

# Author of the Month...

**January**

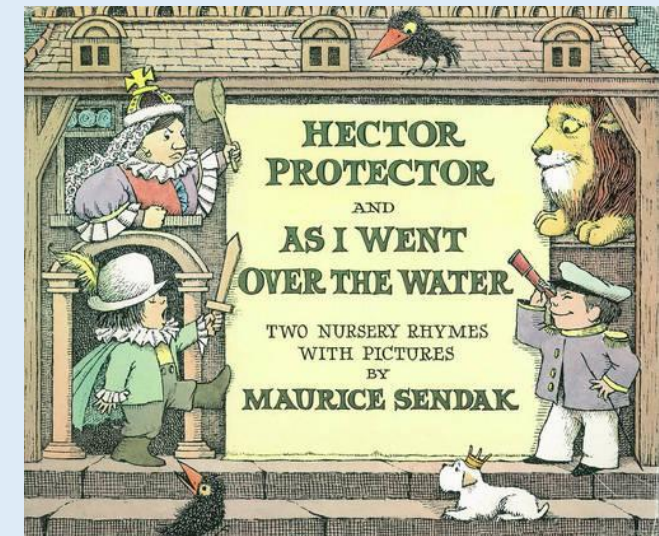
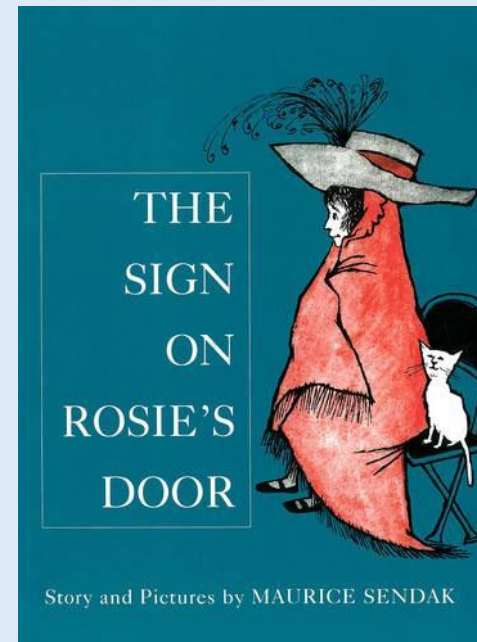
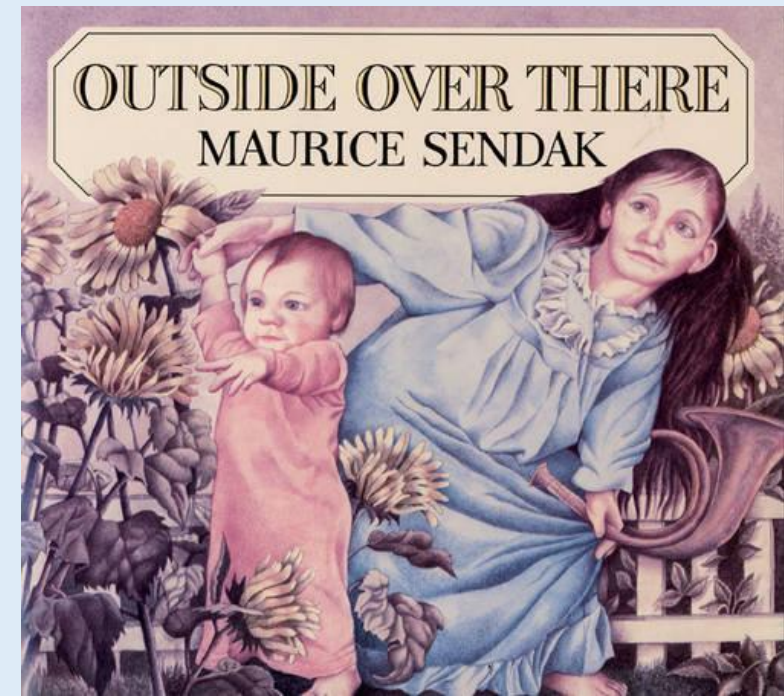
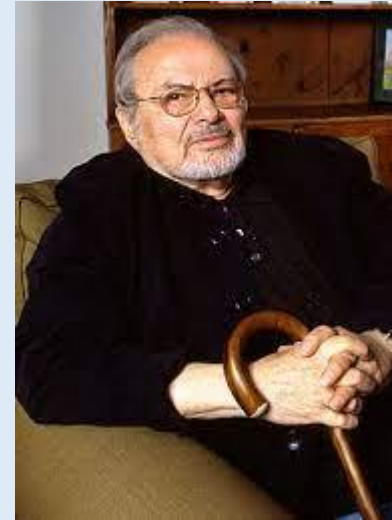
# Maurice Sendak

