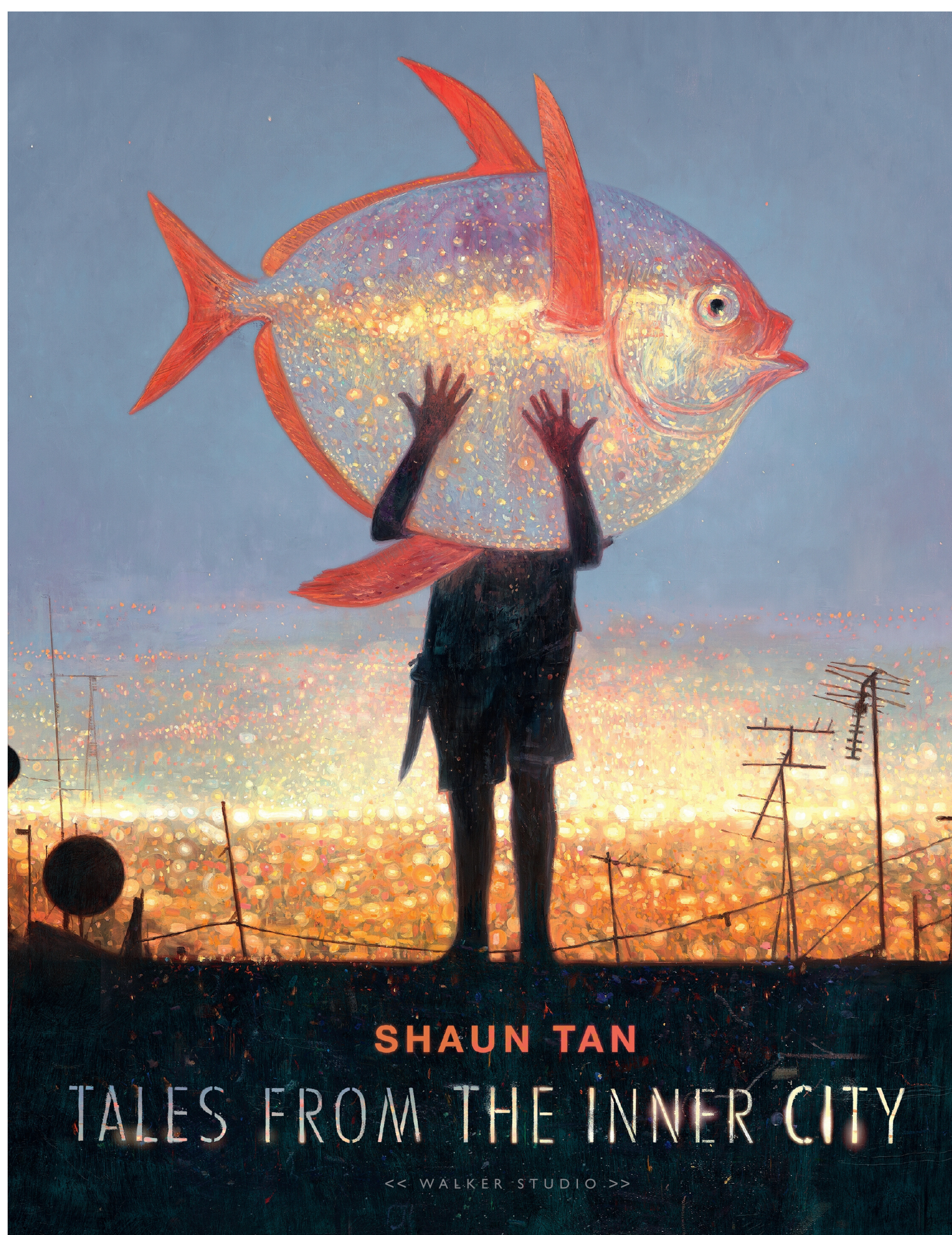


# CILIP KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST 2020 SHADOWING RESOURCES





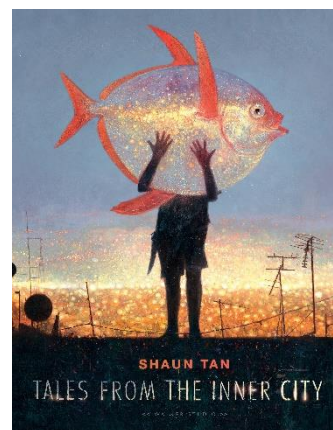
## CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

### VISUAL LITERACY NOTES

Title: Tales from the Inner City

Author/Illustrator: Shaun Tan

Publisher: Walker Books



### Shadowers' Views

Shadowing the Kate Greenaway shortlist requires you to look very carefully at artwork in order to form a judgment about it. The word **view** can refer to both what can you see, and to your opinions. You are looking for a book that 'creates an outstanding reading experience through illustration'.

### First look

The work of Shaun Tan is extraordinary. He is an Australian writer and artist who works both alone and with other authors. His highly original work is universally admired. If you are unfamiliar with his illustrations and picturebooks, you may find *Tales from the Inner City* unusual. The book is a collection of short fantasies, written as poetry, short stories or brief commentaries on the behaviour of human beings and the creatures with whom they share Planet Earth.

