

Where the Wild Things Are

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Growing Up, Imagination

Book Brief: Max is a "wild thing," and after a fight with his mother, he leaves home and travels a long distance to live with his own kind. But he soon learns that being king in a faraway place isn't nearly as much fun as being home, where he was loved and cared for.

Author:
Maurice Sendak
Illustrator:
Maurice Sendak



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask students what they notice about the photo.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Vocabulary: [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Prior Knowledge: Ask students if they have ever felt angry. What did they do to calm down?

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how Max uses his imagination to escape his angry feelings."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why was Max sent to his room?
- What did Max imagine his room turned into?
- What did the wild things do when they saw Max?
- Why was Max sad as King of the wild things?
- How did the Wild Things act when Max said he was going home?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Max use his imagination to escape his angry feelings? How did his feelings change about wanting to be a Wild Thing?

Extending Our Thinking: Allow students to think about ways to use their imagination to calm themselves down. Let students work in a table group or with a group of 4.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.