

Story Quest

Christmas
edition!

Adventures close to home



The Christmas History Mystery Hanley Town Centre

Join Josh, Yasmin and Grandpa Matt on a
seasonal Story Quest around historic Hanley!

storyquest.org.uk

#StoryQuest

Dear Story Questers,

This is a special seasonal storybook adventure, written especially for **YOU** to enjoy during your Christmas break.

As you read the story and follow in our footsteps, there are lots of activities for you to do. There are 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. 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:
Hanley Town Centre, Stoke-On-Trent
Starting point: City Centre Library
Bethesda Street, ST1 3RS

For this special seasonal Story Quest, you might want to wear a Christmas jumper or Santa hat!

Once you've enjoyed this adventure there are loads more to get stuck into (visit storyquest.org.uk for details), plus you'll find more Christmas-themed activities at the back of this booklet.

Have fun, Story Questers!



Josh
(age 10)



Yasmin
(age 11)



Grandpa Matt
(age never you mind!)

Duration: This adventure will take around **45 minutes to one hour**, depending on how long you take to solve the history mystery riddles!

Activity level rating: An easy-going seasonal saunter.

Join us on our Story Quest!

- 1** Sign up by completing a short form at Central Library or at storyquest.org.uk
- 2** Read on and join us for a festive adventure around Hanley
- 3** Take this map back to Ruff and Ruby or Central Library to get a stamp from a Story Quest ambassador, or answer a question based on the trail at storyquest.org.uk
- 4** Share photos of your Story Quest on social media using **#StoryQuest**

There are six other Story Quests to complete around Burslem and Tunstall!

Find everything you need to you need to know at storyquest.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

**STOKE
READS**



Ask a Story Quest
ambassador if you
need any help!

"I love Christmas songs! Auntie Ana used to sing to me all the time when I was little and I've enjoyed music and poetry ever since."



Reginald Joseph Mitchell Statue



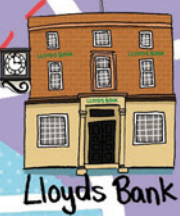
Arnold Bennett Statue



Regent Theatre



Piccadilly
Multi-floors music and animated arts



Lloyds Bank

Blue Clock Tower



Huntbach Street

Broad Street



The Potteries Museum



Memorial garden



Hanley Town Hall

"Christmas is such a hectic time that it's hard to keep up your normal routine. I like to take 10 minutes each day to read a book with Josh to make sure we're still getting our quality time together."



City Centre Library



Start here



Hanley Bus Station



The Christmas History Mystery

“At last!” yelled Yasmin as Josh and Grandpa Matt joined her outside City Centre Library. “I’m so excited about hearing my Auntie Ana sing carols. What a way to begin the first day of our Christmas holidays!”

“Yule feel even more excited wearing this!” chuckled Grandpa Matt, placing a Santa hat on Yasmin’s head.

“Look!” gasped Josh, pointing to a poster on the library noticeboard. “That’s the competition I entered my Christmas card design into!”

“I guess I didn’t make the shortlist,” he said glumly.

“There’s always next year,” Yasmin shrugged. “Let’s meet Auntie Ana. That’ll cheer you up.”

“And who knows what surprises we’ll encounter along the way?” chuckled Grandpa Matt, giving Yasmin a playful nudge. “As I always say:

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

“But we’re not going on an adventure,” Josh replied, feeling sorry for himself.

“That’s where you’re wrong,” said Grandpa Matt. “I’ll take you on a Hanley history adventure as we wander to meet Ana.”

“With added mystery,” Yasmin giggled.



“You two are acting really weird,” Josh frowned.

They used the crossing outside the library to cross the road, continuing left along Bethesda Street and passing the turning for John Street.

“This is a great place to start,” said Grandpa Matt as they came to a memorial garden. “Did you know that this is here so we remember those who gave their lives fighting for their country in World War I? *Hope and Glory* is a song they sang after the war to celebrate its ending.”

OVER TO YOU!

Test your powers of observation and endurance by completing these tasks:

1) What are the dates on the metal memorial in the garden?

19 ■ ■ - 19 ■ ■

BONUS QUESTION: what’s significant about these dates?

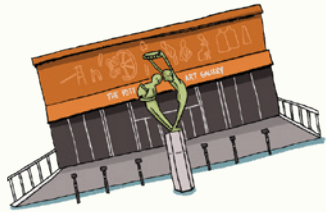
2) Count how many star jumps you can do in the time it takes one of your Story Quest companions to say *Hope and Glory* 10 times.

“I never knew this garden was here,” said Yasmin. “But I know that place!” She pointed across to the Potteries Museum.

OVER TO YOU!

Cross the road to the Potteries Museum and check out the statue. What six Stoke-on-Trent words are featured on its base?

H ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ S ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
F ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ L ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
T ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ B ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



“It’s a shame we don’t have time to stop off in the museum, but if we keep going along the road we’ll encounter a fine figure from Hanley’s history. Arnold Bennett was a world famous author from Hanley who wrote books based in the Potteries,” Grandpa Matt explained.

OVER TO YOU!

Locate the statue at the end of Bethesda Street to find out more about a Hanley hero.

- 1) What’s the title of the book he’s holding?
- 2) When was he born?
- 3) How many books are piled at his feet?

“You’re quiet, Josh,” said Yasmin. “Everything all right?”

“I can’t stop thinking about the competition,” he sighed. “I bet Arnold Bennett never had to worry about being shortlisted for book prizes.”

“Cheer up, duckie,” said Grandpa Matt as they turned left onto Broad Street. “Let’s take *flight* from here and look for another local legend,” he said cryptically.



OVER TO YOU!