Look at the front cover; you can see just how thought-provoking, inventive and curious this book is. Consider this description: *A boy is holding a large illuminated fish. He is looking down on the inner city lights. There are TV aerials around him and no sign at all of any water. The fish in the boy's arms has been caught by fishing in the sky from the top of a tall building* (the story is on page 91). Open the book and you will find more unusual images. It is the illustration that you will be judging so make sure you find all the pages with any form of visual text.

Consider all the visual aspects of the book i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' to the story contribute to the overall impact of the book?

### Look again

On the contents pages, the numbers you see on each animal is the page where writing refers to that creature. Turn to page 105. Here you will find a poem about a rhino. It is one of the shortest texts. In contrast, look at page 23. The text (words and images) takes up 38 pages (p.22-59 but that includes blank pages and more pictures than words. Turn to page 105. A short, sad poem about a rhino takes only 4 pages, 3 of which are illustrations. What is the function of the pictures in these texts?



### Read Shaun Tan's Ideas

Explore the book and consider the peculiarity of its contents and Tan's techniques. Tan has produced a set of invaluable notes on his ideas for this book and his art techniques. You can download them by searching for [Tales from the Inner City PDF](#). Or go to the website of publishers Allen and Unwin (Australia) and look for resources/teachers.

## Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to introduce tasks which require imaginative responses. The following suggestions may help shadowers to engage with the book.

## Painting a world of dreams

The word Surrealism has sometimes been used to describe Shaun Tan's art. Surrealism was a movement in art that based its ideas on the growing understanding of psychology. Sigmund Freud discovered that subconscious thoughts and desires were making people unwell. He was particularly interested in dreams and thoughts revealed by hypnosis. His book, *The Interpretation of Dreams* was published in 1900. By the 1920s, influenced by Freud's work, a group of artists began painting scenes based on dreams and their imaginations. The resulting pictures seemed baffling and weird, almost as though they were intended to disturb viewers. One of the main elements of surrealist images is ordinary things in extraordinary places – such as, crocodiles living in a skyscraper, giant parrots or disappearing pigs.



Salvador Dali



Salvador Dali



Rene Magritte

Here are three artworks, which contain animals, by famous surrealist artists.

**Do you think the illustrations in *Tales from the Inner City* are surrealist?**

## Human relationships with animals

Shaun Tan feels that humanity has 'disrespected animals greatly' by destroying their natural habitats, factory farming and abusing them for entertainment. Do you agree? Could things change? To encourage different ways of thinking about and caring for all life on Earth, Shadowers might like to express themselves creatively by:

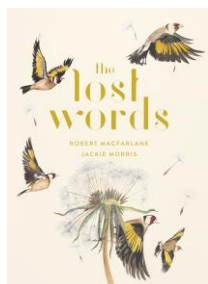
- Writing a poem/short story
- Designing and create a poster
- Preparing a talk.

## Research

Surrealist art: [www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism](http://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism)

Looking after the world: [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

## Read more



If you have enjoyed reading *Tales from the Inner City* why not try the 2019 Kate Greenaway winner *The Lost Words* which is illustrated by Jackie Morris and written by Robert MacFarlane. This book also explores the relationship we have with the natural world.

## FURTHER THINKING

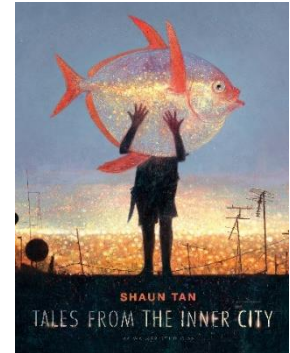
CILIP works in partnership with Amnesty International and Inclusive Minds to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of human rights, inclusion and representation in children's literature. The discussion points below are intended to further stimulate reader's thinking on the themes explored in the shortlisted books.

### CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

Title: **Tales from the Inner City**

Author/Illustrator: **Shaun Tan**

Publisher: Walker Books



#### Discussing human rights in this story:

Right to equality; Right to be treated fairly and with dignity; Right to a good life with enough food, clothing, housing and healthcare; Duty to other people to protect their rights and freedoms; Children's rights; Disability rights; Freedom of expression.

- Frogs: How has the Secretary been treated? How do you feel about her act of forgiveness?
- Hippos: Who should have been responsible for keeping the child safe and upholding his dignity?
- Tigers: Do you recognise the 'great weakness of humankind' that is described? How can we ensure that everyone feels able to look after themselves?



#### Discussing inclusion and representation in this story:

- What does the passage about the snails (p61) say about how we can challenge attitudes to difference and how attitudes change over time?
- How does a story such as Hippo (p139) show how we can be unaccepting of those who think differently?
- To what extent does the book make itself accessible to all readers?



# **CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020**

**TEACHING NOTES FROM CLPE  
COMING SOON**



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CENTRE FOR **LITERACY**  
IN PRIMARY EDUCATION