

The Wirral

Birkenhead 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 **45 mins** depending on your pace.

Tufty



Mia



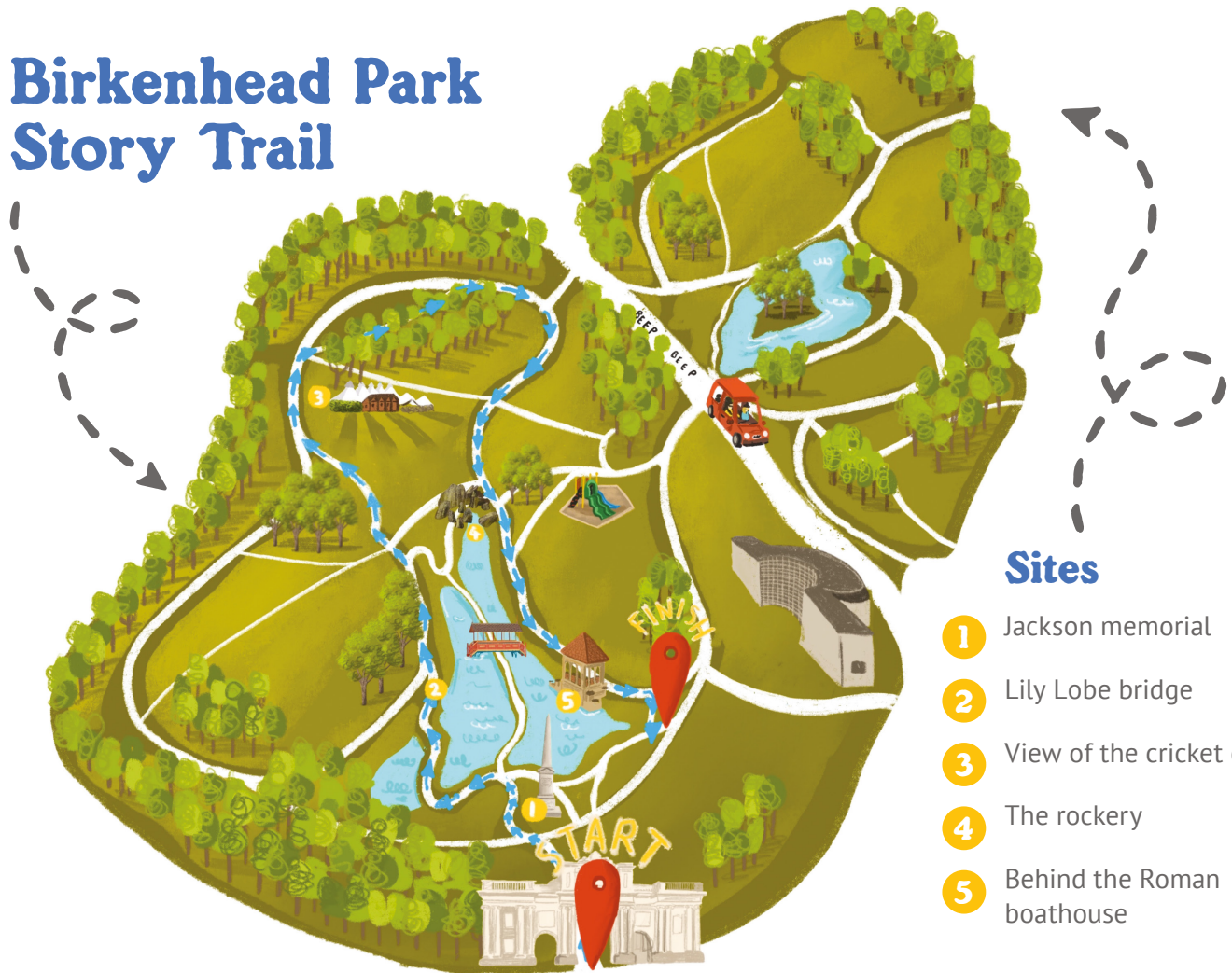
Uncle Josh



Kai



Birkenhead Park Story Trail





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Jackson memorial

Mia and her little brother, Kai, ran in to the park through the Grand Entrance gates.

