Click and Create Stories for the Museum of Cardiff

Hia. My name’s Cath Little and I’m a Storyteller from Cardiff. I love the Museum of Cardiff. It’s full of fascinating objects that tell the story of our city and the people who live here.

 There are lots of things that I like to look at in the Museum of Cardiff and I have lots of favourite objects. One of them is a Jebena, an Ethiopian coffee pot. It’s very elegant, made of clay and has an elegant handle and spout. It’s decorated with patterns all around. It was donated by Hibo, who remembers how her mother used to make coffee. Hibo was very pleased when she found she could drink traditional Ethiopian coffee here in our city.

I also love the tambourine. It was donated by Veronica Smith. Her Grandmother used to play it. Veronica’s Grandmother and Grandfather, who played the accordion, travelled all the way from Italy, over the Alps to Cardiff. They played music as they went and people gave them money, that’s how they managed to make it here. They settled in Adamsdown.

Well, I looked around my kitchen to see what I would donate to my museum. I would definitely have this Bakestone. It was made by my Grandad, Joseph Harvey, at Eastmoors Steelworks in Cardiff. It’s made of iron and is very heavy. My Gran baked on it, my Mam baked on it and now I bake on it. It makes the most delicious bakestones. Mmmm.

I would also donate this crystal bowl. It came from my Nan, Eva Mahoney, from Ireland, just like her. It’s beautiful too. It has a chip in it which fascinates me. I wonder how that happened?

Well, you can tell stories with the things you find in your house and your kitchen. Here’s a story. Once upon a time there was a girl who was bored. Her mother said “Play on your Ipad” but the girl said “That’s boring!” Her mother said “Tidy your room” but the girl said “That’s boring!” In the end her mother said “Why don’t you go on a Treasure Hunt? Find me a little red house with a star inside.” A little red house with a star inside? The girl wasn’t bored anymore, she was curious. She looked upstairs, she looked downstairs, but she couldn’t find it anywhere. “Go and ask your Gran” said her mother. Gran lived two doors down the street. So she ran down and knocked on the door. When Gran heard about the Treasure Hunt she said, “Look in the garden.” Well out Gran’s back there was an apple tree and the wind had blown the apples down to the ground. She found an apple. “Well, it is red, maybe the stalk is like a little chimney. But where is the star?” She gave the apple to her Gran. “I’ll show you the star” said Gran. Gran took the apple into the kitchen and cut it with a knife and inside they found a star.

You can also make up stories with the things in your kitchen and your house. Here’s a story I’m making up. Once upon a time there was an apple. The apple liked rolling. It rolled and it rolled and it rolled. One day along came Mr Spoon. Mr Spoon said “Stop rolling little apple, I would like to eat you”. But the apple would not stop. It rolled and it rolled and it rolled. One day along came Queen Slicey. Queen Slicey said “Stop little apple, I command you, I would like to eat you.” But the apple would not stop. It rolled all the way round Cardiff, through Butetown, through the Docks, until it came, eventually, to Cardiff Bay. It came to the big sea. The apple couldn’t swim. “Help!” Luckily along came Lady Ladle Swan. “Would you like a lift?” she asked. “Yes please” said the little apple. “Jump on my back” she said. The little apple jumped on Lady Ladle Swan’s back. Lady Ladle Swan took the little apple all the way to the other side. And it carried on rolling.

Have a look around your kitchen and your house. What would you put in your museum? What stories would you make? Just like in the Museum of Cardiff, objects have stories in them.