

LIT 6934: Seminar
Tuesdays 6-8

Instructor: John Cech (V)
CBD 0230

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

"Let the wild rumpus start!"

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 our thinking about childhood has been ubiquitous and profound. The seminar will explore Sendak works (in print and other media) with 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 his core works, participants in the seminar will respond to Sendak's works imaginatively, through a series of bi-weekly creative projects and a final, longer work.

Readings

Ruth Kraus, <i>A Hole is to Dig</i>	Sendak, <i>The Sign on Rosie's Door</i>
Ruth Kraus, <i>A Very Special House</i>	Sendak, <i>The Junniper Tree</i>
Sendak, <i>Kenny's Window</i>	Sendak, <i>The Nut shell Library</i>
Sendak, <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	Sendak, <i>In the Night Kitchen</i>
Sendak, <i>Outside Over There</i>	Sendak, <i>Higglety Pigglety Pop!</i>
Randall Jarrell, <i>The Animal Family</i>	Randall Jarrell, <i>The Bat Poet</i>
Sendak, <i>We're All in the Dumps with Jack and Guy</i>	
Sendak, <i>Caldecott & Co.: Notes on Books and Pictures</i>	

Seminar Assignments

A series of short creative papers and a presentation for the seminar
A final term project

Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 - 3:30 and by appointment
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Schedule of Discussion Topics

January	7	Introductions. "Tell Them Anything You Want."
	14	Digging Holes and Finding Rosie: Sendak's First Definitions Read : <i>A Hole is to Dig, A Very Special House, The Sign on Rosie 's Door, Kenny 's Window, and Sendak's essay, "Really Rosie."</i> Project #1.
	21	<i>Caldecott & Co.</i> and The [first] Golden Age. Read: Sendak's essays in C & Co, pp. 3 - 38.
	28	A Visit to the Baldwin Library Read: Sendak's essays on MacDonald, Meggendorfer, Potter, McCay, Jean de Brunhoff, and Tomi Ungerer.
February	4	Blake, Poetry, Nursery Rhymes and Childhood 's Rhythms. Read: The Nutshell Library. Project #2.
	11	Fantasy, Seuss, Jarrell and another Golden Age
	18	<i>Wild Things</i> : "A Permanent, Perfect Book. " Project #3. Read: <i>Wild Things</i> and Sendak's "Caldecott Acceptance"
	25	<i>In the Night Kitchen</i> : Comics, Mickey, Dreams. Project #4. Read: Sendak's essays on Disney and "Balsa Wood and Fairy Tales," "Hans Christian Andersen Acceptance."
March	4	Spring Break
	11	The Romantics, Mozart, and Grimm. Project #5. Read: <i>The Juniper Tree and Other Tales from Grimm</i>
	18	<i>Outside Over There</i> : The Outward Voyage Inward.
	25	Sendak On Stage: Operas, Ballet, Theater, Music. Project #6.
April	1	Sendak On Film: Animating the Impossible.
	8	Sendak in the Media: "Mon Cher Papa," Terry Gross, Colbert, et al.
	15	Sendak's Legacy: From Kenny to Edward Tulane.
	22	Term Projects Due.

Specific writing and presentation assignments will be made during our meetings and posted online to the seminar listserv. Be sure to have an active email account and check the listserv regularly for details.

Many of Sendak's and related books will be available for you to read in the Center for Children's Literature and Culture office (TURL 4365) on Tuesdays and Thursdays (check with Mariko Turk for the Center hours). Many of these works are also available in the Baldwin Collection, the College of Education library in Norman Hall, at the library of P. K. Yonge, and at the Gainesville Public Library. All of these works are available, often in inexpensive, used editions on amazon.com.