Maurice Sendak is known for his beautiful, evocative illustrations as well as his storytelling. I love how comforting Sendak's stories are. Whether they're about a little boy who is ready to be home despite the joy he has found in another land, or a Little Bear having breakfast with Mother and Father bear, Sendak creates an incredibly lovely world for all of us to tumble into. Some of Maurice Sendak's most popular books are *Where the Wild Things Are*, *In the Night Kitchen*, *Chicken Soup with Rice*, and *Alligators All Around: An Alphabet*.



**Maurice Bernard Sendak** was an American illustrator and writer of children's books. He was born on June 10th 1928 and died on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2012. He became widely known for his book 'Where the Wild Things Are', first published in 1963.

Born to Jewish-Polish parents, his childhood was affected by the death of many of his family members during the Holocaust. Sendak also wrote works such as *In the Night Kitchen*, *Outside Over There*, and illustrated many works by other authors including the Little Bear books by Else Holmelund Minarik.



## Early life

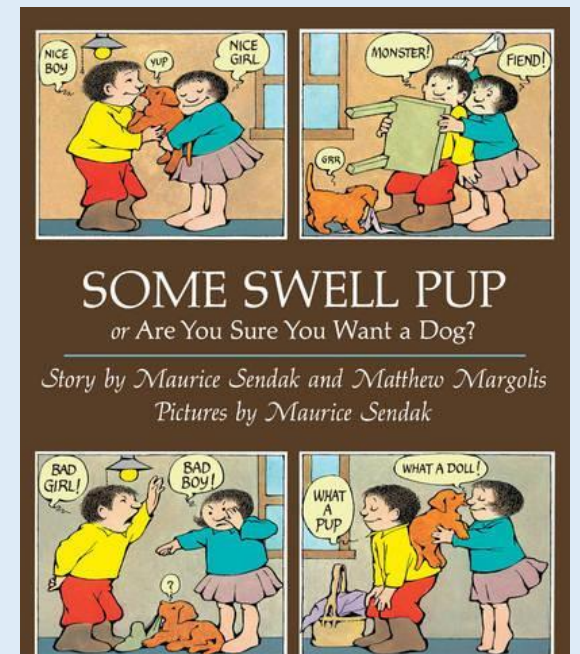
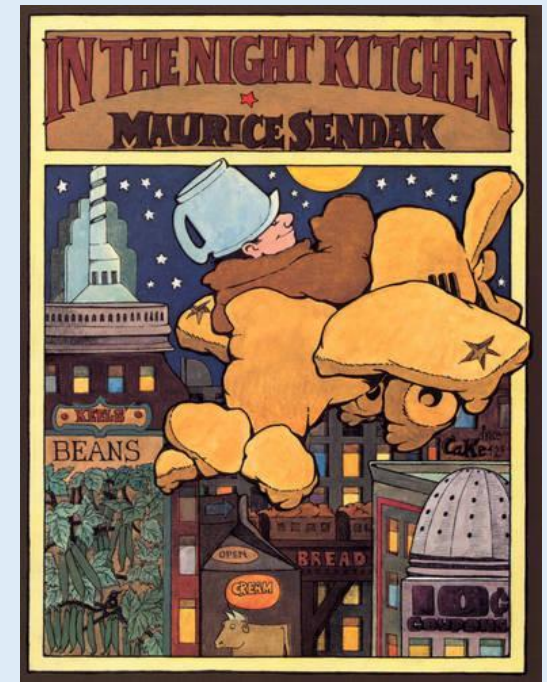
Sendak was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Polish Jewish immigrant parents named Sadie (née Schindler) and Philip Sendak, a dressmaker.

