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Maurice Sendak Quotes

“I had my place in childhood, I was not a popular kid particularly and I was not a sports kid, I wasn’t playing stick ball on the street, I wasn’t riding a bicycle. But what I did do, which most of them did not do, was go to the movies. And I went to the movies so much because my parents got, if you went Friday night you got a plate and a dish, and finally if you went every Friday night you had a dinner set. Much of which I still have because my mother adored her blue dinner set. And my gift with the kids was telling stories. And I would get them all on stoop and I would tell them the movie I had seen. And then I would invent parts of the movie, especially gruesome parts and they wanted that from me. ‘Tell us a story, tell us a story, tell us a story!’ So that’s when I was allowed into the street group—that was my offering.”

– Interview with Sendak, October 3, 2007

“An illustrator in my own mind—and this is not a truth of any kind—is someone who so falls in love with writing that he wishes he had written it and the closest he can get is to illustrating it. And the next thing you learn...is that you have to find something unique in this book, which perhaps not even the author was entirely aware of. And that’s what you hold onto, and that’s what you add to the pictures: a whole Other Story that you believe in, that you think is there.”

– Interview with Sendak, August 10, 2007

“When you hide another story in a story, that’s the story I am telling the children.”

– Interview with Sendak, August 21, 2007

“That’s the best fun in all of this—the layers of meaning, the layers of storytelling.”

– Interview with Sendak, August 21, 2007

“That will be the mystery that will haunt me until the day of my death; what is that thing that comes into the work that is not premeditated, that you didn’t think of, that actually belongs there, but you don’t know how it got there.”

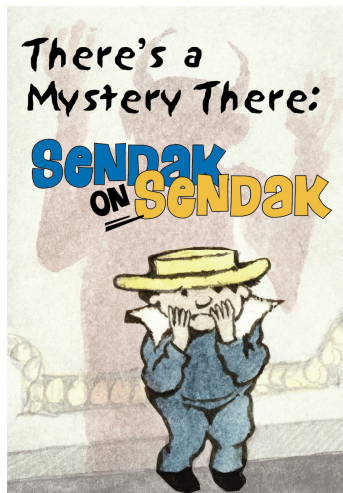
– Interview with Sendak, Jan 17, 2008

“It’s really about the spirit and I find that hard to talk about, because you know, I’m a cynic. I don’t know from the spirit, and yet I do. And that is a great puzzle of my life....Something deeper is involved; deeper in myself than I know what it is.”

– Interview with Sendak Jan. 17, 2008.

“It’s the two levels of writing – one visible, one invisible – that fascinate me most about Melville... There’s a mystery there, a clue, a nut, a bolt, and if I put it together, I find me.”

– From interview with Jonathan Cott, “Maurice Sendak – King of All Wild Things,”
Rolling Stone Dec. 30, 1976



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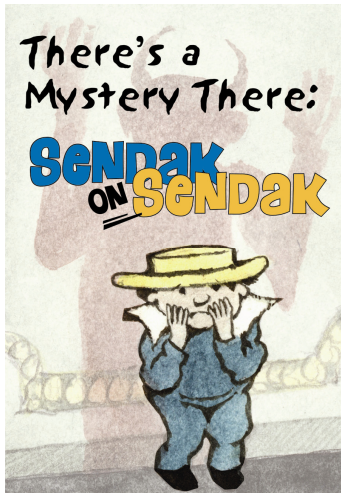
Key Events in the Life and Career of Maurice Sendak

June 10, 1928: Born in Brooklyn, NY (the same year Mickey Mouse was created)
1947: Completes first book illustrations in *Atomics for the Millions*
1951: Illustrates first children's book, *The Wonderful Farm* by Marcel Aymé
1956: Publishes *Kenny's Window*, the first book both written and illustrated by Sendak
1963: Publishes *Where the Wild Things Are*
1964: Wins Caldecott Medal for *Wild Things*
1967: Suffers a heart attack in England; the death of beloved dog, Jennie
1968: Death by cancer of his mother, Sadie
1970: Wins Hans Christian Andersen Award; death of his father, Philip
1971: Publishes *In the Night Kitchen*
1972: Moves from New York to Connecticut
1979: Writes and designs *Where the Wild Things Are* opera
1981: Publishes *Outside Over There*
1996: Receives the National Medal of Arts from President Clinton
2003: Publishes *Brundibar* book and designs opera production
Today: Still working!

Sendak & The Rosenbach

How did Maurice Sendak's work come to the Rosenbach Museum & Library? Sendak first met Clive Driver, then Director of the Rosenbach, in 1966 at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Sendak was invited to speak, along with other artists and scholars, at a conference hosted by the library on Beatrix Potter in celebration of the 100th anniversary of her birth. From Clive, Sendak learned that the Rosenbach had one of the best Melville collections in the world, among other artists that he loved, like William Blake, John Tenniel, and George Cruikshank. The relationship was cemented in the early 1970s when Sendak decided to give his pictures to the Rosenbach on deposit, marking the start of the Sendak collection at the Rosenbach.

