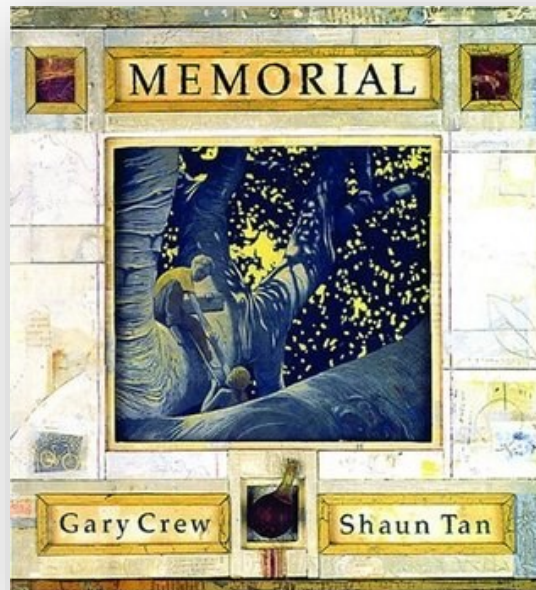


Title: Memorial
Author: Gary Crew
Illustrator: Shaun Tan
Publisher: Elliot (Australia)
Year: 2011



Research Background

The research challenge was to create an illustrated narrative questioning whether memorials evoke genuine remembrance for the event they supposedly memorialise – in this instance a Moreton Bay fig planted as a war memorial, and based on huge memorial fig trees actually planted at Eumundi, Queensland. Regrettably, one tree is now a traffic hazard. *Memorial* asks the research questions: what happens to our memory if a memorial is destroyed? Where does memory reside: in statues, memorial trees or the human heart?

Research Contribution

Memorial is an innovative illustrated book intended for teenage readers. A primary intention of the complex relationship between words and images evident in this book was that the pictures would wander off-course from their 'print text' subject (the significance of a war memorial), as one memory often leads to another. The intention was to create new stories (and memories) by exemplifying Maurice Sendak's advice 'Never illustrate exactly what is written.' (Sendak in Lanes 1984), which is confirmed by Anstey and Bull's statement, 'this may lead to multiple meanings being "written" with the potential for many different stories to be "read"'.

Research Significance

Memorial was The Children's Book Council of Australia Honour book (1999). It has been reprinted 10 times. Illustrated by acclaimed Shaun Tan, *Memorial* is now published internationally by Elliot Edizioni (Rome). Further international significance of the book is evident in 'Beneath The Surface: A Critical Analysis of a selection of Gary Crew's Picture Books'; CJ Baker (2005) Master of Education Thesis; University of Cambridge.