. “Your next challenge is to find three images on the mosaic.”

## OVER TO YOU!

Join in the adventure by heading to the park’s mosaic.

Hopefully you’ve remembered where this is! If you’ve forgotten, simply follow in Grandpa Matt’s footsteps and do a spot of exploring until you find it.

**TOP TIP:** it’s not too far from the lake...

Found it? Now read the puzzles below and fill in the blanks.

The answers are all pictured in the mosaic.

1) I’m a blue and white bird: B ■ ■ g ■ ■

2) We’re three fast swimmers: F ■ ■ h

3) I’m a b ■ ■ d ■ on my wedding day

“After all that brain exercise, it’s time to get back to a bit of body exercise,” said Josh. “Let’s head to the Japanese pagoda.”

With that, they all followed the path running alongside the lake until they reached the pagoda’s steep steps.

## OVER TO YOU!

Join Josh, Yasmin and Matt on their walk to the pagoda. Once you’ve reached the pagoda’s steps, set a timer and see how many times you can go up and down in one minute. Be sure to take care as you climb, Story Questers!

“That was pretty intense,” panted Matt as they took a break in the pagoda.

“Why don’t you two head over to the playground while I get my breath back? I’ll see you in the kickabout area in a little while.”



## OVER TO YOU!

Head to the playground with Josh and Yasmin and try out the activities here before joining Matt in the park’s kickabout area.

If you brought a football with you, practice your keepy-uppies or play a penalty shoot-out in this great green space.

“Yikes!” yelled Yasmin. “It’s time to head over the road to the stadium. Huge thanks for that, Josh. My brain and body both feel ready for the trial now!”

Two hours later, Yasmin’s trial was over, and the moment of truth had arrived. She held her breath as the coach read out the names of those who’d been selected.

“Lucy. Jessie. Zuzanna. Alice. Aisha...”

Yasmin’s heart pounded hard as the coach went on and on, until...

“Last, but not least, we’re delighted to announce that the final successful trialist, who will also be our squad captain for the upcoming County Cup tournament, is Yasmin!”

“I actually did it!” yelled Yasmin.

“What a perfect day!” Josh replied.



“Don’t you mean a *pitch* perfect day,” smiled Grandpa Matt. “You were definitely the most tuneful player out there!”

Amidst a chorus of groans, Yasmin high-fived Josh and Matt as they belted out their new favourite chant.

***“Our pal Yas is magic.  
She wears a magic hat.  
And when she saw the County Cup  
She said ‘I’m having that!’”***

## We hope you enjoyed your Story Quest!

Here are some fun activities to try at home.

### 1. Make your own mosaic

Make a memento of your Burslem Park adventure by creating a mosaic of some of the things you saw and did. You could draw your own pictures or cut images from a magazine and stick them onto a piece of card.

### 2. Keep on doing keepy-uppies

Doing keepy-uppies is a great way to improve strength, balance and concentration. Practice your keepy-uppies for ten minutes a day over the course of a week (or longer!). Count how many times you can keep the ball in the air and see how much you can improve.