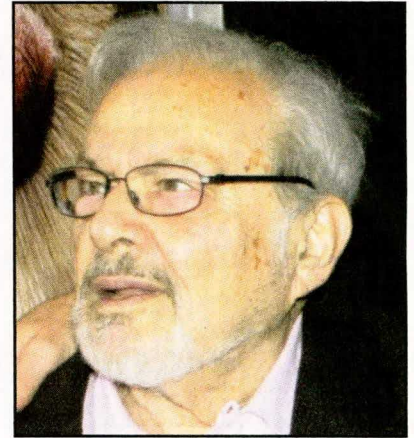


Get to know the legendary author and
illustrator of *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Maurice Sendak



Born: June 10, 1928

Died: May 8, 2012

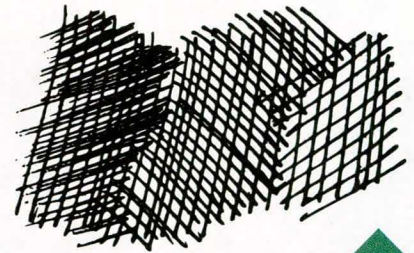
Hometown: New York City

Often sick as a child, Maurice Sendak spent most days indoors, frequently staring out his window and daydreaming of wild adventures. Tapping his imagination, he began to illustrate his first stories on shirt cardboard given to him by his father, a dressmaker.

Largely self-taught, the artist drew inspiration for story ideas and characters from childhood memories, neighbors, family, history, and books.



◀ In 1956, *Kenny's Window* was published — the first book Sendak both wrote and illustrated — about a boy who dreams of a fabulous land where he would like to live forever.



Cross-Hatching

Sendak used a shadowing technique of drawing lines in one direction, then adding lines in the opposite direction. To make his artwork look more realistic, he used curved shapes for people and monsters and angular shapes for man-made objects like tools and tents.



Sendak's 1963 classic *Where the Wild Things Are* changed the world of children's literature, with its more honest portrayal of a child's emotions. In the story, Max, a mischievous boy sent to his bedroom without dinner, travels to a magical land of scary, yellow-eyed monsters — "wild things" modeled after his aunts and uncles.

While some critics called his monsters too scary for kids, Sendak believed children used their imaginations to cope with and conquer fears.

"Children do live in fantasy and reality; they move back and forth very easily in a way we no longer REMEMBER how to do."

-Maurice Sendak



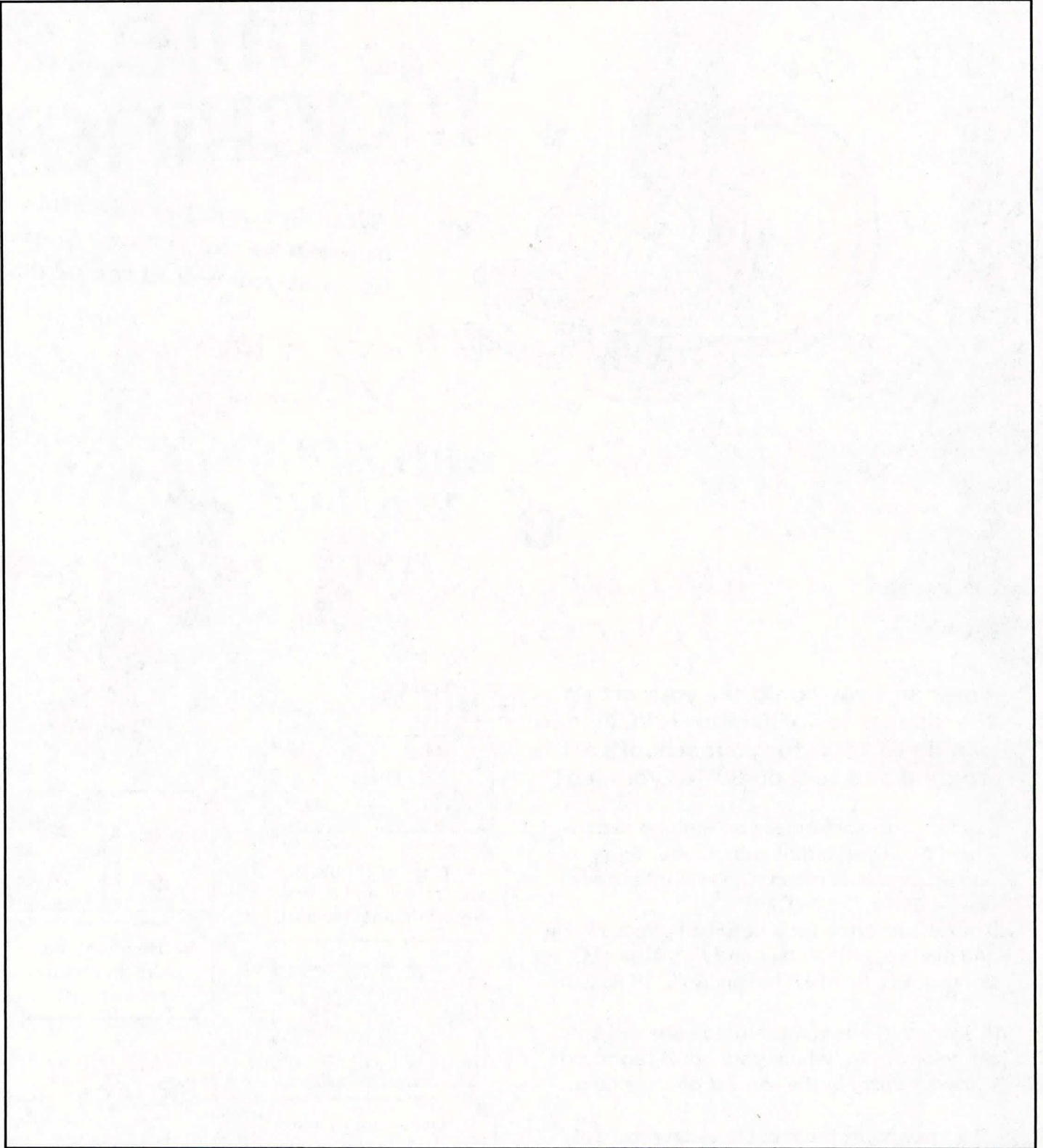
To honor the life of his beloved dog Jennie, Sendak wrote and illustrated *Higglety, Pigglety, Pop! or, There Must Be More to Life in 1967*.

Did You Know? Despite illustrating nearly 100 books, Sendak understood the challenge of creating stories for small readers with big imaginations. "You cannot write for children. They're much too complicated. You can only write books that are of interest to them."

Draw Like Maurice Sendak

Draw your own imaginary monster in a faraway land.

Try cross-hatching with pencil or pen-and-ink as Sendak did. Don't forget to be creative!



 Hey, parents! Post a picture of your child's monster at facebook.com/jackandjillmag.

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