

Story Quest

Complete
3/5
them all!

Adventures close to home



Picnic Party in the Park

Central Forest Park

Starting point: the park café

storyquest.org.uk

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



LOTTERY FUNDED



Trail information

Getting here

Catch the bus to the main entrance to Central Forest Park on Barthomley Road:

- From Burslem Town Centre: 7 or 7A bus every 15 minutes
- From Tunstall Town Centre: 3 or 3A bus every 10 minutes
- From Hanley Town Centre bus station: 7, 7A, 8, 8A every 10 minutes

How to take part

Visit storyquest.org.uk or call 07849353729.

How long it will take

Between one and two hours, depending on:

- How quickly you solve the riddles
- How long you spend exploring this beautiful park

Who can take part

Everyone! This route is wheelchair and pram accessible.

What to wear

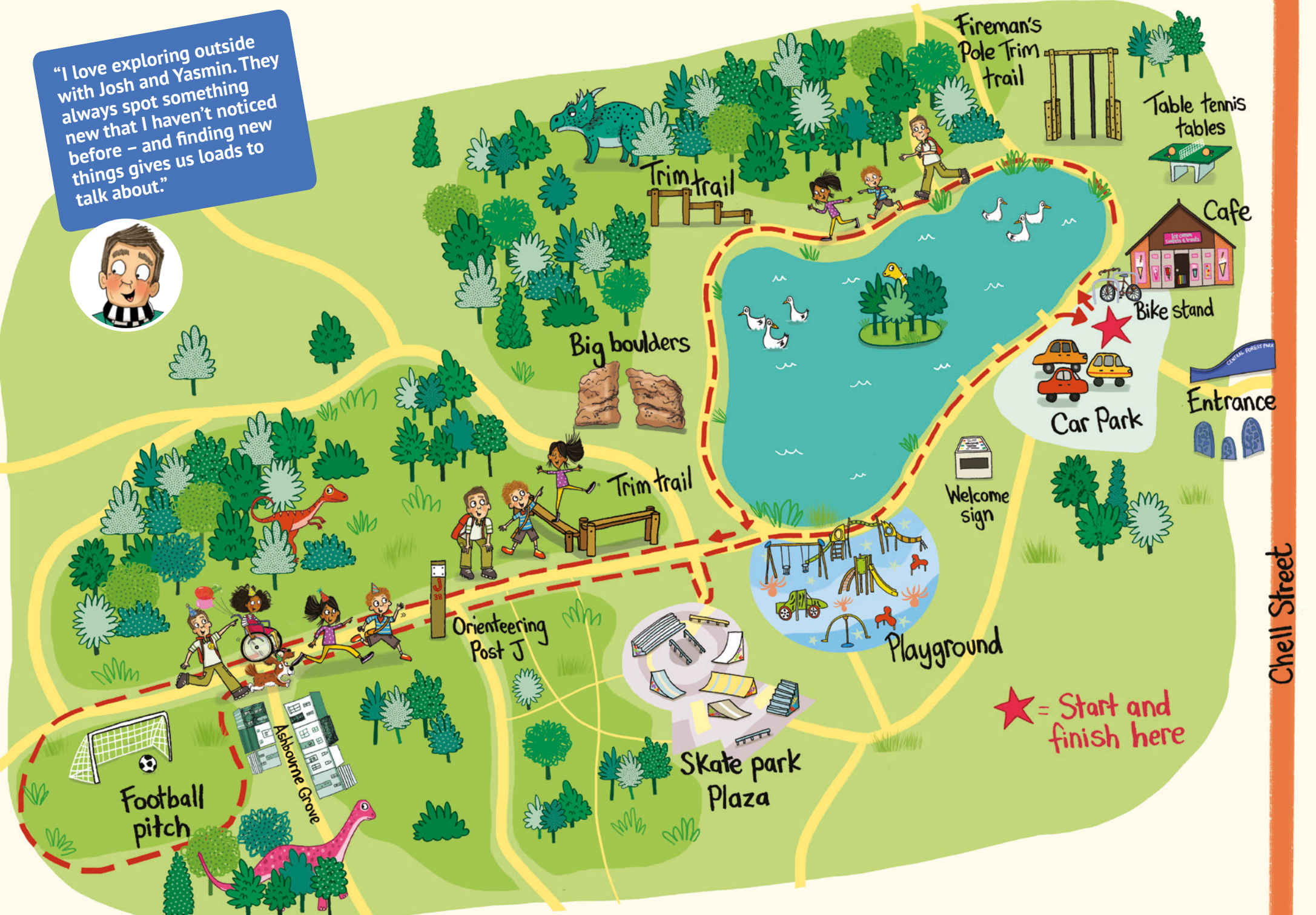
Comfortable shoes that you can run and jump in.

Extra things you could bring

- Binoculars – for a spot of bird watching
- Table tennis bats and a ball
- A skateboard
- A picnic for a full day out

Did you know Central Forest Park has its own orienteering route? Visit potoc.co.uk to download a map!

"I love exploring outside with Josh and Yasmin. They always spot something new that I haven't noticed before – and finding new things gives us loads to talk about."