His love of books began when, as a child, he developed health problems and was confined to his bed. He decided to become an illustrator after watching Walt Disney's film *Fantasia* at the age of twelve. One of his first professional commissions was to create window displays for the toy store FAO Schwarz. His illustrations were first published in 1947 in a textbook titled *Atoms for the Millions* by Maxwell Leigh Eidinoff.

He spent much of the 1950s illustrating children's books written by others before beginning to write his own stories.

His older brother Jack Sendak also became an author of children's books, two of which were illustrated by Maurice in the 1950s.

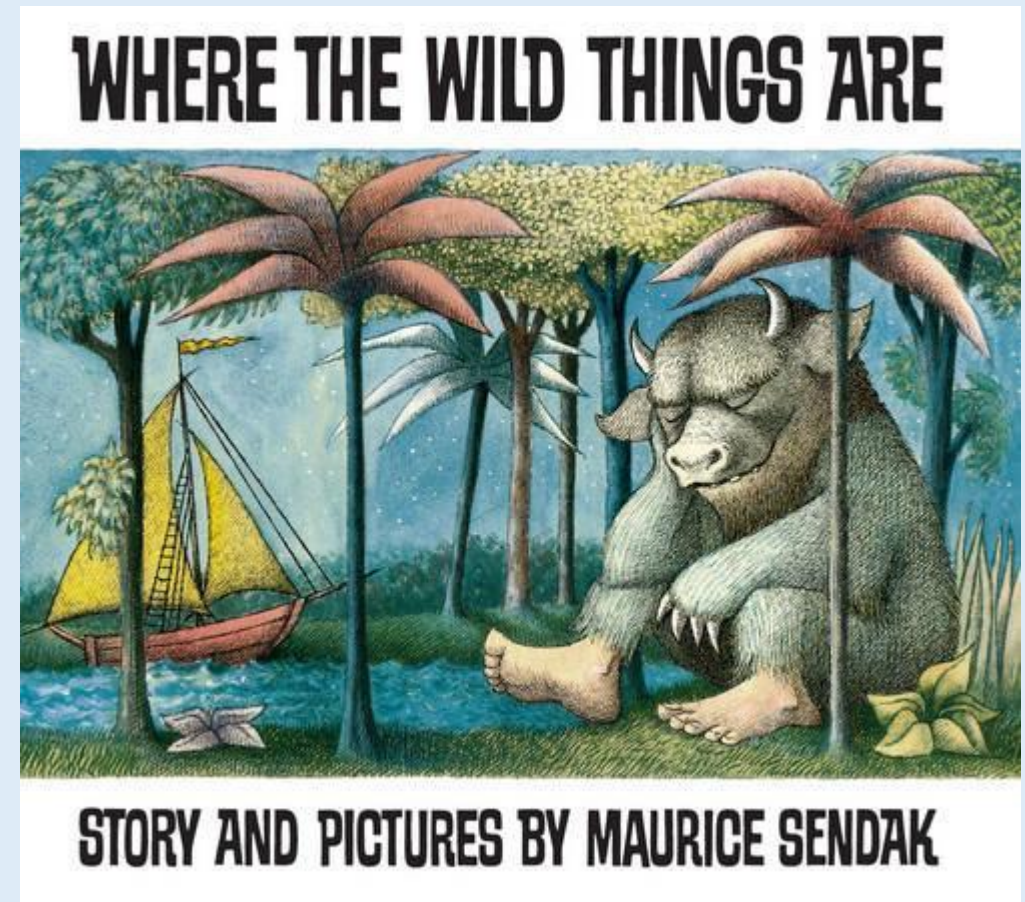
Maurice was the youngest of three siblings. His sister Natalie was nine years older and his brother Jack five.

