

**TITLE:** The arrival

**AUTHOR:** Shaun Tan

**INTEREST AGE:** 7-12 Years

**OUR REVIEW:** Beautiful, captivating art delivers a moving tale. To pore over at many levels.

Choose a single image from the book. Imagine you have stepped into this picture. What can you see?

- What can you smell?
- What do things feel like?
- What can you hear?
- What is the weather like?
- Are the characters talking to each other? What are they saying?
- What is happening beyond the edges of this picture?

Become a picture detective and look out for clues. Look at the pictures for:

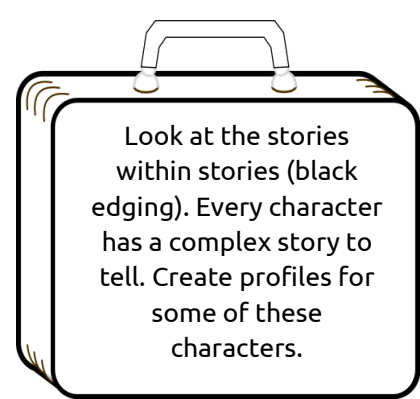
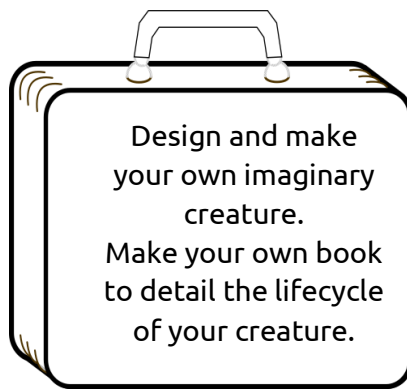
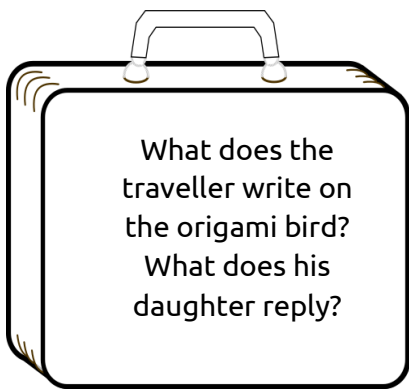
- Images and references to birds
- Strange new creatures
- Machines
- Images of dining tables
- Examples of unfamiliar language
- Patterns

Discuss your findings and why you think they have been used.

The city has an underpinning logic. Research the pictures to discover the rules behind the way it works. What does a new arrival need to know?

Write an instruction manual to help travellers get around, buy food, deal with all the machines etc.

Choose a double page spread with plenty of characters. In each frame decide what the characters are thinking or saying and record this on a post-it note. Use these post-it notes to begin writing a script. Don't forget to include stage directions.



**“Even the most anonymous character, in the strangest situation, is familiar to us if we are allowed to know his feelings, and so be invited to walk for a moment in his shoes.”**

**SHAUN TAN**

Make a collection of shoes, enough for all the children in the class. Working in a large, open space, place each pair of shoes on a large sheet of paper. Children should move around the room, looking at the shoes and writing questions on the paper for the imaginary owners of each pair.

Give each child a pair of shoes, along with its accompanying sheet of paper. Children should invent a character who might have owned this pair of shoes. The questions asked by other children will stimulate this process, but each child is free to make up anything they wish. Ask children to decide how their character might stand, move and walk. Working in pairs, can children develop short monologues or mimes?

## Other books by Shaun Tan include...

