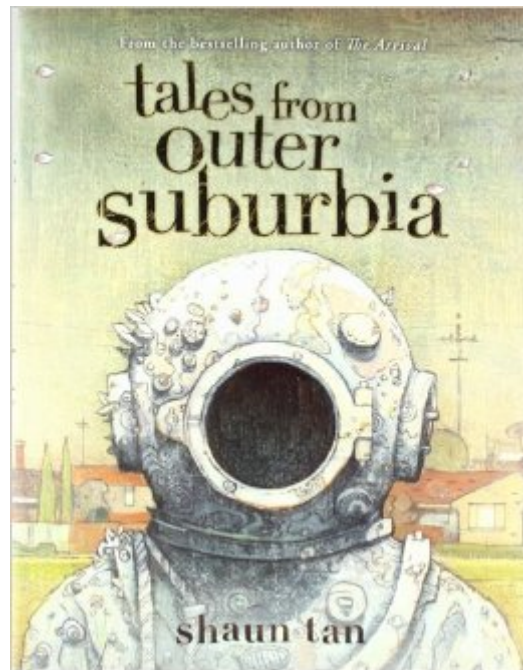


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# Tales From Outer Suburbia



## Synopsis

Shaun Tan follows *THE ARRIVAL* with a collection of off-the-wall tales combined with his genius illustrations in a unique hybrid format that will build on our current success. An exchange student who's really an alien, a secret room that becomes the perfect place for a quick escape, a typical tale of grandfatherly exaggeration that is actually even more bizarre than he says... These are the odd details of everyday life that grow and take on an incredible life of their own in tales and illustrations that Shaun Tan's many fans will love.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1100L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books; American ed. edition (February 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545055873

ISBN-13: 978-0545055871

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 7.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (141 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #196,717 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Australia & Oceania](#) #129 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories](#) #359 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

I read this book myself and found it a bit puzzling and challenging. The book is a series of short stories, poetry and very elaborate sketches. The best way to read it is very slowly and one story at a time. Sort of like eating a very decadent dessert, one needs to pause between bites to savor the richness. It is quite different, a bit surreal, but ultimately enjoyable for those of us who appreciate a little strangeness in our day. It is a quick read overall but the extensive drawings invite longer contemplation. I gave this book in turn to both of my children, ages 9 (girl) and 12 (boy). Both are "gifted" and excellent readers. The text itself was not a challenge for them. Their reactions were quite different however. My 12 year old son enjoyed it. He drew parallels between many of the short

stories and other books he has read. This is a kid who is himself a little different, interested in topics that are perhaps not typical for a preteen. He poured over the illustrations, pointing out bits and pieces that especially intrigued him. The book prompted discussions about the Holocaust, insanity, perception of reality and method of transport for marine animals. Quite the variety! He then went online to see if he could order any more books like it from the library. He has to say: "I thought this book was very interesting although it is short. This book is a book of short stories with very interesting topics. I personally liked this book. When I mean interesting I mean strange for example Water Buffalos pointing directions and very wierd foreign exchange students. So I hope you will enjoy the book Tales from Outer Suburbia .

"On a cold night last winter there was a fire at the house of a man who only days before had beaten his dog to death. Being a strong man, he was able to rescue all his belongings single-handedly, carryng them out of the burning building and onto the front lawn. As soon as he finished, a hundred dogs of every shape and size trotted into the flickering light from the surrounding shadows and promptly sat on top of every appliance a piece of furniture as if it were there own. They would not let the man come close and snapped at him viciously when he tried to hit them, but otherwise remained still, staring impassively at the flames." -- From the story Wake, in Tales from Outer Suburbia I hadn't heard of Shaun Tan when I selected Tales from Outer Suburbia from the Vine Program, but the cover on the Advanced Copy was enough to snag my interest. In all the thousands of books I've read over the years, I can honestly say I have never seen anything like Tales from Outer Suburbia! For those who appreciate idiosyncratic art, skewed (yet poetic) observations, and unusual presentation, this book will be right up your alley. Geared towards children aged 12 and up (but prized by adults of any age who are inspired by utter originality), Tales from Outer Suburbia fifteen "stories" accompanied by Tan's stunning, pleasantly strange artwork. One "story" is a public service announcement about making your own pet out of discarded items, while another describes a hidden world found in attics all around a neighborhood.

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