

Where the Wild Things Are, By Maurice Sendak Questions as you go

Review title, author, illustrator, main character

*Caldecott Medal Winner for Most Distinguished Picture Book of the Year

*Published in 1963. It's a classic written around the time your parents were born.

*Take volunteers of kids who would like to read one sentence. Then we will discuss the sentence.

What does the word mischief mean? Have you ever caused mischief? What does our main character, Max, do to make mischief? (nails things to the wall, chases dog with a fork)

What picture did Max have up on the wall? (a picture of a monster/wild thing)

When Max was causing mischief, what does his mother call him? What is his consequence for misbehaving? (wild thing, sent to bed with no supper)

A forest starts to grow in Max's room. Can that really happen? (no, it's in his dream or imagination)

How long does it take him to get to where the wild things are? (over a year)

What do the wild things do when Max arrives in his sailboat? (roar terrible roars, gnash their terrible teeth, roll their terrible eyes, and show their terrible claws)

Look at the pictures. Describe the different wild things.

How did Max tame the wild things? (he said, "be still" and stared into their eyes)

Why did they make him king? (they were frightened of him)

What did Max do when he became king? (he had a wild rumpus/party)

Look at the pictures. What did the wild things do at the rumpus? (danced, played, yelled, howled at the moon, jumped, hung from the trees, marched, had a great time)

After the rumpus, what did Max do and why? (he sent the wild things to bed without supper because that is what his mother did to him)

Why did Max give up being king? (lonely, hungry)

How did the wild things change in the story? (started terrible, were happy in the middle, terrible in the end)

Why was his supper/dinner still hot after all that time had passed? (he was dreaming all that time)

What did Max really smell when he was done with the rumpus? (it was really his supper in his room, his mom must have left it there for him)

What parts have been real in this story and what parts have been fantasy because they couldn't really happen? (real: Max was causing mischief, he was sent to his room, he wakes up and finds his supper waiting for him, fantasy: trees grow into his room, he goes to where the wild things are, he becomes king, etc.)

Project idea:

Directed Draw of one of the wild things.

Need: paper, black sharpies, colored markers or crayons

Show the kids step by step how to draw each line and shape. Then let them add details-color, tails, horns, textures, stripes...etc.