★ = Start and finish here

Chell Street

3. Picnic Party in the Park

“I hope Grandpa Matt arrives soon,” said Josh, anxiously hopping from foot to foot near the Central Forest Park café.

“Stop fretting, he’s here!” Yasmin replied.
“Ready for a nice walk?”

“Not really,” grumped Grandpa Matt. “I don’t understand why you said to meet here. Isn’t there anything you want to say before we set off?”

“What do you mean?” Yasmin frowned.

“Forget it,” Matt replied with a sigh.

“Cheer up!” said Josh. “Remember what you always say,

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

“But I fancied stopping off for a cuppa,” moaned Grandpa Matt.

“There’s a pretty big queue,” said Josh. “Let’s come back later.”

“Hang on,” said Yasmin as Matt made his way past the café. “You’ve already forgotten to keep your eyes open. What’s that tied to the bike stand?”

“Looks like I’m not the only one who likes riddles,” Grandpa observed as he unfastened the tag. “Listen to this:

***With the café on your right
Walk on to spot some sporty sights.
Look for tables without chairs
Both sitting on a concrete square.”***

“What an unexpected surprise!” said Josh. “Let’s figure out the riddle.”



OVER TO YOU!

Solve the puzzling poem to find the 'sporty sights' and make your way there. Then time yourself jogging from tree to tree in the grassy space. Do it three times and see if you can improve your performance on each circuit.

"I was right!" exclaimed Grandpa Matt, his grumpy mood lifting a little as he reached the table tennis tables and spotted a second tag tied to a table leg. "I wonder who's left these clues. What a great idea."

"Sure is, Gramps!" Josh replied, raising an eyebrow at Yasmin. "What does it say?"

OVER TO YOU!

Crack this code to find out where to head next.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

"Whoever's writing these puzzles has clearly put a *lot* of thought into them," said Grandpa Matt as they found the fireman's pole trim trail apparatus.

When Matt wasn't looking, Yasmin gave Josh a thumbs-up before she leapt up the pole like a lively lemur.

OVER TO YOU!

Follow Yasmin's example and see how high YOU can climb up the pole.

“You’d never guess we’re in the middle of town,” said Yasmin as she led them up the gently rising path that runs around the lake. “This is like a real ancient forest.”

“It’s not that old, actually,” Matt replied. “When I was a lad this was the Hanley Deep Pit Colliery. It only closed in 1962. All the hills here were landscaped with slag from the coalmine.”

“1962 sounds pretty ancient to me,” Josh joked.

“Cheeky!” grinned Matt. “But as it happens, the park has some genuine prehistory.”

“I’ve been reading about that!” exclaimed Josh. “Loads of fossils from about 300 hundred million years ago have been preserved here.”

“Impressive knowledge!” praised Grandpa Matt. “I thought I was the only fossil fan in our family.”

OVER TO YOU!

As you continue this Story Quest, keep your eyes peeled for petrified prehistoric fossils, as if you’re an actual *palaeontologist!

**A palaeontologist is a scientist who studies ancient animal and plant fossils.*

“Look! There’s another message tied to one of those trim trail logs,” Matt noticed.

OVER TO YOU!

Find three horizontal trim trail logs along the lakeside path and try them out.

Can you balance like a gymnast? Can you jump like a jaguar?

“What does it say?” asked Yasmin.

“It’s quite cryptic,” replied Matt, scratching his head as he read the clue aloud:

*“We’re big and bold and made of stone,
Large enough for giants’ thrones.
Our surface has a red-brown hue,
And we have a great lake view.”*

OVER TO YOU!

Can you solve this riddling rhyme?

CLUE: continue along the path that winds around the lake until you spot two mega-mammoth stones on the right-hand side.

“I’m getting good at this,” said Grandpa Matt as he spotted another note taped to one of the big boulders. It read:

Keep an eye out on your right, until more logs come into sight.

OVER TO YOU!

Continue along the path until you find two trim trail logs on your right. Now put your balancing skills to the test:

1. Try to walk the whole way along both logs without wobbling.
2. Stand on one leg on a log and time how long you can keep your balance for.

While Josh and Yasmin showed off their balancing skills, Matt discovered the next clue taped to one of the logs.

*To find some friends and get a laugh, you should take the right-hand path.
To find a pal who likes to play, look out for the letter ‘J’.*

Massively intrigued by this mysterious message, Matt made his way down the path on the right. “Found it!” he called, after spotting an orienteering post with the letter ‘J’ painted on it.

OVER TO YOU!

Continue along the path until *you* spot the post, then give your mind muscles a workout.

How many physical activities beginning with 'J' can you think of?

"I think they made a mistake with this clue," said Matt. "I've only found the 'J' - but the clue mentioned something about friends too."

Just then, a familiar four-legged friend appeared in the distance.

"That looks like Valiant," he gasped. "Hang on... it *is* Valiant. Your Auntie Ana was supposed to be looking after him, Yasmin. What's he doing here on his own?"



OVER TO YOU!

