

Discussion Questions for Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* - Chapter 3

The pages are not numbered in the book, but Chapter 3 begins on the 52nd page.

Page 52

(panels 4-6) Why does the creature appear blurry in panel 4 and in focus on panel 6?

(panels 4-6) From who's point of view are we viewing the creature?

Page 53

What do you think the man will do today?

Why is he checking the map?

Page 55

What is the man in the hat asking the woman?

What does the machine do?

(panel 12) What is the woman explaining to the man in the hat?

Page 57

(panel 3) What is the meaning of the man's gestures?

Why do they both take their papers out?

How long has the woman lived in this country? What clues do you see in this page that support your argument?

Page 58

(panel 1) Who is the girl with the book?

Why has the artist chosen to make the panels look like an old photograph album?

Does the girl want to do this job or is she forced to do it?

In your opinion, is this the kind of job that should be done by a girl her age?

Page 60

(panel 1) How is the girl feeling? What is she doing with her body that supports your opinion?

Where has she gone with the book?

Page 61

What visual cues has the artist given us to show us that we are no longer in a flashback sequence?

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Page 61 (continued)

What is the man holding the funnel saying?

(panel 7) How does the direction that man is looking give us an idea of how he feels?

Page 62

What does the statue at the top left corner represent?

Page 63

What is the man looking for?

Why does the man look in his book again in the last panel?

Page 64

What do you think the man in the glasses is trying to communicate to the man in the hat?

Page 66

What does the boy whisper to his father?

Page 67

(panel 4) Why is the man in the hat afraid of the cat's tail?

Page 68

Why does the man in the hat draw in his notebook?

(panel 8) What is the man in the glasses saying?

Pages 69-70

Why are the men with vacuums larger than the other people?

What could they represent?

Page 71

What do the man and his wife do to escape?

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Page 72-73

The picture on the left is from a very early German horror movie from 1919, called **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari**. Why has the artist chosen to make this sequence in the story resemble the movie?

(You can watch **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari** on archive.org: <http://archive.org/details/DasKabinettDesDoktorCaligariTheCabinetofDrCaligari>)

Page 74

Is the man initially willing to help the man and his wife?

How do they convince him to help?

Page 75-76

Is the boat on page 76 the same boat as the one on page 75? Explain why it is or it isn't the same boat.

Page 76

Throughout the flashback sequence, the gutters have been colored black. Why did the artist make this choice?

What effect does it have on the reader to see white gutters on page 76?

Page 78

Who is the woman and what is her relationship to the man in the glasses? What are some clues that help us tell who she is?

What is the woman doing in the last three panels?

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Page 80

What kind of music are they playing?

Why does the man in the hat make an origami cat instead of a bird?

What do you think is in the pot in the last three panels?