



Glass artist Bridget Jones created a set of 'Story Doors', incorporating brightly coloured glass panels. Three sets of 'Butterfly Doors' are etched with the eyespot patterns from butterfly wings, through bands of printed enamels. A fourth 'Caterpillar Door' has long and stripy panels.

*"The butterfly was very ancient and had the strength of ten thousand men"*

Bridget added words from the children's story, etching them onto the glass. Teacher Sam Hirst comments, 'We watched as the children developed pride as their work was placed at the heart of the new school.'

Sculptor David Paton, who made the Trinity stones in the park, carved the 'Sugar Hill Den' from Cadeby Limestone. He explains, 'The story was a kind of whodunit. They'd invented all sorts of characters, called the Sugar Hill Gang. There was a hideaway place that was theirs – a place to protect, and a place to run away to.'

*"In the middle of one very sunny day a Skipper butterfly, which was orange with blue and green dots, flew over Sugar Hill heading towards the shop. Everyone knew about Sugar Hill because it was made of totally solid sugar"*

But although the den was inspired by the Sugar Hill Gang, David doesn't want everyone to know the story: he wants new generations of children to make up their own stories. He says, 'I hope they'll let their imaginations go – imagine opening the door, and seeing what's inside. Then this becomes not just a school courtyard, but a place... a new place for children to imagine.'

*"He could turn back time. He could create ice and wind. He could become invisible. He could use light beams and poison darts and had enormous strength"*

It has also become a valuable resource for the school. Teacher Sam Hirst says, 'We now focus the curriculum on the immediate locality and utilise the sculpture both within and surrounding the school. The kids love the Sugar Cube Den: they tell stories about what's inside.'

*"In my pocket I had one small ruby and I knew me and Adam and Mi Lai would have another adventure"*

So, in a circle of creativity, the sculpture inspired by a children's story now inspires children to write new stories.

*The quotes are from stories written by the Alderman Leach School children with writer Kitty Fitzgerald*

