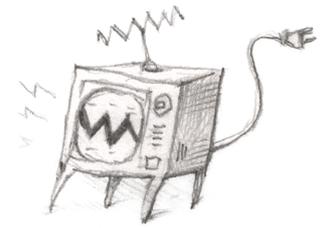


Tales from Outer Suburbia



Worksheet : Inner Courtyard scene analysis

Partner Activity

The stories in *Tales from Outer Suburbia* draw on Shaun Tan's childhood memories, giving them a dreamlike quality that is especially strong in this episode.

Instructions: Watch the clip and work with a partner to analyse the scene.

As you discuss the questions, pay attention to:

- how the scene makes you feel
- how visual and sound techniques create the emotional, dreamlike feeling of memory

1. What feelings are evoked/created in this clip?

2. If you had to describe the mood in one or two words, what would you choose? Explain.

3. The family's everyday world is a sunny, ordinary suburb, while the inner courtyard feels very different. Look at the design of the garden, the pictures on the walls, and the colours. How do these elements make the courtyard feel like a different time or place?

4. How do characters' responses contribute to the mood or feeling? Think about facial expressions, gestures and dialogue.

5. Where does the camera place us as viewers, and how does that affect how we feel and how we respond to the characters' feelings and emotions? Sketch 2 or 3 shots to explain how this works.

6. How do music and sound contribute to the dreamlike mood? What about the dialogue? How does that add to the feeling?

7. How do the colours help suggest memory and time passing?