



WATCH & LEARN: ART & LIFESTYLE
ART & LITERATURE: WRITERS
MAURICE SENDAK (5:09 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 2/v205)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting
Off

Legendary American children's book writer and illustrator, Maurice Sendak, reflects on his work, legacy and influences.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

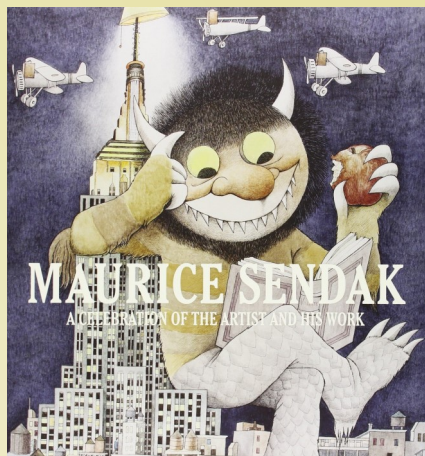
Video Script:

Why is Wild Things so much the book of my life? Who knows? I don't know. People wonder "What's there?" I don't know. Mystery is there, maybe life less **fierce**. People say "Why don't you do a Wild Things 2? Wild Things 1 was such a success." Go to hell! Go to hell! I'm not a **whore**. I don't do those things.

Herman Melville said that artists have to **take a dive** and either you hit your head on a rock and you **split** your skull and you die or that **blow** to the head is so inspiring that you come back up and do the best work you ever did. But, you have to take the dive. And you do not know what the result will be.

I do not believe that I have ever written a children's book. I don't know how to write a children's book. How do you write about? How do you **set out** to write a children's book? It's a lie. I don't believe in these **awards**, I don't believe in these clubs... So I'm much luckier than Herman Melville ever was, much luckier than William Blake ever was, but I still suffer from what they suffered from. I'm reading an interesting book now, The Life of William Blake. I've read many of them. That whole row back there is Blake. I can't **figure out** what it is but... I mean what **draws me to him** so much? I don't understand him. I still cannot read through one of his **illuminated** Books, I can't. I don't know what the hell he's talking about. But I love him. **Like**, if I were religious I would feel that way about whatever. He's an illustrator, I am an illustrator. He illustrates poems, his own poems, the mythical dream poems. I guess it's the way... his profound belief in something... sounds **kinda** idiotic, but I believe him. I believe in his passion.

My books are really books that are impressed and loved with the memory of comics and how important they were to me as a child. You know I did live, across the street from a patisserie. I didn't live... see any famous person. I didn't see Michelangelo go to work in the morning, I just lived in Brooklyn where everything was ordinary, and yet **enticing**, and exciting, and **bewildering**. The magic of childhood, the strangeness of childhood, the uniqueness that makes us see things that other people don't see.



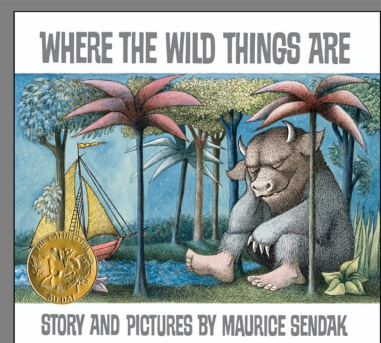
Discussion Questions:

- ◊ What authors are you familiar with that are popular with both children and adults?
- ◊ Some authors are very opposed to writing "sequels" or creating series based on their successful work. Why do you think that might be?
- ◊ Are you familiar with the work or Maurice Sendak and his most famous work: *Where the Wild Things Are*?

Vocabulary:

- **fierce** - having or displaying an intense or ferocious aggressiveness
- **whore** - debase oneself by doing something for unworthy motives, typically to make money
- **take a dive** - take a risk
- **split** - break apart with force
- **blow** - a sudden hit, a shock
- **set out** - consciously begin something; to start something with an intention
- **award** - a prize, a reward given in recognition of achievement
- **figure out** - understand something; find a solution to a problem or question
- **draws me to him (to be drawn to something)** - be attracted to someone or something
- **illuminated** - of an old book, document etc. - decorated with gold or colored designs and pictures; an anthology
- **like** - for example, as if
- **kinda** - spoken contraction of *kind of*
- **enticing** - attractive
- **bewildering** - very confusing

Vocabulary continued on next page...



Video Script continued on next page...



- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
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Video Script continued...

My work has always been considered **inappropriate**. But the ones that I love, the ones that I think work, as works of art and books are inappropriate. The most important one to me is the one *Outside Over There*. It's my most important work - to me. It was after a trip to Europe - Germany. I was illustrating Grimm, and I fell in love with the German Romantics, passionately. *The Outside Over There* is like a bad Runge* painting. And it also brought on a **nervous breakdown** of monumental force. It **slapped** me to the **ground**. I got that close to the fire. I got that close to the fire. We will have to find our way. If I could find a way through picture making, book illustration, or whatever you want to call it, I'd be okay.

Vocabulary continued...

- **inappropriate** - not right or suited for some purpose or situation
- **nervous breakdown** - a sudden severe emotional / mental disorder that makes someone unable to function normally
- **slapped down** - to hit or strike (someone or something) with an open hand
- **ground** - surface of the earth

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in the box below.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

