

**‘You don’t find treasure, it finds you – that’s what the riverfolk liked to say. All you do is keep your heart open.’**

(page 1)

Eager to uncover more secret stories? Check out *Hidden Treasure* by Jessie Burton, a tale of two children, one a mudlark and another a servant, whose lives collide when they find an ancient treasure with the power to return to them the most precious thing they have ever lost.

Copies of this action-packed adventure are available to purchase from our shop, including a limited number of signed books.



Illustrations © Melissa Castrillon

AGES 7+  
FAMILY TRAIL

**LONDON  
MUSEUM**  
DOCKLANDS

# SECRET STORIES

Every object in the museum tells a story – about people, places or events. Use this trail to learn more about London and the unusual stories in our collection.

All quotes are from *Hidden Treasure* by Jessie Burton. Some have been edited for the purpose of this trail.

LET'S GO!



# NO.1 WAREHOUSE

## Centuries of stories

**‘Face upon face, time upon time, lain one upon the other, like the silting layers of the riverbed itself. The river was a witness to time, and it was time.’**

(page 140)

Our warehouse tells the story of life by the River Thames over the past 200 years. But the history of the river is thousands of years old, when the earliest recorded Roman settlements were built along its banks.

Stand by the loophole door overlooking the quayside and imagine how the city changed over the centuries.

What might a Roman or medieval Londoner have heard? How would this be different to the sounds of the city today?



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# CITY AND RIVER

## Painted stories

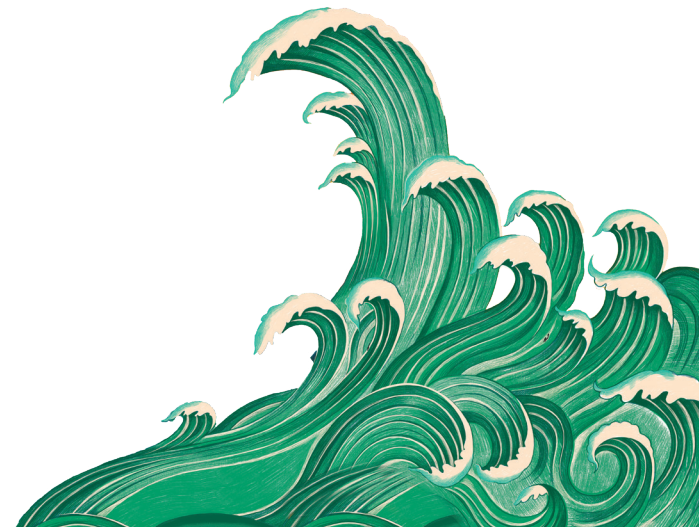
**‘Portraits hung haphazardly on the panelling from the ceiling to just below his eyeline ... Grand old dames and gentlemen in ruffs. Younger maidens. Babies in lace and well-dressed lads, a single earring dangling from an ear lobe.’**

(page 226)

Find the portraits on display. Each one tells a story about the person in the painting, with clues about their status, job or hobbies hidden in the details. A wealthy person might wear jewels, a sea captain could be shown in front of ships, or a very clever person might have books in their portrait.



Sit at the drawing table in the gallery and create your own portrait. What will your portrait say about you?



# CITY AND RIVER

## River ceremonials

**‘She narrowed her eyes, and imagined women in stiff bodices and ruffs, gliding on gilded barges towards Westminster, to pleasure gardens and palaces.’**

(page 140)

Look for the river ceremonials display, featuring golden objects, crimson uniforms and the model of a gilded barge.

The river was not only used to move goods. In the past, royalty regularly travelled on the Thames. Once, there was even a concert for a king on the river – performed on barges moving alongside the king’s!

If there could be a concert on the river, what else is possible? What entertainment would you choose if you were a king or queen travelling on the River Thames?



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# SAILORTOWN

## Sung Stories

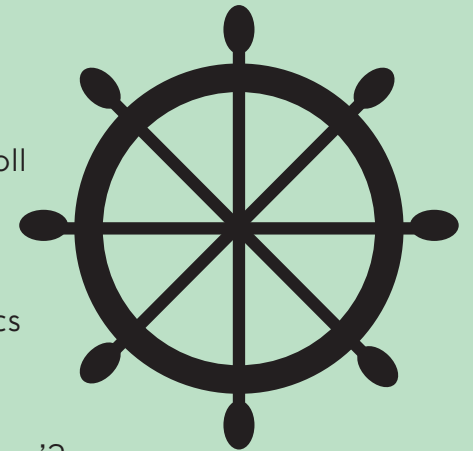
**‘... There were ballads for everything. Ballads for broken hearts and dramatic marriages, for lost animals, for coronations and murders – sometimes all in the same song ... There were ballads of the city, and those that had the river in them, and other ballads about sunshine, and still more about the moon ...’**

(page 175)

Songs tell stories too.

Of celebrations and sorrows, and everything in between. Take a stroll through the cobbled streets of Sailortown until you reach the stationer’s shop. In the window, there are sheets printed with lyrics from songs that were popular in the past.

Do you see the song ‘My Pretty Jane’?  
Create your own tune to sing with the words.  
How will your song sound?



# WAREHOUSE OF THE WORLD

## Life on the docks

**‘Their parlour’s pale yellow wallpaper may have been patterned in diamonds, but that was the extent of the family’s jewels.’**

(page 20)

Places can tell stories as well as objects. Visit the docker’s living room at the start of Warehouse of the World. The decorations on display, the photographs on the wall, and even the view from window all combine to create a story about how one family lived at the start of the 1900s. What does this room reveal about the people who lived here?

Come up with names for the people who live here. What is their relationship to each other?



## A time of war

**‘They went past a news board outside a public dining hall. In large letters was printed a question: WAR: SURELY THE END IS NEAR?’**

(page 167)

Not all tales are happy ones.

Look at the posters above the staircase at the end of Warehouse of the World, across from the *Black Saturday* film. These posters were created during the First World War to unite people during a frightening time. Many people in Britain expected the conflict to be short. However, the war lasted more than four years, with many lives lost.

Can you create your own drawing meant to inspire and uplift, like the posters? Draw it in the box below.