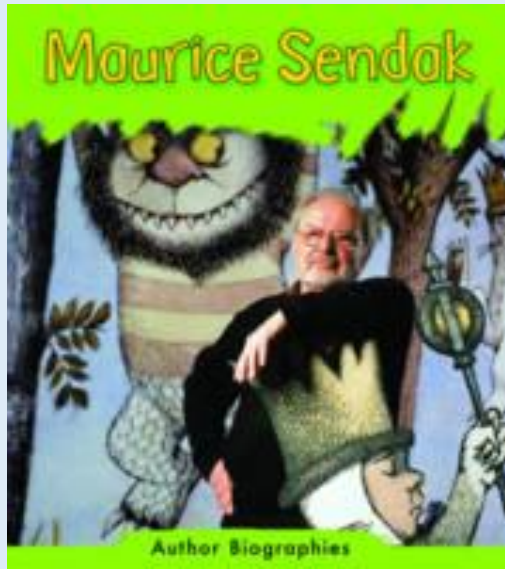
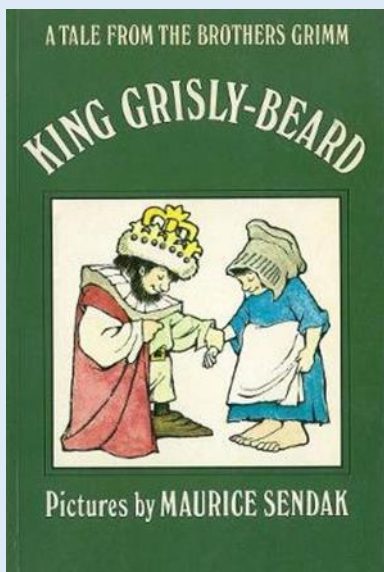


The characters illustrated in *Where the Wild Things Are* caused some controversy for their grotesque appearance. Sendak gained international acclaim after writing and illustrating *Where the Wild Things Are*, edited by Ursula Nordstrom at Harper & Row.

It features Max, a boy who "rages against his mother for being sent to bed without any supper". The book's depictions of fanged monsters concerned some parents when it was first published, as his characters were somewhat grotesque in appearance.

Before *Where the Wild Things Are*, Sendak was best known for illustrating Else Holmelund Minarik's *Little Bear* series of books.





1) Mr. Sendak was hired at F.A.O. Schwarz after he and his brother tried to sell them their wooden toys, inspired by fairy tales. He spent three years as a window dresser.

2) Originally titled Where the Wild Horses Are, the title was changed because Mr. Sendak could not draw horses, only “things”.

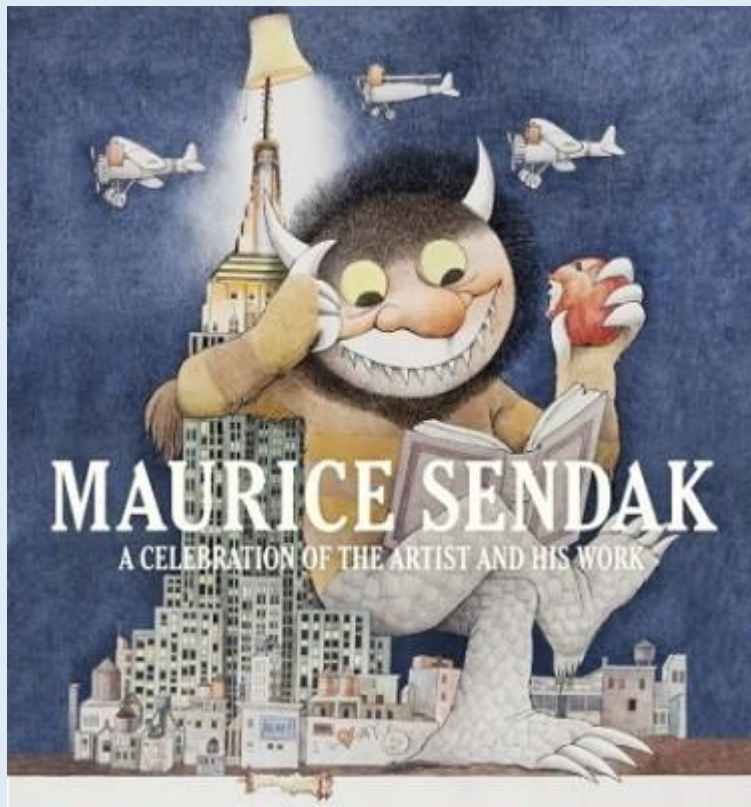
3) The “Things” in his books are modelled after Mr. Sendak’s family members, from a child’s point of view.

