

Story Quest

Complete
2/6
them all!

Adventures close to home



Flight to Fame Westport Lake

Join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt on
a Story Quest around Westport Lake!

storyquest.org.uk

#StoryQuest

Dear Story Questers,

This is one of 6 storybook 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:
**Westport Lake Nature Reserve,
Westport Lake Road, Stoke-on-Trent**
Starting point: Outside the main entrance to the reserve

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 around **one hour**, depending on how fast you walk the circuit around the lake, how long you try to spot birds for, and how long you want to spend in the playground after you've completed the circuit.

Activity level rating: A reasonable ramble.

Join us on our Story Quest!

- 1 Complete a short form at Green Door or at storyquest.org.uk to be eligible for a reward
- 2 Read on and come with us on an adventure around Westport Lake
- 3 Take this map back to Westport Lake and get a stamp above from a Story Quest ambassador, or answer a question based on the trail at 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



LOTTERY FUNDED

**STOKE
READS**



Ask a Story Quest
ambassador if you
need any help!

Fowlea Brook

Wildlife pools

Wardle Cottage

Car park

Visitor centre

Canal

Play area

WELCOME

"Make sure you give yourself time when you're reading something new, so you can get help with tricky words if you need it. I always like to guess how to pronounce a word before checking with Grandpa Matt. He will give me the first sound and then I'll break the word up into smaller sections."



2. Flight to Fame

“Quick!” called Grandpa Matt. “Burslem is on the national news!”

Yasmin and Josh bolted into Matt’s living room.



“Dozens of bird-watchers are gathered here at beautiful Westport Lake Nature Reserve this morning hoping to enjoy a remarkably rare glimpse of a hoopoe bird,” announced the reporter.

“The hoopoe is a tropical-looking bird with a pinky-brown body, black and white wings, a long bill and a striking crest. They live in mainland Europe, Asia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar, and are occasionally spotted in southern England in spring, so the fact that one has been sighted here in Burslem is a very special event. Back to the studio for now, but stay tuned for further reports from Westport Lake throughout the day.”

“We should go!” said Josh. “I’ve always wanted to see a tropical bird in the wild, and it sounds like it might not happen again!”

“You’re not wrong there,” replied Grandpa Matt. “I remember seeing hoopoes while I explored North Africa as a young man. We might not get another chance to see one this close to home.”

“Do we *have* to?” sighed Yasmin. “I mean, not all of us are as excited about nature as you, Josh, and not all of us used to be explorers either. Can’t we stay here and have a kick about in the garden?”

“If the bird doesn’t excite you, just think of the TV cameras. You might become famous!” Matt winked. “And besides, you know what I always say:

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

Yasmin raised an eyebrow. “I guess the presenter did say they’ll be reporting from the lake all day.” She smiled. “So what are we waiting for?”

With that, Yasmin, Josh and Grandpa Matt raced outside in search of adventure...

OVER TO YOU!

Head to Westport Lake Nature Reserve to share in Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt’s avian* adventure!

(*Avian is another word for ‘bird’)

“Do you think the hoopoe bird has feathers as shiny and big as that?” asked Josh as they approached the entrance to the nature reserve.

OVER TO YOU!

Look around the main entrance area to Westport Lake Nature Reserve.

What large, shiny object Josh is talking about?

BONUS QUESTION: What is the name of this shiny structure?

“Hoopoes aren’t as huge as that,” chuckled Grandpa Matt. “But they’re every bit as impressive, I can promise you that! Fingers crossed we spot one for ourselves.”

“I’ve just spotted something *else* that’s pretty impressive,” said Yasmin. “Look over there by the visitor centre! It’s the reporter from the telly.”

“What kind of bird is that on the sign above the centre doorway, Grandpa?” asked Josh, who was far more interested in spotting birds than reporters. “I’ve forgotten its name.”

OVER TO YOU!

Look at the sign above the door to the visitor centre.
What kind of bird is pictured on the sign? Fill in the spaces below.

K I ■ ■ F ■ ■ ■ R

Once Grandpa Matt had answered Josh's question (did *you* get it right, Story Questers?), all three of them turned left from the centre and walked down towards the lake, where dozens of ducks were quacking and pecking near the notice boards. From here they could see a bunch of bird-watchers and camera people crowded at the edge of the first wildlife pool.

OVER TO YOU!

Before you join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt on their exciting search for the hoopoe bird, take a look at the notice boards.

First, find the map of Westport Lake so you know where the wildlife pools are.

Then check all the boards to see pictures of the different birds you might spot around the lake. Write a short description of each one below to help you remember what they look like as you join in Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt's adventure.