Can you solve Grandpa Matt’s baffling Broad Street brainteaser?
Head down the steps on Broad Street and locate a special statue to help you pilot your way to solving the puzzle...

- 1) What’s the name of the local legend Matt is talking about?
- 2) What is he famous for?

“Wow!” said Josh, his mood lifting as they walked back towards Bethesda Street. “I never knew someone from our city invented the Spitfire.”

With smiles on their faces, the trio started back up Broad Street towards the city map, where they stopped to check their location.

After crossing the road, they stomped up Piccadilly and became aware of a cheery chorus of voices just after they passed the Pall Mall crossing.

*“We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas...”*

“And a happy new year!” Yasmin joined in. “There’s Auntie Ana with her choir outside the Regent Theatre!”

OVER TO YOU!

Join Yasmin, Josh and Grandpa Matt outside the Regent Theatre to tackle these tricky teasers:

- 1) What do the two faces above the entrance represent?

C ■ M ■ ■ Y and T R ■ ■ ■ ■ Y

- 2) What type of sunrise is described on the tiles outside the entrance?

“Here another slice of Hanley history for you,” said Grandpa Matt. “Loads of famous faces like The Rolling Stones and The Beatles have performed here over the years.”

“And now Auntie Ana!” laughed Yasmin.

After singing along to some carols, they went to greet Auntie Ana.

“The choir are planning to entertain shoppers near the intu Potteries shopping centre. Fancy heading in that direction?” asked Ana.

“Excellent idea!” Grandpa Matt winked.

OVER TO YOU!

As you head along Piccadilly towards the Town Road entrance of the intu Potteries Shopping Centre, keep your eyes peeled for some cool pavement poetry.

1) According to one of the lines of poetry, what is ‘sun kissed’?

“I heard the indoor market has some great Christmas displays,” said Grandpa Matt. “Mind if we stop off for a quick look round?”

“Sure,” Ana replied. “I’ll press on with the choir. See you soon.”

OVER TO YOU!

Head down the ramp to the market.

See if you can spot the multi-language sign as you enter the building.

2) How many languages does it use to welcome visitors?

ACTIVITY ALERT!

Little ones will love the soft play area at the back of the market.

While you’re exploring, try to spot these seasonal sights and tick them off as you do:

Christmas tree Santa’s grotto Penguins

Red-nosed Rudolph A snowman

Someone in a Christmas jumper

“That was fun,” said Josh as they left the market. “But let’s catch up with Ana, and maybe we’ll have time to go to Winter Wonderland later!”

OVER TO YOU!

Stop at the steps outside the market and do some step-ups to keep warm. Count how many steps-ups you can do while one of your Christmas Quest companions sings three verses of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

“I can’t see the carol-singers,” said Yasmin. “There are too many people.”

“I think I know where they are,” said Grandpa Matt. “I’m tall and blue and I have four faces,” he riddled.

OVER TO YOU!

Take some *time* to solve Grandpa Matt’s riddle...

By the time Josh, Yasmin and Matt arrived at the blue clock tower (did you solve the riddle, Story Questers?), Ana’s choir was finishing up their final song of the day:

*“So here it is, Hanley
Christmas, everybody’s
having fun!
Look to the future now, it’s
only just begun...”*

“I just need to pop to the intu shopping centre,” said Yasmin, waggling her eyebrows at Ana and Matt as she grabbed Josh’s arm and pulled him inside with Grandpa Matt and Ana following eagerly.



“Why have you dragged me here when we could be ice-skating?” Josh grumped as Yasmin led them to the upper mall.

“Wonders await when you open your eyes, Josh,” grinned Grandpa Matt.

At that, Ana and Yasmin exploded in laughter.

“What’s up?” asked Josh. “Hang on... This is a display about the Stoke Reads competition and that’s my entry! So my card was shortlisted, and *that’s* why you kept winking and nudging each other!”

“Sorry, Josh. I hid the letter because I wanted to make a surprise of it,” confessed Grandpa Matt.

“Congratulations! I hope you enjoyed our Christmas mystery tour with a helping of Hanley history.”

“Let’s take an *elfie* in front of Josh’s entry,” suggested Auntie Ana.



OVER TO YOU!

Take a moment to admire the 12 real-life shortlisted entries displayed upstairs on the main concourse. You might even spot the awesome art of someone you know!

Then take your own *elfie* as a memento of your seasonal Story Quest.

ACTIVITY ALERT!

Before you leave the shopping centre, head to the Ruff and Ruby community hub at the end of the ground floor to collect a special free Christmas gift. There are also lots of fun, free activities to explore.

“Magical!” gasped Yasmin while heading back outside. Something cold settled on the tip of her nose. “It’s snowing!”

“You tricking me was *snow* laughing matter!” Josh jested.

“All that matters is that you *sleigh*-ed it with your card design,” Yasmin joked back.

“*Icy* what you did there, Yas,” grinned Auntie Ana.

With that, they erupted in a chorus of ho-ho-hos before walking to Winter Wonderland.



The 2019 winners of the Stoke Reads Christmas card competition



Visit stokereads.org.uk to find out how to buy these cards.

We hope you enjoyed your special seasonal Story Quest!

Here are some fun festive activities to try at home.

1. Crafty Christmas

Make your own Christmas cards for your family and friends. Decorate the cards with images that mean something to them. For example, if Josh made a card for Yasmin it would definitely have a festive football theme!

2. Jolly juggling

Make some seasonal snowballs from tissue paper and teach yourself to juggle. This will help you to build your festive fitness while having fun – there's snow much juggling jolliness to be had!

3. Send Santa a letter!

Find your best pens and pencils and start by introducing yourself! Write about your plans for the holidays and make sure you add some decorations.

Visit wordsforlife.org.uk for more festive fun.

