Summary Article: **Sendak, Maurice Bernard** from *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

1928–2012, American writer and illustrator of children's books, b. Brooklyn, N.Y. Largely self-taught, he has been widely acclaimed as the 20th-century's most important children's book artist. His illustrations—beautifully drawn, wildly imaginative and stylistically varied, often emotionally complex, and sometimes controversial—appear in dozens of children's books, beginning with *The Wonderful Farm* (1951) and including *The Sign on Rosie's Door* (1960) and *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963), which he also wrote, as well as *In the Night Kitchen* (1970), *Outside over There* (1981), and *We Are All in the Dumps with Jack and Guy* (1993). From the mid-1980s on, he devoted much of his time to theatrical work, but in 2011 *Bumble-Ardy*, the first children's picture book written and illustrated by him in 30 years, was published. His lyrical and elegiac *My Brother's Book* (2013), inspired by his late brother, was published posthumously. Sendak also illustrated a number of adult works, e.g., Melville's *Pierre* (1995).

The musical productions Sendak designed include Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, a musical version of *Where the Wild Things Are*, the Metropolitan Opera's production of Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges* (1985), and the Holocaust-themed *A Selection* (1999), created with the Pilobolus Dance Theater. *Brundibar*, a 1938 children's opera by Hans Krása that was originally performed (1943) in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, was directed and designed by Sendak in 2003, with a libretto by Tony Kushner; the two also penned the picture book *Brundibar* (2003) and then collaborated on a version of Martinů's 1937 opera, *Comedy on the Bridge* (2005). Sendak also was the artistic director of his own theater company, the Night Kitchen.


**APA**

**Chicago**

**Harvard**

**MLA**

APA

Chicago

Harvard

MLA