

The Lost Thing

By Shaun Tan

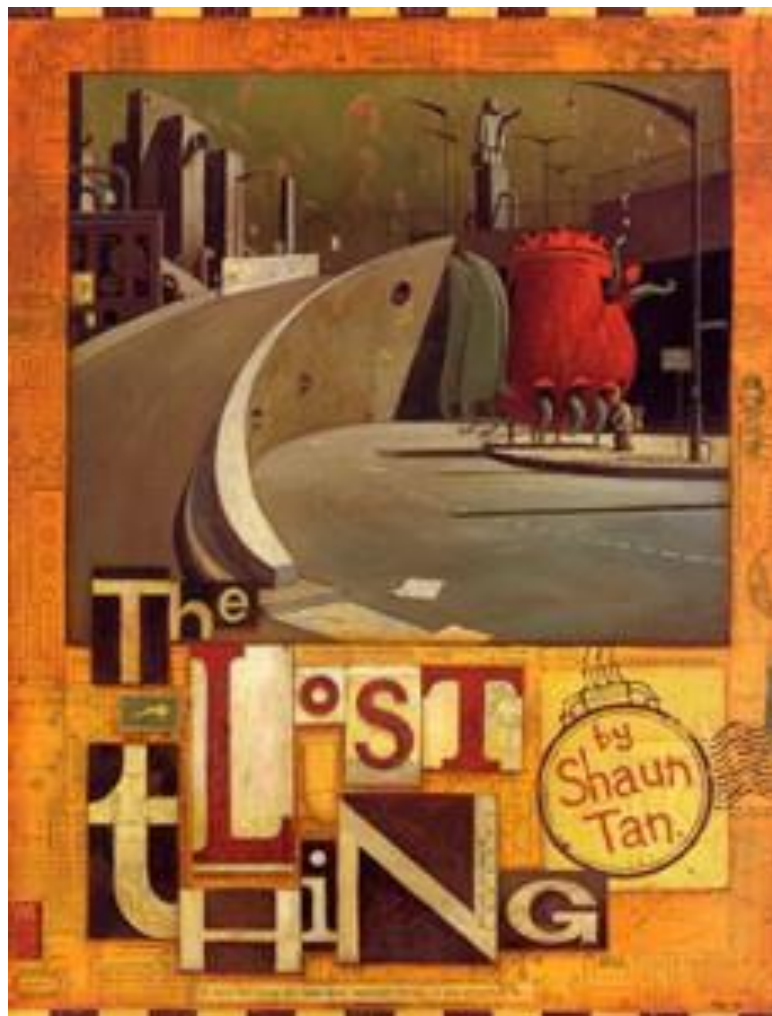
Summary

The Lost Thing is a humorous story about a boy who discovers a bizarre-looking creature while out collecting bottle-tops at a beach. Having guessed that it is lost, he tries to find out who owns it or where it belongs, but the problem is met with indifference by everyone else, who barely notice its presence. Each is unhelpful in their own way; strangers, friends, parents are all unwilling to entertain this uninvited interruption to day-to-day life. Despite his better judgement, the boy feels sorry for this hapless creature, and attempts to find out where it belongs.

Pre Read

Discuss the title of the book and ask: “Have you ever lost anything?”, “What was it?”, “How did you lose it?”, “Did you find it?”

Listen to the story, stopping to look at the pictures, ask questions, and clarify the meaning of words students may not understand.



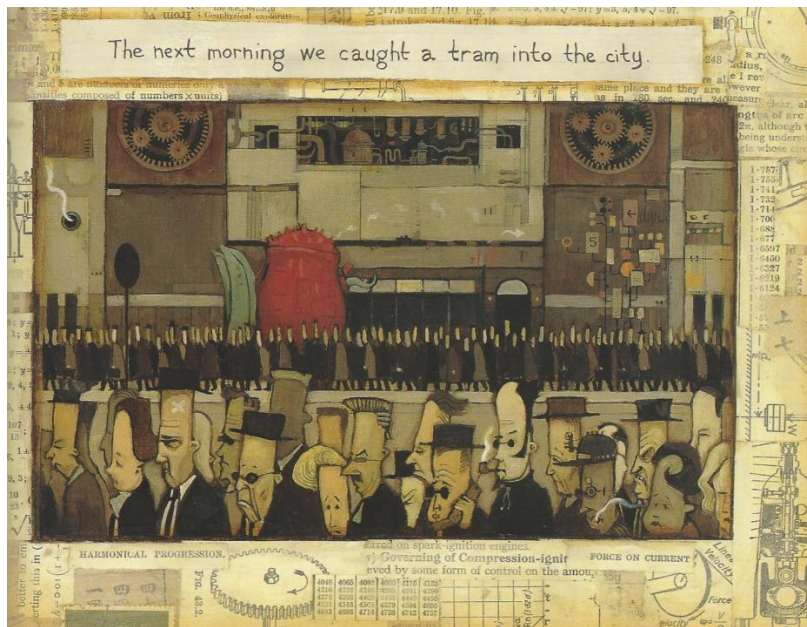
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2nw285>

Post Read

Possible discussion points

- What does the creature look like? (write down words to describe it both physically and emotionally)
- Where does it come from?
- Why was no one willing to help?
- What does Pete mean 'Maybe it doesn't belong to anyone? anywhere?'
- What is the general environment and atmosphere of the story?
- Explain the dress, attitude and actions of the figures.
- Discuss the setting (future)
- What does being "lost" mean?
- What messages does the author give us? Moral?
- What does belonging mean?

Shaun Tan inspired Artwork



Process

Students watch video of Shaun Tan drawing *The Lost Thing* and draw their own.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_xoudh_cdU

- Collage/ mural –students find black and white environmental pictures, words objects etc from magazines/ newspapers and make a background location in which to glue their Lost Thing on. Paint over background if desired.
- Cut out and glue on Lost Thing.
- Students type or neatly write the descriptive words they wrote down in Post Read and cut out to glue onto their artwork.

