WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK
Winner of the Caldecott Medal
for the Most Distinguished Picture Book of the Year
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
The night Max wore his wolf suit and made mischief of one kind
and another
his mother called him "WILD THING!"
and Max said "I'LL EAT YOU UP!"
so he was sent to bed without eating anything.
That very night in Max's room a forest grew
and grew—
and grew until his ceiling hung with vines
and the walls became the world all around
and an ocean tumbled by with a private boat for Max and he sailed off through night and day
and in and out of weeks
and almost over a year
to where the wild things are.
And when he came to the place where the wild things are
they roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth
and rolled their terrible eyes and showed their terrible claws
till Max said “BE STILL!”
and tamed them with the magic trick

of staring into all their yellow eyes without blinking once
and they were frightened and called him the most wild thing of all
and made him king of all wild things.

“And now,” cried Max, “let the wild rumpus start!”
“Now stop!” Max said and sent the wild things off to bed without their supper. And Max the king of all wild things was lonely and wanted to be where someone loved him best of all.

Then all around from far away across the world he smelled good things to eat so he gave up being king of where the wild things are.
But the wild things cried, “Oh please don’t go—we’ll eat you up—we love you so!”
And Max said, “No!”

The wild things roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth and rolled their terrible eyes and showed their terrible claws but Max stepped into his private boat and waved good-bye
and sailed back over a year and in and out of weeks and through a day
and into the night of his very own room
where he found his supper waiting for him
and it was still hot.
Also by Maurice Sendak

Winner, 1964 Caldecott Medal
Winner, 1970 Hans Christian Andersen Awards Illustrators Medal
Winner, 1982 American Book Award
Winner, 1983 Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal

Hector Protector and As I Went Over the Water: Two Nursery Rhymes
Higglety Pigglety Pop! or There Must Be More to Life
In the Night Kitchen
Kenny's Window
Maurice Sendak's Really Rosie: Starring the Nutshell Kids
Nutshell Library
Outside Over There
The Sign on Rosie's Door
Very Far Away