Reed bunting

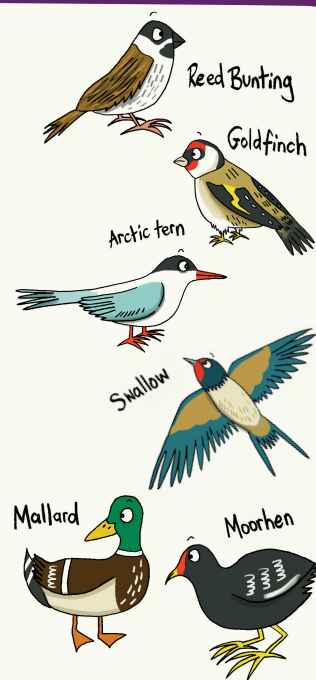
Goldfinch

Arctic tern

Swallow

Mallard

Moorhen



With Josh eagerly leading the way, they strode to the first wildlife pool.

"Hello, there!" said Grandpa Matt, tipping his hat to one of the bird-watchers. "I don't suppose you've seen the hoopoe recently, have you?"

"Afraid not. I caught a glimpse of its crest about an hour ago, but nothing since. I think I'll give it another half an hour and then set my telescope up at the other side of the lake. That's the thing about watching birds. Blink for a second and you'll miss the flighty fellas. Quick as a flash." He snapped his fingers. "You need to keep your ears open too. Hoopoes have a unique call that sounds like someone saying 'poo-poo-poo' in a breathy voice."

"Seriously?" laughed Yasmin. "That shouldn't be hard to notice."

"I reckon we should check around the whole lake," said Josh.

"But what if the hoopoe appears here while we're all the way over the other side?" said Yasmin. "And most of the cameras seem to be here."

"The entire path is only about a mile," chortled Matt. "That's nothing for a sporty girl like you. We can always race back if it appears here. Let's go!"

OVER TO YOU!

Join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt's search for the hoopoe by walking as quickly as you can from the first wildlife pool to the pool at the northern edge of the lake.

You could even time your walk to see how fast you are.

After a swift walk along the path, they paused to catch their breath near the last of the wildlife pools, each of them scanning the area for any sign of the elusive hoopoe.

"This is harder than I thought," Josh sighed.

"Don't give up yet." Grandpa Matt ruffled Josh's hair. "We're only halfway round. We need to press on!"

OVER TO YOU!

Rejoin Yasmin, Josh and Grandpa Matt's search for the hidden hoopoe by continuing around the rest of the lake, heading back towards the visitor centre with the canal running along your left.

REMINDER! Don't forget to keep an eye out for the birds you made a note of at the start of your adventure. Put a tick next to any you're lucky enough to spot.

They passed Wardle Cottage and were soon on the home straight that led back to the visitor centre.

"Hey, look!"

Yasmin and Grandpa Matt froze at Josh's words.

"Did you see the bird?" asked Yasmin, her voice edgy with anticipation.

"Afraid not!" Josh laughed. "I was going to say that the stilts on the centre building make it look like a long-legged heron perching over the lake." Then it was his turn to freeze. "That was it! Listen!"

All three of them held their breath.

"Poo-poo-poo...Poo-poo-poo."

"You're right, Josh," whispered Grandpa Matt. "That's definitely the hoopoe! Yasmin, you're a fast runner from all your football training. Head to the centre and fetch the news people. But be as quick and quiet as you can."

Yasmin returned quickly with the news crews.

"Shh!" warned Josh as a cameraperson fumbled with their equipment. "You might scare it off." "Poo-poo," came the call. "Poo-poo-poo," and then the hoopoe emerged from behind a bush, its majestic crest fanned open like a feathered crown.



"Wow!" Josh gasped. "I'm so glad we came. Isn't it amazing to think that this bird has flown THOUSANDS of miles to be here in Burslem?"

As everyone watched, mesmerised by its dazzling crest, the hoopoe bobbed its head one, two, three times before soaring up, up and across the lake, its black-and-white-striped wings standing out against the bright, blue sky.

"Hurrah for the hoopoe!" cried Grandpa Matt.

"Such a shame we didn't catch it on camera," said the reporter. "Would you mind describing the experience to our viewers?"

"Not at all," said Matt. "See, Yasmin, love. It was worth us adventuring outside today, wasn't it?"

"Couldn't agree more!" Yasmin beamed as she, Josh and Matt turned to the camera for their moment of fame, just as the hoopoe's elegant flight took it from sight.



OVER TO YOU!

To celebrate Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt's success in spotting the hoopoe and being interviewed for TV, why not take a selfie to celebrate completing your own adventure in this same spot? Share your photo on social media using #StoryQuest.

Then, if you have any energy left after your adventure, you could explore the playground area near the nature reserve's car park.

We hope you enjoyed your Story Quest!

Here are some fun activities to try at home.

1. Go wild with words

Write an acrostic poem about your avian adventure at Westport Lake Nature Reserve. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letters of each line spell out the word the poem is about. Here's an example about cats to help you:

Cat creeps through the city
As the moon beams bright
Tiny paws padding
Silent through the night

Now write your own poem below using the word BIRDS:

B
I
R
D
S



2. Get fit as a flamingo

If you enjoyed your Westport Lake walk, you might like this fun flamingo fitness game. See how long you, your friends and family can stand on one leg like a flamingo. You need good posture and strong legs. Time yourselves every day for a week to see how you improve.