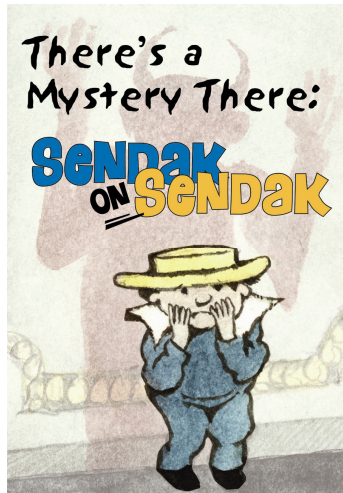
In a 2007 interview, Sendak said, "Clive and I got to talking and he began to tell me about The Rosenbach and the virtues of The Rosenbach, and I was then looking for a place to give my stuff to, but I didn't want it to go to a university... Because they were buried in sealed vaults and whoever got to see them? The point of giving something away and then treating it as it were death of the family was hardly what I was looking forward to. So I was saying where was a place where people could, if they wanted to, make an appointment and see the pictures. So Clive would say, that's just what we do... They had people I love, artists I love. They had the *Alice* illustrations....I remember I would lay in The Doctor's room – Dr. Rosenbach – and Clive would bring me in some drawings for a French novel by Fragonard and they would be in the bed with me. And there was a big fur, animal fur blanket, and I used to lay under it with my Fragonards all around. Hey – that was living! Of course, they took it all back in the morning, that's the way of life. So anyway, I concluded that that's where I wanted to be and that's where it began."



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Fun Features for Families at *There's A Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak*

- A family-friendly gallery guide written to help parents guide their kids through the exhibition. It offers fun facts and stories, questions designed to stimulate conversation and closer looks at the pictures, and suggestions and help for navigating some of the more complex themes that Sendak's work brings out.
- Kids can view video clips based on images they want to learn more about. Flat touch-screens in each gallery will include a description of each video and a Sendak picture. Want to learn more about a particular monster? Just touch the monster picture and a video of Sendak telling a story about it will play.
- Kids and parents can flip through "discovery albums" which will feature photographs and newspaper clippings that inspired imagery in Sendak's books. These can be handled, inspected closely, and compared with the works on display.
- The design of the exhibition is often kid-friendly and character-heavy. Large graphic elements of lively children and animals will inspire curiosity about Sendak's characters. A different character is featured in each gallery to illustrate how Sendak uses them in his art. Images include dogs, wolves, bears, birds, and the moon.



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**Original artwork and other materials from these books will be featured in
*There's A Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak:***

Atomics for the Millions (1947)
The Wonderful Farm (1951)
A Hole is to Dig (1952)
Shadrach (1953)
A Very Special House (1953)
I'll be You and You Be Me (1954)
Charlotte & the White Horse (1955)
Seven Little Stories on Big Subjects (1955)
The Happy Rain (1956)
The House of Sixty Fathers (1956)
Kenny's Window (1956)
Circus Girl (1957)
Very Far Away (1957)
Along Came a Dog (1958)
Somebody Else's Nut Tree (1958)
Father Bear Comes Home (1959)
The Moon Jumpers (1959)
Seven Tales by Hans Christian Andersen (1959)
Dwarf Long-Nose (1960)
Open House for Butterflies (1960)
The Sign on Rosie's Door (1960)
The Big Green Book (1962)
Mr. Rabbit & the Lovely Present (1962)
The Nutshell Library (1962)
Schoolmaster Whackwell's Wonderful Sons (1962)
The Griffin & the Minor Canon (1963)
Nikolenka's Childhood (1963)
Sarah's Room (1963)
Where the Wild Things Are (1963)
The Bat-Poet (1964)
The Bee-Man of Orn (1964)
The Animal Family (1965)
Hector Protector & As I Went Over the Water (1965)
Zlateh the Goat & Other Stories (1966)
The Golden Key (1967)
Higglety, Pigglety, Pop! Or There Must Be More To Life (1967)
A Kiss for Little Bear (1968)

Books Featured in *There's A Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak* (continued)

The Light Princess (1969)
In the Night Kitchen (1970)
The Juniper Tree & Other Tales From Grimm (1973)
King Grisly-Beard: A Tale From the Brothers Grimm (1973)
Really Rosie, Starring the Nutshell Kids (1975)
Seven Little Monsters (1976)
Some Swell Pup, or Are You Sure You Want A Dog? (1976)
Outside Over There (1981)
Caldecott & Co.: Notes on Books & Pictures (1988)
Dear Mili (1988)
I Saw Esau (1992)
We Are All in the Dumps with Jack & Guy (1993)
Pierre, or the Ambiguities (1995)
The Miami Giant (1995)
Swine Lake (1998)
Brundibar (2003)
Mommy! (2006)