

## **"WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE" AUDIO ASSIGNMENT**

**STUDENT 1:** A BOOK THAT GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN HAVE LOVED HAS FINALLY ARRIVED IN MOVIE THEATRES AS A FILM. IT'S "WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE," A MUCH ANTICIPATED RELEASE, ALTHOUGH FILM CRITIC [STUDENT 2] SAYS IT HAS NOT BEEN WORTH THE WAIT.

**STUDENT 2:** IT'S PAINFUL TO SAY THIS, BUT MAURICE SENDAK'S BELOVED "WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE" HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A SELF-INDULGENT, CINEMATIC MISFIRE THAT NEITHER PARENTS NOR CHILDREN ARE GOING TO LIKE.

SEDAK'S STORY USES ONLY 10 SENTENCES AND DOESN'T PROVIDE A LOT OF PLOT. TO FILL IN THOSE SPACES, "WILD THINGS" EXPANDS ON THE SULLEN BRATTINESS OF NINE-YEAR-OLD MAX. WE FIRST MEET HIM THROWING TANTRUMS LEFT AND RIGHT. SURE, THOSE QUALITIES ARE PRESENT IN THE BOOK, BUT BLOWING THEM UP THIS WAY TURNS THE FILM INTO A CELEBRATION OF SOME OF THE MOST CHILDISH ASPECTS OF BEING A CHILD.

THEN MAX BITES HIS MOTHER — HARD. TERRIFIED AT THE MESS HE'S GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO, MAX RUNS AWAY AND MAGICALLY ENDS UP ON AN ISLAND WHERE THE WILD THINGS LIVE.

### **(SOUNDBITE #1)**

**STUDENT 1:** THESE CREATURES LOOK GREAT, KIND OF LIKE HIPSTER VERSIONS OF NFL TEAM MASCOTS. BUT ONCE THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTHS, THINGS GO DOWNHILL FAST.

### **(SOUNDBITE #2)**

**STUDENT 1:** SENDAK'S CREATURES HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO NEUROTIC ADULTS WITH DYSFUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

### **(SOUNDBITE #3)**

**STUDENT 2:** TO HEAR THEM TALK AMONG THEMSELVES IS TO FEEL LIKE YOU'VE STUMBLER ONTO A GROUP THERAPY SESSION INVOLVING UNFUNNY REFUGEES FROM AN ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE, WOODY ALLEN MOVIE. SOMETIMES YOU ARE BETTER OFF WITH 10 SENTENCES THAN TENS OF MILLIONS OF HOLLYWOOD DOLLARS, AND "WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE" IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

**STUDENT 1:** [STUDENT 2] REVIEWS MOVIES FOR ROWAN UNIVERSITY NEWS. YOU CAN WATCH CLIPS FROM THE FILM AND READ REVIEWS OF OTHER MOVIES OUT THIS WEEKEND BY GOING TO RU.ORG.

FROM ROWAN UNIVERSITY ONLINE JOURNALISM CLASS. I'M [STUDENT 1].