The Lost Thing

In this animated short, a young boy struggles to find a suitable home for “The Lost Thing,” a unique pet-like contraption he finds on a busy beach.

Recommended for all ages
(Understood on a thematic level by a more mature audience 13+)

Themes: coming of age; conformity; childhood

Director(s): Andrew Rehumann & Shaun Tan | 16 min | Animated | 2010

Country: Australia | Language: In English

Official film website: www.thelostthing.com

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• Writing Prompt
Think about or go through some of your old stuff that you may have put away into storage or buried in a closet. Find an object that has become one of your “lost things.” Recall the last time it was important to you and why it was important. Was it something you enjoyed when you were younger, but that you grew out of? Rediscover that lost thing and write a journal entry about its history and your connection to it. See if you can recall when it became “lost” to you.

• Lost Poster
Materials: Paper, art supplies (optional: “Publisher” app available on iPhone/iPad)
Pretend you just found another Lost Thing. Create a poster of your lost thing so you can help it find a home. Use your imagination to create a wonderful creature all your own! Write some physical descriptions and characteristics underneath your drawing.

MAKE CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
The following resources complement the film and inspire further discussion or programming.

BOOKS
• The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan
  The illustrated storybook that inspired the film.
• The Animator’s Survival Kit by Richard Williams
  A how-to book explaining the basics of animation techniques for beginners.
• Acting for Animators by Ed Hooks
  This book provides animators with the information they need to know about acting to be effective at their craft.
• Directing the Story: Professional Storytelling and Storyboarding Techniques by Frances Glebas
  A structural approach about how to clearly and dramatically present visual stories.

FILMS
• Scared is Scared (2013)
  A short film about overcoming fear which combines animation with live action.
• The Iron Giant (1999)
  A classic film which uses both hand-drawn and computer animation.
• The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
  A stop motion animation directed and written by Tim Burton.

Indicates PCFF festival selection

BEYOND THE FILM | RELATED INTERNET LINKS
• The Lost Thing wins an Oscar:
• The Lost Thing commentary:
• Notes on the Film with trailer:
  alisashortfilm.wordpress.com/tag/the-lost-thing/
• Shaun Tan’s The Lost Thing: From Book to Film Education Resource:

PROVIDENCE CHILDREN’S FILM FESTIVAL | www.pcffri.org | PCFF FILM HUB
The Film Hub is made possible through major funding support from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.