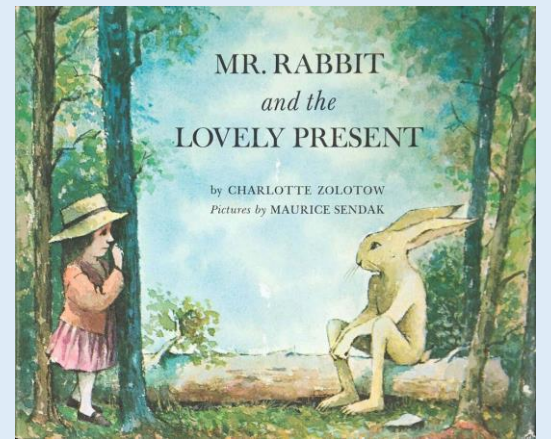
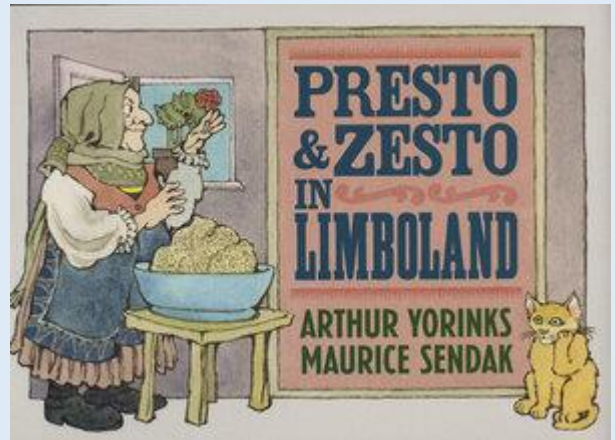
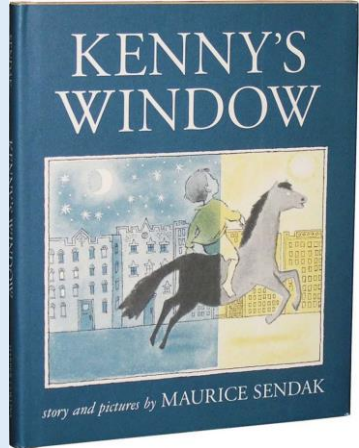
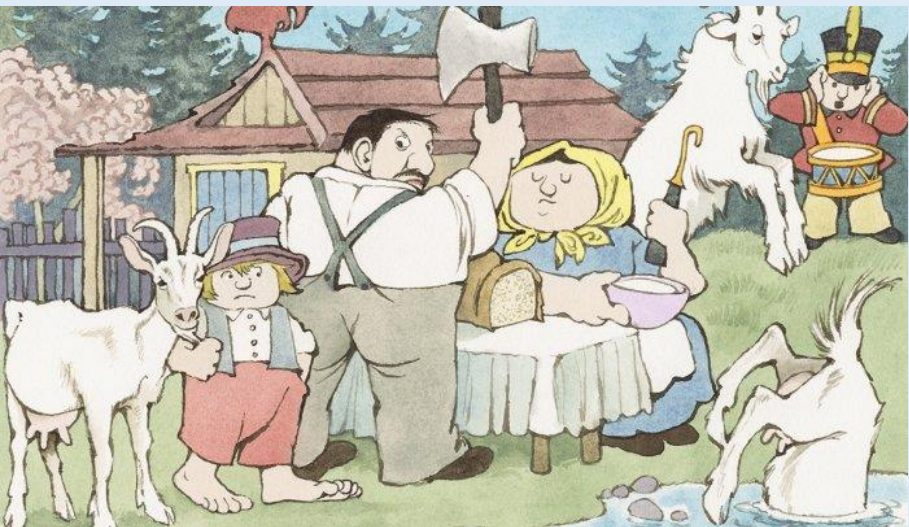
