

Reading and Writing Sendak

The Artist, The Art of the Picture Book,
The Golden Age of American Children's Literature
and the Archetypes of Childhood

This seminar focuses on the art of Maurice Sendak, one of the key, shaping figures of American and, indeed, world children's literature for more than half a century. Sendak's influences on the art of the picture book, as well as on our thinking about childhood, has been ubiquitous and profound. The seminar will explore books and other art forms created by Sendak, paying special attention to the rich historical sources of his works, his archetypal poetics, his revisioning of the form of the picture book, and his redefinition of the role of the artist creating works for young people in contemporary culture. Along with discussions of Sendak's core works, participants in the seminar will be asked to respond to these works imaginatively, through a series of creative projects and a final, longer work.

Readings

Krauss, Ruth. <i>I'll Be You and You Be Me</i> .	_____ . <i>The Nutshell Library</i> .
Krauss, Ruth. <i>A Hole is to Dig</i> .	_____ . <i>Outside Over There</i> .
Krauss, Ruth. <i>A Very Special House</i> .	_____ . <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> .
Sendak, Maurice. <i>Caldecott & Co</i> .	_____ . <i>We're All in the Dumps</i> .
_____ . <i>Higglety-Pigglety Pop!</i>	Cech, John. <i>Angels and Wild Things</i> .
_____ . <i>In the Night Kitchen</i> .	Jarrell et al. <i>The Juniper Tree</i> .

Internet: <http://www.terribleyelloweyes.com/>
<http://weloveyouso.com/>

Seminar Assignments

A series of short, bi-weekly creative works and a final project.

Office Hours

Mondays 11:00 -1:00
Tuesdays 10 -12:30

Thursdays 11:00 - 4:00 and by appointment.

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Schedule

August 29 Belated Introductions. "Tell Them Anything You Want."

September 5 Digging Holes and the Child. Sendak's First Definitions.

Read: *A Hole is to Dig, A Very Special House, and I'll Be You and You Be Me. Angels...* pp. xix - 35.

12 Blake, Nursery Rhymes and Childhood's Rhythms.

Readings: TBA, *Caldecott & Co*, pp. 11 - 20. **Project #1.**

19 *A Visit to the Baldwin Library. Finding Caldecott.*

Read: *Caldecott & Co*, pp. 3 -27, 45 - 86.

26 Rosie and the Nutshell Kids.

Read: *77ie Nutshell Library, Angels ...* 37-107.

Caldecott & Co, pp. 145 -156, 161 -164, 179 -184. **Project #2.**

October 3 Wild Things: "A Permanent, Perfect Book."

Read: *Where the Wild Filings Are. Angels ...* 109-141.

10 High Fantasy and a Hungry Pooch.

Read: *Higglety-Pigglety Pop! Angels...*143-173. **Project #3.**

17 Among the Alchemists: Comics, Mickey, Dreams.

Read: *In the Night Kitchen. Angels...*175-211.

24 The Romantics (again). Mozart, Runge, Grimm, et. al.

Readings in *Flie Juniper Tree. Project #4.*

31 The Outward Voyage Inward.

Read: *Outside Over Viere. Angels...*213-241.

November 7 In the Dumps, *Bunible-Ardu*, Death, and the Rest.

Read: *We're All in the Dumps. Angels...*243-257. **Project #5.**

14 Sendak on Stage, in Film, in Media. Viewings TB A.

21 Sendak's contemporaries: Seuss, Steig, Ungerer, Van Allsburg, et al.

28 Sendak's Legacy.

December 5 Final Projects Due.