Imagine you're Grandpa Matt racing to retrieve Valiant. Run along the path until you reach the football pitch.

After darting down to Valiant, Matt noticed a message tag tied to the playful puppy's collar. It read:

***We hope your quest went without hitch.
Now make your way onto the pitch...***

As he glanced left in the direction of the football pitch, a chorus of voices sounded:

"SURPRISE!"

There, gathered on the edge of the pitch, was a group of Matt's friends with a feast of party food spread before them. Led by Auntie Ana, everyone burst into song:

***“Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday Grandpa Ma- att
Happy Birthday to you!”***

“I don’t know what to say,”
beamed Matt.

“How about saying sorry
for being in a grump?” Josh
winked.



His cheeks red with
embarrassment, Matt ruffled Josh’s hair. “I thought you’d forgotten,
but this is turning out to be my best birthday yet! I can’t believe you
went to the trouble of creating a mystery quest for me, and now this
surprise party!”

OVER TO YOU!

**To celebrate Grandpa Matt’s birthday, run a lap
of honour around the pitch. Then, if you brought snacks,
pick a place to enjoy your own picnic in the park.**

“I really fancy a cup of tea now,” said Matt after they’d tucked into his
picnic. “Seeing as you wouldn’t let me stop off there earlier, shall we
go to the café?”

“Great idea,” said Yasmin, sneakily raising an eyebrow at Josh. “But you
still have a couple more clues to crack. Like, what’s that written on
your plate?”

Matt turned over his paper party plate and discovered the next clue.

***“First seek a place to wheel and glide,
Then find a place to swing and slide.”***

“That’s an easy one,” he said.

Keen to get his cuppa as quickly as possible, Matt darted back up the
path, with his friends following close behind.

OVER TO YOU!

Re-trace your steps up the path then stop off at the Skate Plaza. If you don't have a skateboard, head straight to the safari-themed playground to climb like a colobus monkey, slide like a snake and zoom like a zebra!

"Time to get off the swings, kids," Matt urged. "There's a clue attached to the slide."

*Find a stone of many words, near the lake and lots of birds.
It's decorated with fine flags, opposite where ducktails wag.*

"There are certainly plenty of tail-wagging ducks here," said Matt as they neared the edge of the lake. "But I can't see a 'stone of many words'". He scanned the area around him. "Gotcha!" he yelled, as he spotted a stone plinth with a sign welcoming visitors to the park in lots of different languages.

OVER TO YOU!

Head towards the café, keeping a close eye out on the right for a small mound with a stone platform on top. Find the stone plinth and check out the welcome sign.

Then fill in the blanks to complete these words from around the world

TOP TIP: they're all on the sign!

1. B ■ ■ N V ■ ■ U ■

BONUS QUESTION: what language is this?

2. W ■ L L ■ O ■ M ■ ■

BONUS QUESTION: what language is this?

3. W ■ T ■ M

BONUS QUESTION: what language is this?

There, on top of the plinth, Matt spotted a note wrapped around a small stone.

"SURPRISE!"

Everyone yelled again as he opened the note to find the last clue of his quest.

*This final clue will bring you glee –
It's time for you to drink some tea!*

"So I really am going to have my brew now," Matt chuckled.

"Yes, but that's not the surprise," said Josh. "Check what was wrapped in the paper."



"That old stone? I thought that was just weighing down the note."

"Wonders await when you open your eyes, remember?" Josh smiled. "That stone isn't just old. It's MILLIONS of years old and it's your birthday present."

Oh my!" exclaimed Grandpa Matt. "It's a preserved plant fossil."

"I spent a *lot* of time researching palaeontology before I chose it," Josh explained, beaming with pride.

"The perfect present for an ancient fossil like you, eh?" joked Ana, giving Matt a playful nudge. "Let's grab that cuppa to refuel those old bones of yours!"

With that, everyone headed to the café to round off Grandpa Matt's perfect picnic party in the park.



Over to you answers: 1. Fireman's pole

Words of the world answers: 1. Bienvenue (BONUS: French) 2. Willkommen (BONUS: German)
3. Witam (BONUS: Polish)

We hope you enjoyed your Story Quest!

Here are some fun activities to try at home.



Fashion a fossil

What you need:

- A small plastic container
- Sea shells or plastic dinosaur toys
- Modelling clay or Plasticine
- Plaster of Paris
- Water

What to do:

- Cover the container with 2cm of modelling clay
- Press your shell/s or toys into the clay so they leave an imprint
- Remove the object/s
- Mix a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of Plaster of Paris with water until it's quite runny
- Pour around 2cms of Plaster of Paris over the clay
- Let it dry for 24 hours
- Remove the plaster from the container to reveal your very own fake fossil!

The prehistoric party pose challenge!

Put on your favourite party tune and a dance like a diplodocus - or maybe shimmy like a stegosaurus. When the music stops, strike a pose as your favourite dinosaur. What will you be?

Maybe a terrifying T-rex, or a huge horned triceratops - it's up to you, Story Questers!



Visit storyquest.org.uk
to find out where else you
can do a Story Quest!