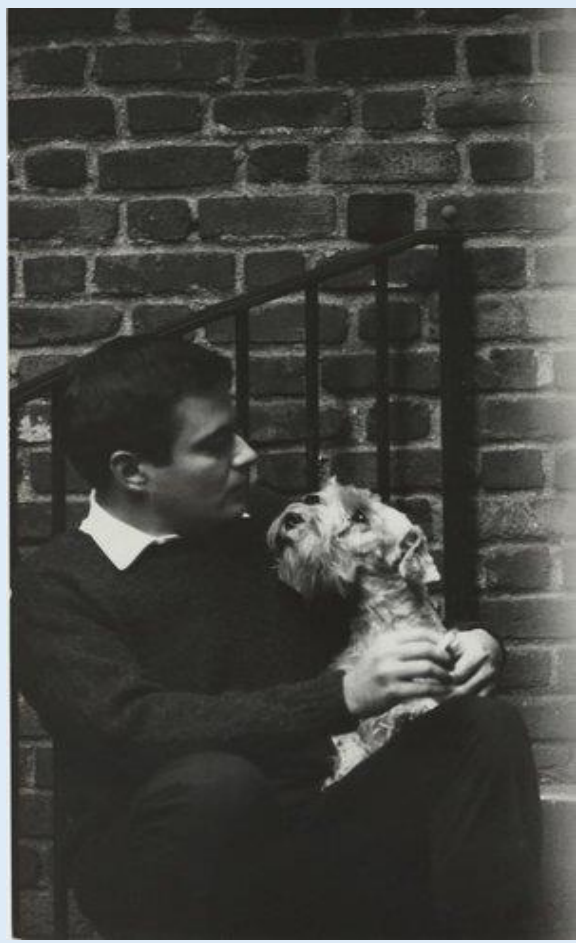
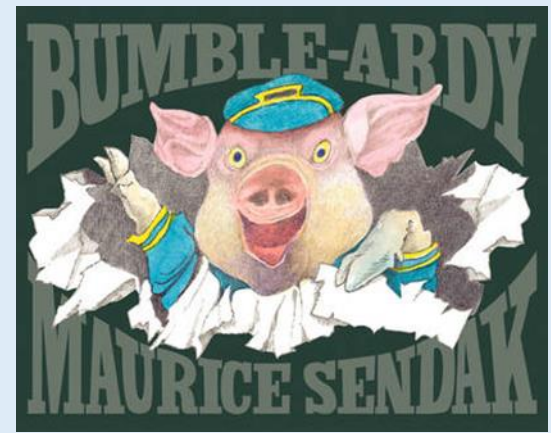
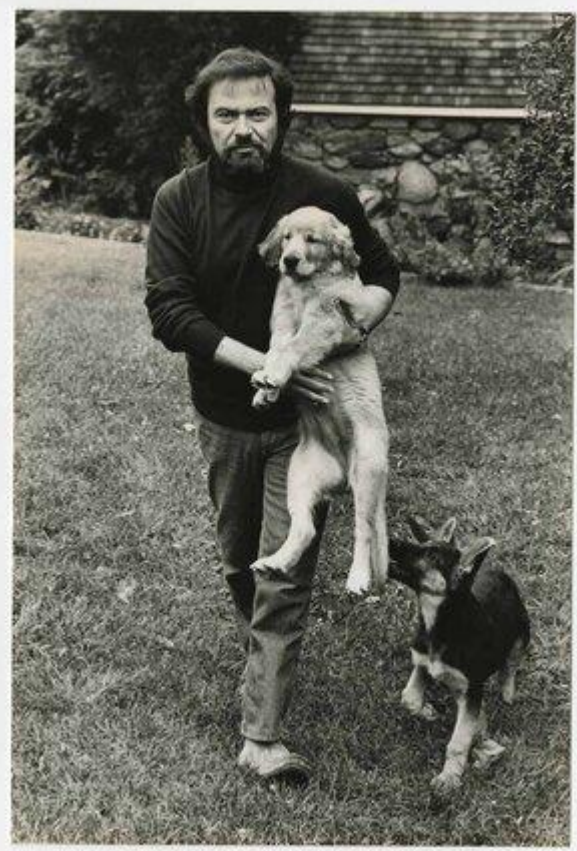
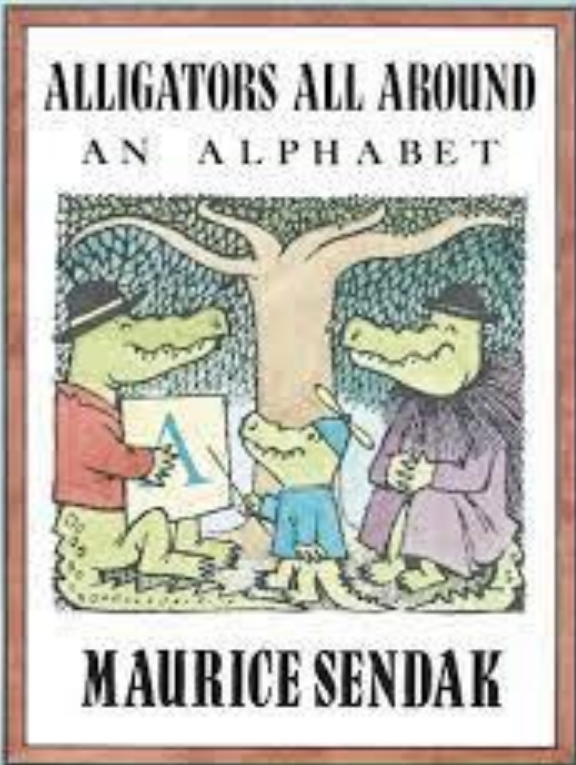
5) Before succeeding as a children’s’ author, Mr. Sendak illustrated the Little Bear series, popular books by Else Homelund Minarik.

