



The statues are moving

a guide to explore Mantua
with children of all ages



WHAT IS MANTOVA PLAYGROUND?

Mantova Playground is a project promoted and supported by the Comune di Mantova and is born with the aim of transforming the city into a playground that children will use to approach the complexity of the world. Workshops, maps, events to help discover the city from unusual and unexpected viewpoints or to rediscover what you already know by suggesting a new perspective.
[website mantovaplayground.it](http://www.mantovaplayground.it) · [mantova2016.it](http://www.mantova2016.it)
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FILMS RECOMMENDED BY THE CINEMA DEL CARBONE

The Iron Giant by Brad Bird, Usa, 1999, 83' This is the story of an encounter between a boy and a giant robot from outer space. A great friendship develops between the two, resisting even the destructive weapons of the army when the Iron Giant, to protect his friend's town, blows himself up into the stratosphere. Fortunately, the robot has a spatial nature, and everything ends well...
Toy Story by John Lasseter, Usa, 1995, 81' What happens when motionless and lifeless toys, away from prying eyes, come alive? They get into all sorts of trouble, that's what! A story to give voice to all children of the world, who believe that their own toys come to life when nobody sees them... how else would they be such great playmates?



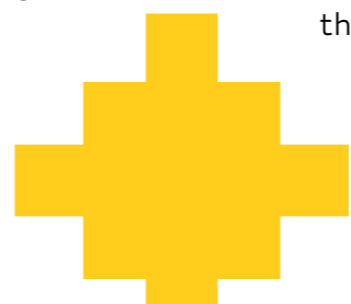
BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE BIBLIOTECA MEDIATECA G. BARATTA

A Lion in Paris by Beatrice Alemagna, Donzelli, 2009 Fed up of his routine in the savannah, a curious and lonely lion decides to travel in search of a job, a love, a future. Upon arrival in Paris, the lion expects people to be afraid of him, he thought that they would chase him with rifles, that they would run away in terror. But no one seems to pay any attention to him. He searches far and wide, until he too finds his own place in the world, in the centre of the square, "motionless and happy" as the guardian of our chaotic world.

The Golem of Prague by Irène Cohen-Janca, Orecchio Acerbo, 2016 It is night, and Frantz, a boy from Prague, is sneaking around in the dark. His destination, the attic of the old synagogue, is forbidden territory. There is preserved what remains of the Golem, the giant clay invincible protector of the Jews in the Middle Ages. All access is forbidden, on pain of madness or death, but Frantz can't resist and enters. Everything swirls around him and he finds himself immersed in the past to relive the story of the Golem... is it a dream or reality?!

THE STATUES ARE MOVING

In Mantua, the statues never stand still. They look as though they are still, but really that is only to be distracted eyes of passers-by as they hide the poetry under their eyelids. The statues in Mantua sing in the gardens, they hide around corners, they follow the time, they sprout from rooftops, they talk with birds, they move from square to square, telling fantastic stories. An artist friend of these mysterious presences called Giorgio de Chirico said that statues look "like only statues know how to look." Now, walking around the city, it is our turn to look at them with the eyes of statues.



THE STATUES ARE SINGING

Giardino di Palazzo Cavriani, via Trento

The voice of the statue is full of wonderful songs. In Mantua, in a garden, there is a statue with a faint voice. But when the full moon appears, the voice becomes like crystal. And then all the statues on the railings sing in chorus. To listen to the voice of the statues, you need absolute silence.

THE STATUES ARE MARKING THE TIME

Torre dell'Orologio,
piazza delle Erbe

While everyone is running around against the clock, statues follow downtime. In the downtime, they can listen to the heartbeat of the stones and the clouds.

THE STATUES ARE LOOKING

Piazza Sordello

The eyes of the statues look at the same point for years, yet they know how to find ever-changing nuances. In Piazza Sordello - try to find out which one - there is a statue who looks at the wind.

THE STATUES ARE WALKING

Piazza Broletto
Piazza Dante

Statues change expression and position constantly, but they are very fast: as soon as you turn around, they stand still on the pedestal as if they had never moved. Strolling, they leave bronze footprints. In piazza Broletto, a long time ago, there was statue that liked to walk around. Then he moved, now he lives in Piazza Dante. When everyone is asleep, he goes back to piazza Broletto to talk with the statue of Virgil.

THE STATUES ARE SPROUTING FROM THE ROOFTOPS

Via Fratelli Cairoli

No one knows the exact number of statues in Mantua. Try to count them. Some are down below. Other are up above, and you need to lift your head to be able to see them. If you go to via Cairoli, towards piazza Sordello, you will see some statues that sprout from the rooftops. They are there to tell the day when night finishes, and tell the night when the day is about to start.

THE STATUES ARE TOUCHING

Piazza Virgiliana

Sometimes it seems that certain statues always have one arm raised as if it were a pose. It is only an appearance. To see what they really do, turn your head upside down and look at them: you will find out that the statues are actually touching the sky with their fingertips.



THE STATUES ARE DISAPPEARING

Viale Te

Inside Palazzo Te, you'll find the room of Cupid and Psyche. One night, in the middle of the room, a beautiful woman appeared with golden eyes and a body made from blue marble. On the first rays of dawn, her body became pink. With the sun, she has become the colour of glass. And that is how the statue became transparent. Walking around Mantua, try to see if there are any other invisible statues.

