

# Story Quest

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](https://twitter.com/StoryQuest)

Dear Story Questers,

Are you ready to get exploring? Join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt on this football-themed adventure around Burslem Park.

This Story Quest is one of a series of adventures written especially for you. Story Quests are free activities for your family to enjoy together in your local area. These exciting story trails have lots of activities to take part in, riddles to solve and physical challenges to complete along the way.

You can explore local places, find out some cool Stoke facts and discover Stoke-on-Trent's history and nature. There are so many stories for you to enjoy.

Best of all, as Grandpa Matt always says...

*Adventuring outside can be full of surprise*

*Wonders await when you open your eyes!*

Meet the team:



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!

Come with us on this adventure to help Yasmin get ready for her big trial. All you will need to bring is your brain and a pencil.

**Trail details:** This story takes place around Burslem Park, Stoke-on-Trent. The starting point is the top entrance to the park on Hamil Road.

**Accessibility:** This park is quite hilly with good paths. There is one section of the story that includes going up some steps but these can be avoided by using a different path (just use your map to help you).

Visit **[storyquest.org.uk](https://storyquest.org.uk)** to find out more about our other Story Quest trails.



In partnership with



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

Moorland Road

Victorian  
Terrace  
Gardens

Bandstand

Pavilion Cafe

Kickabout  
Area

Hamil Road

Park Road





"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."



Mosaic

Mayfly  
sculpture



Pagoda



Playground



Port Vale Football Club



# 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.”

“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 this warm up started,” said Josh. They stepped  
inside the park’s entrance, walked down the path and found  
the map of the park. “Look, this map will help us find all the best  
places to visit.”

# OVER TO YOU!

Find the map that's located down the path on the right. Then join in Josh's exploring game by finding the following landmarks.

Bandstand



Victorian terrace garden

Mayfly sculpture



Victorian Terrace Gardens

Bandstand



Mayfly statue

Mosaic

Lake

Pagoda



Mosaic

Pagoda



Playground

Playground

Kickabout area



lake

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, 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 for some body exercise,” said Josh.

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

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## OVER TO YOU!

Join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt on their walk to the pagoda. Once you’ve reached the staircase, see how many times you can go up and down the bottom step in 30 seconds. Then walk up to the pagoda.

Top tip: if you don’t want to take the steps, use your map to help you find the playground. You can meet the rest of the team there.



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“That was pretty intense,” panted Matt. “Why don’t you two head over to the playground while I get my breath back? I’ll see you in the kick-about area.”

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## 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 this Story Quest! Find more trails to take part in at [storyquest.org.uk](https://storyquest.org.uk).**