Ella Juega Sola / She Plays Alone
Frida Kahlo, 1938

Gentle jazz music plays

This is Redstart Radio, the station that brings you all the hottest art news and stories by Chard's finest art detectives.

In this episode, agents investigated a painting by the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. You'll hear what the agents uncovered very soon. But first, a little about the painting.

It is called Ella Juega Sola, or She Plays Alone, and Frida Kahlo painted it in 1938. It features a young Mexican girl standing barefoot on green grass, with mountains behind her, wearing a skull mask. Because it's about children playing, you're listening to this episode by the school playground.

Now it's time for you to hear some stories, written and performed by the agents who investigated this artwork.

Sounds of children shouting and playing in a playground

OMG that girl's been standing there for 20 minutes. She lives in the mountains. Stop staring at us! Go away! Shh, she's coming.

Can I play with you?

No, get lost, freak. Go away, weirdo.

Why? What have I done to deserve this?
Please please please can I play?

Why are you wearing a mask?
You're probably really ugly under that mask.

I'm told I'm too ugly without the mask, so everyone says it's best I keep it on.

Sounds of the masked child weeping.

Crybaby!
Stop!
Crybaby!
I'll push you into that lake if you don't stop.
Crybaby!

Sounds of a person falling into water.
What did you do that for?

Sounds of feet running away.

I don't believe you are ugly. Why are you listening to everybody?
Take it off and be you.

No! I'm too scared no-one will like me.

Please please please take it off, then I can be your friend.

But if the other kids make fun of me, you can protect me.

Sucking sound of a tight-fitting mask being removed.

Oh my gosh, you don't need that mask, you look lovely.

Will you play with me now?
Yes of course.

Accordion music and a woman singing in Spanish.
Fades into birdsong.

Across the field not far away a girl comes to play.

I love playing with the sunflowers.
I agree with you, especially on sunny days.

Let's go and get ice-cream.
Good idea, let's do it!

I got baked bean flavour with bacon on top.
I got sausage flavour with mustard on top.

Let's go to the mountains, I can't stand being here with bare feet.
You're right, the mountains aren't far.
The sky is very cloudy, we may as well run.

Sounds of running feet, fades into dripping water in an echoing cave.
The voices are also echoing.

Finally, we're here! Let's go and investigate.
I found a mask!

Wait, there's blood on the floor.
That's just ketchup from my dinner last night.
Are you sure? Because that looks like dried up blood.
You saw nothing!

Sounds of hacking as a person is attacked.

And Cindy was never seen again!

A low single note of doom on a piano.

Gentle jazz music plays.
You're listening to Redstart Radio. Remember, there's 10 episodes to find, all around Chard. Where will you go next?

If you enjoyed these stories inspired by paintings, why not create a new story yourself? Investigate a painting, fire up your imagination and let the story flow!