

Middlesbrough

Albert Park 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 **1 hour** depending on your pace.

Tufty



Mia



Uncle Josh



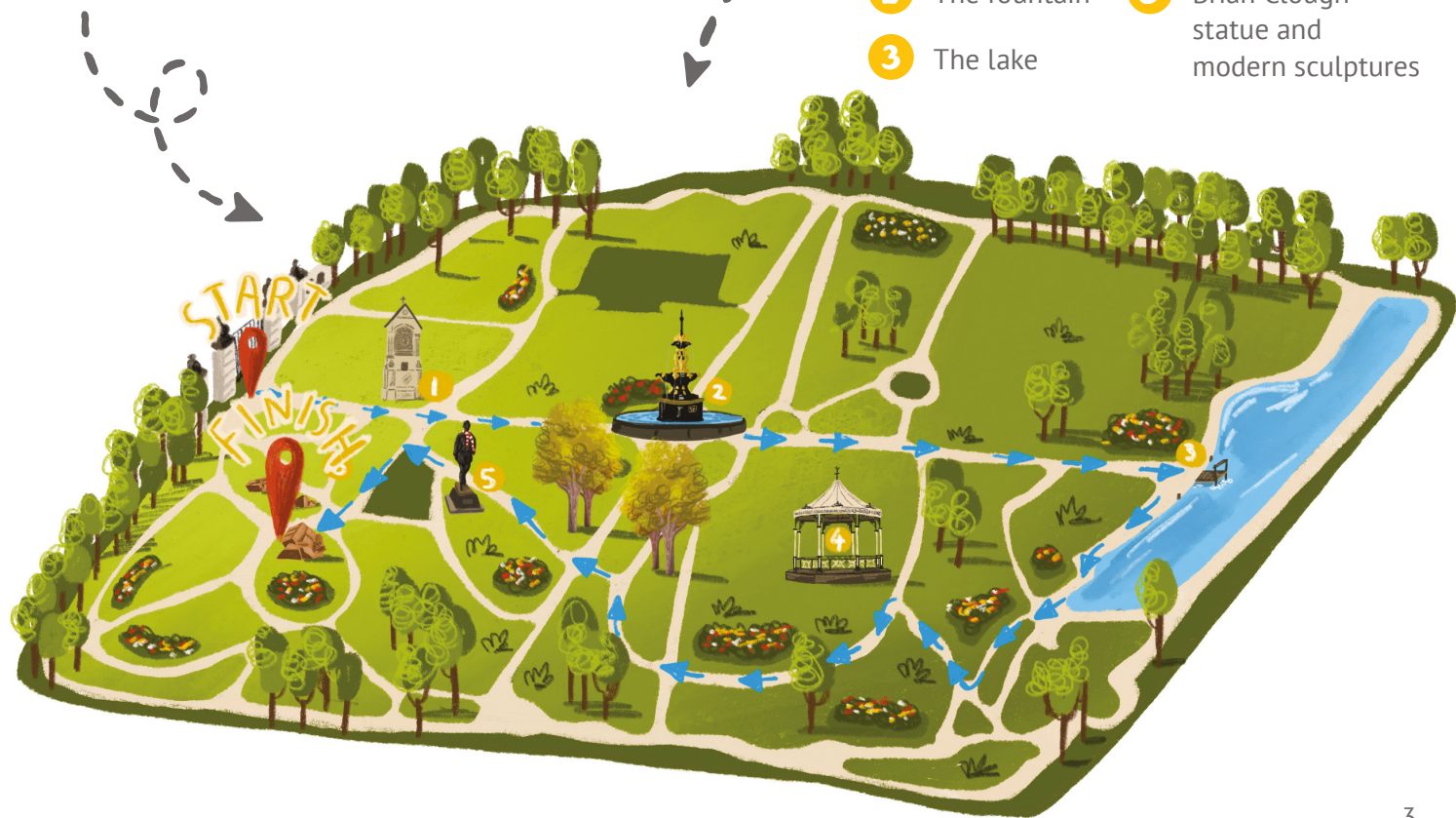
Kai



Albert Park Story Trail

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Sundial

1

Mia and her little brother, Kai, ran in to the park playing tag.

Their Uncle Josh raced behind them with his dog, Tufty.

‘Ooh!’ said Kai, stopping and pointing at something large, grey and pointy next to the path.

