

Addi Schroeder

English 1110.01, MWF 12:40-1:35

Instructor: Cathy Ryan

Assignment: The Lost Thing

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### Motions

As years pass it is easy to become oblivious. People become oblivious to others, to work, and to themselves. The short film “The Lost Thing”, by Shaun Tan, portrays this idea from a different approach. The short film is about a young man who finds a “Lost Thing” that seems to have no home. Everyone acts like the Lost Thing is not there and goes about with their repetitive days. The man then goes on a journey to help find a home for this thing. In the end the man finds a home for the lost thing and eventually falls into an oblivious routine.

At the beginning the man is going through his daily routine when he came upon the Lost Thing. The lost thing is a creature that that is colorful and stands out from the dull coloring of the rest of the film. Even so, no one else seems to notice it. This is the oblivious aspect coming into play. People fall into these routines that they set up for their lives and sometimes forget to look at the world around them. People start to act like robots that have their entire day planned out. It is easy to get caught up in a routine and forget to schedule new experiences in.

The film also hints at how people are easy to succumb to conformity. Many people in the film look similar and all do the same things. It is easy to “just go with the flow” so not to stand out and bring attention to oneself. People like to feel like they belong but sometimes that can lead to people copying what others do in order to fit in. When people fall into this category it limits the diversity in the world and takes a little bit of color out of the world.

Just like the Lost Thing, people often lose themselves and become lost. The Lost Thing feels alone in the world and like it doesn't belong. Unfortunately, this happens to humans as well. They feel as if they are outsiders and do not fit in anywhere. It may take time and help from others but eventually they find a home. Everyone has their own unique personalities that set them apart, just like the Lost Thing, and eventually over time they find other people that compliment them. As the Lost Thing found a place where other things were similar to it. The man who helped the Lost Thing find a home was just a single man who made a big difference in the Lost Things journey. In the real world it works the same way. It could be family, friends, or even a random person who happened to be at the right place at the right time that could have a huge impact on a person's life. Also, it could be a single sign that leads a person to their home. The man receives an arrow that points him in the direction towards the Lost Things new home. This can happen in life as well, one sign or arrow to point someone in a new direction. It is easy to lose oneself in life but with the help from others or simple signs, people can find what they lost to begin with. "The Lost Thing" presents viewers with important life lessons that affect so many in today's world.