

Black Country

Sandwell Valley Story Trail



Welcome

This trail is aimed at children aged 2 to 5 and their families and carers.

Follow the map and the story of Uncle Josh, Mia, Kai and Tufty the dog to explore your park. What can you see and do? Can you tick off each activity?

Remember to stay safe, keep your distance from other families and sanitise your hands.

Read the story aloud to your little explorers and have fun chatting and playing along the route.

You may want to bring some blank paper and pencils so your little ones can make the most out of the trail – we would love to see photos of your little ones carrying out the activities!

This walk will take up to **45 mins**, depending on your pace.



Sandwell Valley Story Trail



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1

Boer war memorial

‘Freeze!’

said Mia.

Her little brother, Kai, Uncle Josh and his dog Tufty stopped exactly where they were on the path.

‘Why?’ asked Uncle Josh out of the corner of his mouth.

‘That’s the wicked queen,’ said Mia in a loud whisper, nodding towards the winged statue.

‘Fairy?’ asked Kai.

Ruff ruff ruff! barked Tufty.

‘No, she’s queen of the birds,’ said Mia.

‘That’s why she has wings. And she’s very powerful. Quick, before she sees us!’

Mia unfroze them and they hurried down the path.

Can you stand still like a statue?



2

Sensory garden

What flowers can you see and smell in the garden?



Use your paper and pencil to note down which ones are your favourites.



3

View of the pavilion

Can you pretend to fly like a bird?



‘Flowers!’ said Kai, as they reached a beautiful garden.

‘Yes, can you smell them?’ asked Uncle Josh.

Mia ran in to the garden and balanced on one of the low walls. Tufty followed her yapping happily. ‘It’s safe in here from the wicked queen. The flowers disguise the smell of children,’ she said.

‘Does the wicked queen not like children?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘No,’ said Mia, shaking her head. ‘Children have too much fun. Come on!’

She hopped down off the wall and grabbed their hands.

‘Now that is the wicked queen’s castle,’ said Mia, pointing up at a large, spiky brown building.

‘Castle?’ asked Kai.

Mia nodded. ‘It’s high up so she can see all over the park.’

‘What can she see in the park?’

‘Children having fun!’ said Mia. ‘Quick, let’s fly out of her way.’

View to secret lake

4

Can you see the mermaid in the lake?



They swooshed down the path flapping their arms like wings, then came to a crossroads.

‘Tall grass,’ said Kai, as they reached a patch of high reeds on their left.

‘Shhh!’ said Mia. ‘That’s where the mermaid lives.’

‘In a bush?’ asked Uncle Josh. He picked up Tufty.

Mia laughed. ‘Silly Uncle Josh, that’s the secret lake, look.’

She led them quietly to the tall reeds. There was a gap between the reeds and behind it, a pond!

‘Wow!’ said Kai.

‘I know,’ said Mia.

‘Where’s the mermaid?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Sometimes she’s here, sometimes she’s in the big lake. Shall we look?’ asked Mia.

The others nodded and they turned around to follow the path around the lake.





5

Bench by the lake

They looked and looked for the mermaid. Sometimes they saw a splash in the water and thought it might be her tail. They sang songs about the sea to try and get her to poke her head up.

‘Tired,’ said Kai, as they rounded a corner.

‘Let’s have a little rest,’ said Uncle Josh, sitting down on a bench. ‘Maybe we’ll see the mermaid if we’re really quiet.’

‘She’s scared of the wicked queen,’

said Mia. ‘Once upon a time, they were friends. They played all over the park – in the trees and on the grass and in the lake. But then they fell out! The wicked queen cast a spell to make the mermaid stay in the lake and the queen stayed in the trees.’

‘That’s sad. Do you think they might be friends again?’ asked Uncle Josh.

Mia shrugged.

‘I think we’d have to say the magic words.’

‘Abracadabra!’

said Kai.

Uncle Josh laughed. ‘There’s a magic triangle up there, shall we try it?’

Mia and Kai jumped up and followed Uncle Josh to the magic triangle.

Can you sing any songs about the sea?

Can you sing ‘Row, row, row your boat?’



6

Little patch of grass

What other shapes do you know?

Can you spot any of them in the park?



‘I can’t see a triangle,’ said Mia.

‘Look down,’ said Uncle Josh.

And there, between the paths, under a signpost, was a small patch of grass, shaped like a triangle.

‘How many sides does it have?’ Uncle Josh asked.

Mia held Kai’s hand and pointed as they counted together.

‘One... two... three!’

‘Shall we say the magic word?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Abracadabra!’ they all shouted.

‘Now the queen and the mermaid are friends again!’ said Mia. ‘Let’s celebrate.’

‘I know just the place...’ said Uncle Josh.

7

Playground

What was your favourite thing you saw in the park today?



‘Swings!’

shouted Kai, as they reached the playground.

‘Magic,’ said Mia, giving Uncle Josh a hug before running in to play.



Well done, you made it to the end of the Story Trail!

We would love to have your feedback. Please click here to answer some questions and be in with the chance of winning a prize!

Click here to complete this short survey

You can find more fun activities to add to your routine at **wordsforlife.org.uk** and **hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk**

You can also join the online conversation using the hashtag **#HLMStoryTrails**



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Changing life stories

