

Talking Points: Shaun Tan

A collection of sources and imagery to explore the work of graphic artist Shaun Tan.

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Shaun Tan

Shaun Tan grew up in Perth and works as an artist, writer and film-maker in Melbourne. He is best known for illustrated books that deal with social and historical subjects through dream-like imagery, widely translated throughout the world and enjoyed by readers of all ages. –[Shaun Tan](#)

See more of Shaun Tan's work on his [website](#).

Shaun Tan's Sketchbook Work

Watch the film below to hear how Shaun approaches his early sketchbook work, and how he then develops this into more finished artwork.

Stop the video at various points so that you can have a discussion with the children to help them think through what Shaun might mean by his various working practices.

The Arrival

Watch the trailer for 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan.

Watch the video above to see the full animation of Shaun Tan's graphic novel.

Questions to Ask Children

Do you like Shaun Tan's work? Why?

How do his drawings make you feel?

What kind of atmosphere did you pick up in 'The Arrival'? How do you think he achieved this?

Do you think that Shaun Tan was successful in capturing the story without any writing or text? Why?

This Talking Points Is Used In...

Pathway: Storytelling through drawing



This is featured in the 'Storytelling Through Drawing' pathway

Additional Pathway: Drawing and Making Inspired by Illustrators



This is featured in the 'Drawing and Making Inspired by Illustrators' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



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