

Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak

The one of a kind drawing of the unique characters in this Caldecott Medal Winner (1964) are sure to capture the imagination of all.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *This is a story about a boy and his imagination as he dreams of being king of all wild things.* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that big creature is supposed to be guarding that ship?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Where the Wild Things Are*

- mischief: naughty behavior
- vines: a plant that supports itself by climbing along a surface
- tumbled: to move quickly
- private: belonging to an individual person
- roared: to make a loud growling noise
- gnashed: to grind your teeth together
- rumpus: an outcry or noisy disturbance

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What do you think of the wolf suit that Max wears? Is it funny?
- Does anyone have a costume at home that you like to dress up in?
- Have you ever been sent to your room for misbehaving? What did you do to get in trouble? What did you do while you were in your room?
- If you were Max's mom, would you have sent Max to his room without supper?
- Do you think Max was scared of the wild things? How do you think you would have felt?
- How did Max get the wild things to obey him?
- Max and the wild things have a wild rumpus. Do you think a wild rumpus would be fun?
- Why do you think Max sent the wild things to bed without supper? Do you think they were ready to go to bed?
- Why did Max give up being king of the wild things? Do you think he will miss the wild things?
- Do you think Max was sorry that he talked back to his mom? Why or why not?

Do

Paper Plate Wild Things

Provide scraps of paper, material, yarn, ribbon, crepe paper, pipe cleaners, noodles, kernels, and markers at each child's work space so they can make their own "wild thing." Before the children begin, spend some time talking about the different features of the wild things– eyes, hair, nose, teeth – and what makes these features look wild and how these features might feel. Write each child's name on the back of the plate and send home after sharing.