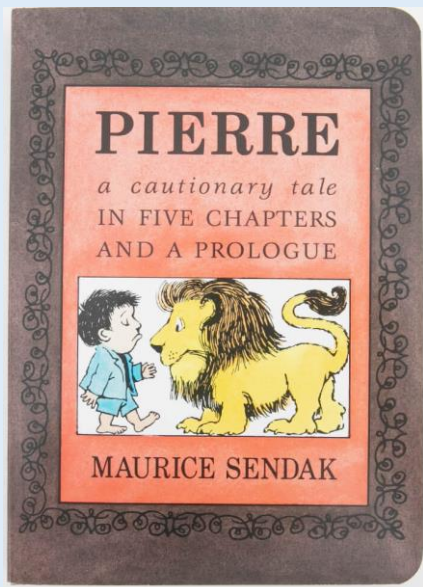
6) Mr. Sendak hated eBooks.

9) Mr. Sendak’s father would tell him stories from the Jewish Bible, embellishing them where he saw fit.

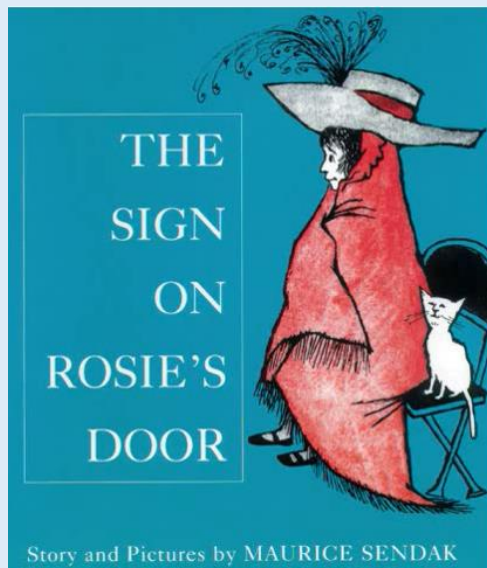
10) The New York Times obituary called Sendak “the most important children’s book artist of the 20th century.”



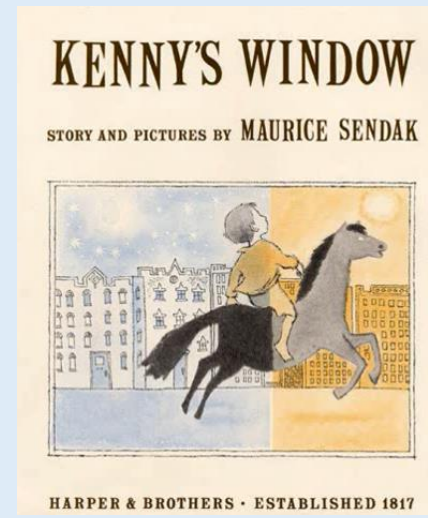




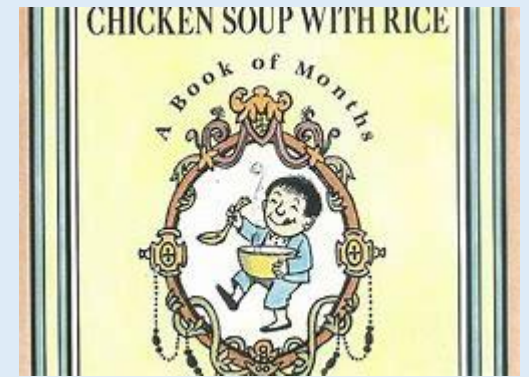
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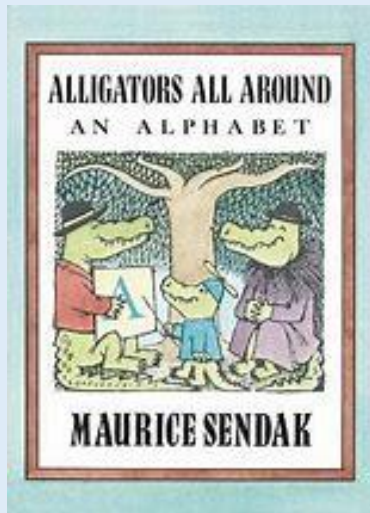
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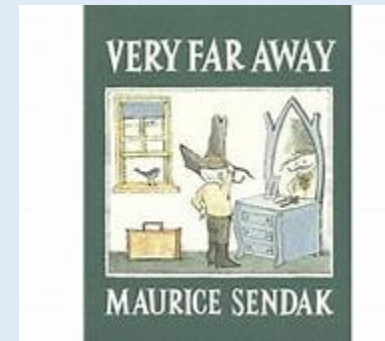
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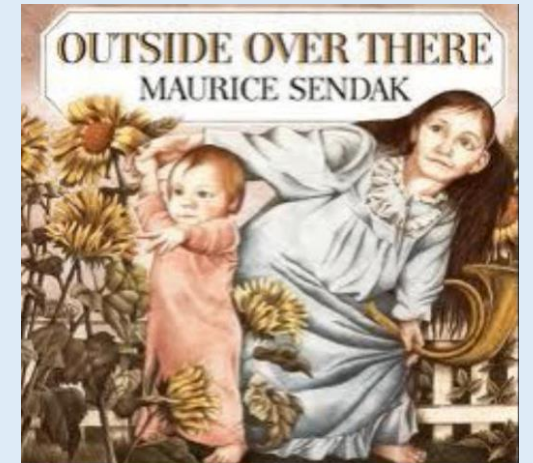
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