

## HOW DO WE ALL LIVE TOGETHER?

### The Lost Thing

A picture book that raises questions about 'fitting in', and the way we support or ignore people who join us.

KS2 | 30 Mins | Teacher led

KEY QUESTION: How can we support and include newcomers?

### Background

The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan tells a story about a creature who is lost, and befriended and helped by the narrator of the story. It is a useful book for exploring ideas around fitting in and not fitting in. It encourages thinking about how we cope with not fitting in, as well as how we can be friends to someone who is not being included.

### Activity

1. Ask learners to write their own story of a lost thing, based on one of the images that you show them. This would be before you read the story to the group.
2. Share the statement below with learners, and see how much they agree with it. You could use Fist to Five (see box right) for this to allow everyone to participate.

*"The lost thing feels unhappy in the world where everyone is the same, and feels welcome in the world where everything and everyone is different"*

3. Discuss the question: why isn't there an ending, let alone a happy ending, to The Lost Thing?

This activity and book can be linked with the activities based on The Silence Seeker.



### Extension Activity

There are clear links to be made between the experiences of this lost creature and asylum seekers and new arrivals to the UK.

This needs to be done sensitively, and with clear consideration for the knowledge / needs / experiences in your group.

UNHCR, the United Nations agency for refugees, is helpful in dealing with this issue. You can access the UNHCR website [here](https://www.unhcr.org/).