‘Tag!’

said Mia, giving him a gentle tap on the shoulder. ‘What’s that?’

Uncle Josh and Tufty caught up with them. ‘That’s a sundial, it tells the time,’ she said.

Mia frowned. ‘But it’s not a clock?’

‘Tick tock,’

said Kai.

‘Nearly,’ said Uncle Josh, smiling. ‘When the sun shines on that spiky bit, the shadow tells you what time it is. It’s from the olden days, before clocks.’

‘So... it’s a time machine?’ asked Mia. ‘Quick! Put your helmets on! We’re going to back in time to the olden days!’ And she whirled off down the path.

Kai and Uncle Josh quickly put pretend helmets on their heads before chasing after Mia.



Can you put on your pretend helmets?

Use your paper and pencil to note down what you would bring on your adventure.



The fountain

Woof woof woof! Tufty barked as Uncle Josh pulled on his lead to stop him jumping into the fountain where Mia had stopped.

‘These swans were frozen in time,’

said Mia, pointing to the gold swans on the black fountain.

‘Freeze!’ said Kai, standing absolutely still with his arms out. Then he giggled and ran around the fountain, shouting, ‘Go!’

After a few rounds of freeze tag, Uncle Josh caught both children in a tickle-hug.

‘So when were these swans frozen, Mia?’ Uncle Josh asked.

‘In the past,’

Mia replied.

‘And when’s that?’ asked Uncle Josh.

Mia thought for a moment. ‘Any time before yesterday.’

‘Tag!’

said Kai and they all set off again, laughing.

How many swans can you count?



Can you play freeze tag?

One person is in charge of shouting ‘freeze’ or ‘go’. When they say ‘go’, start walking until they shout ‘freeze’, then stop. Take it in turns.

3

The lake

They reached the lake and looked for real swans among the ducks and other birds.

‘Whoa, that’s a lake dinosaur!’

said Mia. She was pointing to water rippling in the middle of the lake.

‘Is it really?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Yes, some dinosaurs lived under water,’ said Mia.

‘I think we’ve time travelled back to the dinosaurs!’

‘Stomp stomp!’ said Kai.

‘Roar!’ said Mia.

Woof woof woof!

said Tufty.

Can you stomp and roar like a dinosaur?

Can you see or hear any real birds in the park today? Use your paper and pencil to draw a picture of the birds you can see!”



The bandstand

4

‘Now we have travelled to long ago,’ said Mia, walking up the bandstand steps and twirling around in the middle.

‘As old as the dinosaurs?’ asked Uncle Josh. She helped Kai up the steps and they all sat down together looking out over the green park.

‘Not quite as old as dinosaurs. Maybe as old as Grandma,’ said Mia.

‘Once upon a time, there was nothing in this park. Not even grass or trees. Then the dinosaurs arrived and then birds. And then the dinosaurs got smaller so there were crocodiles in the lake and then even smaller so there were just frogs. Then it was safe for people to come to the park and they liked it so much they built a bandstand like this. Because people were small in the olden days.’

‘Wow,’ said Uncle Josh. ‘But how do we get back to today?’

‘We have to say the magic word,’ said Mia.

‘Abracadabra!’ shouted Kai.

Woof woof woof! agreed Tufty.



What do you think this is used for?



Sometimes bands play here! Can you pretend to play some music? How many musical instruments can you pretend to play?

Brian Clough Statue and modern sculptures

5

Which was your favourite part of the park today?



What else can you see?

Play 'I Spy' as you walk.

What can you spy in the sky?

What can you spy in a tree?

'Uh-oh,' said Mia. 'We've gone too far. We're in the future!'

'How can you tell?' asked Uncle Josh.

Mia pointed to a large, bronze statue. 'That man looks like he is an astronaut.'

Uncle Josh laughed. 'He might be an astronaut... but he's wearing football boots...'

'Well these are moon rocks,' Mia pointed to where Tufty was sniffing some dark brown, funny-shaped metal rocks in the grass. Kai started to walk round them all.

'Careful by the moon rocks!' said Uncle Josh, going over to Kai. 'Is there any way back home?'

'As soon as we reach the sundial, we'll be there,' said Mia. 'Can I play in the future a bit more first, please?'

'Of course,'

said Uncle Josh.



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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