The Arts in Every Classroom: A Workshop for Elementary School Teachers Handout

Summary of Maurice Sendak's

Where the Wild Things Are

Max puts on a wolf costume and, feeling mischievous, breaks some rules and is sent to bed without supper. From there, his imagination takes over, as a jungle grows in his bedroom, and he goes on a magical journey of (self-)discovery. His wild rumpus continues in the forest and out to sea. Max lands on an island, which is populated by colorful, scary, and somewhat silly monsters. Max tames the wild things by leading them in a wild rumpus — there's howling and dancing and swinging in the trees. But all this excitement makes Max hungry, and he misses his home. He decides to leave and sails back to his room, where his mother has left him his supper, which is still hot.