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English 1110.01

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2/5/17

Did you even notice that?

In the short film “The Lost Thing” a man goes to the beach and finds a large object that’s standing still. He observes it for a while, and soon it comes to life in a weird, animalistic way. Then he realizes that nobody owns it, and the thing is indeed a lost item. The man becomes best friends with this thing, and then finds it a home where everything that lives there is like the thing. I think the message trying to be portrayed in the story is that we need to open our eyes to the events happening around us.

In the story, after the man finds the weird object, he goes around town to everyone he knows, to see if they know where the item belongs. Everyone that he went to for help just ignored him, or told him they “don’t know” and he should “go away.” The story does a good job of portraying the common folk’s hard and boring daily life. It seems like everyone is just getting by, working their jobs, and living their own life. Shaun Tan wants the viewer to realize that things are happening around us that we might not realize. We need to pay attention to all of the little details of life and be careful not to miss a thing. The main character in the story does pay attention to all detail. No matter who turns him down, or who says no, he is determined to find a place for the lost item. He is the person everyone should be trying to be.

At the end, the main character grows up a bit, and he sees less of the lost things. This shows how easily one can conform to society and the boring routine of our days. Shaun Tan wants us to not forget to always pay attention to detail and never let the routine take over our minds from seeing the lost things.