‘Stop by the obelisk!’

called their Uncle Josh, chasing after them.

Yap yap yap! barked his dog, Tufty.

‘The what?’ shouted Mia as she ran towards a tall, pointy statue.

‘Obbell... obel....!’ shouted Kai.

‘That,’ said Uncle Josh, laughing and pointing as they all stopped at the Jackson Memorial.

‘But this is a giant troll’s fingernail, poking up out of the grass!’ said Mia.

‘It is?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Troll?’

asked Kai.

‘Yes! He lives under the bridge. Come on!’ Mia walked up the path by the obelisk and turned left towards the lake.

‘Troll. Stomp!’

said Kai. He took Uncle Josh’s hand and followed his big sister.

Can you stomp like a troll down the path?





Lily Lobe bridge

Can you be very quiet?
Can you be VERY LOUD?



Kai jumped up and down on the wooden bridge slats.

‘Stomp! Stomp!’

His feet made a thump thump sound on the bridge.

‘Who’s that trip-trapping over my bridge?’ said Mia in a low, spooky voice. Kai giggled and kept stomping.

‘Does the troll live here?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Yes! And another troll lives under that bridge,’ said Mia. She pointed to a red bridge with a little black roof just peeking through the trees across the small lake.

‘Are they scary trolls or nice trolls?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘They’re nice as long as you’re quiet,’ she said.

Tufty barked at a passing duck. Mia and Kai both whispered, ‘Shh!’ to him.

Together, they tiptoed over the bridge.

Using your paper and pencil, note down what colour the sea is today, or you could draw a picture of it!



View of the cricket club

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Use your paper and pencil to draw the animals, birds and plants you can see and hear along the path?



Can you copy their moves or the noises they make?

Mia pointed out all the trolls' favourite things as they passed the lake. They saw bushes and trees, and looked for the ducks and seagulls they could hear quacking and squawking.

'And those are the woods where the trolls hunt for their tea every day,' said Mia.

'What do trolls eat?' asked Uncle Josh.

'All sorts of things,' said Mia. 'But they like little children most of all.'

And she chased Kai across the big open patch of grass.

'No trolls! No trolls!' he shouted.

Ruff ruff ruff!

said Tufty.

'She's only teasing,' said Uncle Josh, catching them both and picking up one child under each arm.

'Yes, actually what trolls really like to eat is rocks,' said Mia.



The rockery

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‘Ta-da!’ said Mia, when they reached a tall stack of huge rocks. ‘This is where the trolls eat lunch.’

‘Sit,’ said Kai, who clambered up some boulders and they all sat down.

‘So the trolls eat these rocks?’ asked Uncle Josh.

‘Yes, that’s why they’re so higgledy-piggledy,’ said Mia. ‘Once upon a time, the park was completely flat. There was no lake, no trees, nothing. But they could smell rocks under the earth.’

Can you find some stones and rocks along your way to make your own mini rockery?

Can you play hide-and-seek around the trees behind the rocks?

So they dug and they dug and they threw all the rocks they could find here in these big piles. And the hole became the lake and the trolls were so happy, they had a baby troll!

‘Baby troll!’

said Kai. They heard him, but they couldn’t see him.

‘Wait, where’s Kai?’ asked Mia. Then Kai popped up from behind Uncle Josh and said, ‘Peekaboo!’





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Behind the Roman boathouse

After they'd played plenty of peekaboo, Mia led them back to the lake to say goodbye to the trolls. They stopped at a row of steps leading to a very fancy building.

'After they had their baby, the trolls built this beautiful house,' she said.

'Fish!'

said Kai, pointing to the stone mosaic on the floor of the boathouse.

'Yes, the trolls look after the fish in the lake,'

said Mia. 'And they are very good at art.'

'Wow,' said Uncle Josh. 'Would you like to live here or under one of the bridges?'

Mia thought for a moment. 'I think I would build my own house,' she said.

'Good idea,' said Uncle Josh.

If you could live anywhere in the park, where would you choose?

Use your paper and pencil to draw a picture of where you would choose to live!



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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