

Writing Trait: Ideas

Learning Intention: Use play in centres as the vehicle for representation.

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WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

By Maurice Sendak

Before Reading

Introduce the book by asking the children to look carefully at the cover. Some children will know the story, but some won't. Ask, "What do you see on the cover? What does the picture remind you of?" Have children share ideas with a neighbor.

During Reading

Read the story to the class, being sure to use lots of expression in your reading. Periodically ask the children what they think is happening. How do you think Max feels at different points of the story?

After Reading

(make this a distinct centre time, not part of the regular daily centre time)

1. Act the story out as a class. One volunteer is needed to be Max, one for the mother and the rest of the class are wild things or the forest of trees. Use simple props (a crown, a toy boat, green scarves for leaves of trees, etc.) Read the story and have the children act out each page as you go. This is a short, very informal drama experience; keep it moving along and don't let the children get bogged down by many details.
2. At centres have the children show the story using the choice of medium—crafts, drawing and writing, blocks, sand, water, dramatic play, etc. Give them examples of crossover in the centres (using construction paper and toilet paper tubes to make trees in the sandbox; using blue paper or fabric from the crafts or house corner to show water in the blocks, etc.)
3. Do a class tour before clean up, so each group gets to show their creations and explain the story as they represented it. Be sure to take photos for portfolios or bulletin boards!