

Maurice Sendak

Quotes

Children, Book, Kids, Writing, Believe, Thinking, Childhood, Brother, Mother, Parent, Wild Things, Want, People, Mean, World, Artist, Crazy, Beautiful, Art, Father

And it is through fantasy that children achieve catharsis. It is the best means they have for taming Wild Things.

~Maurice Sendak

'Hansel and Gretel' is one of the scariest stories ever written! Psychotic mother; stupid, inane father.

~Maurice Sendak

And the walls became the world all around.

~Maurice Sendak

There must be more to life than having everything.

~Maurice Sendak

I know that if there's a purpose for life, it was for me to hear Mozart.

~Maurice Sendak

'Emeralds,' said the rabbit. 'Emeralds make a lovely gift.'

~Maurice Sendak

Children do live in fantasy and reality; they move back and forth very easily in a way we no longer remember how to do.

~Maurice Sendak

I wish you all good things. Live your life, live your life, live your life.

~Maurice Sendak

A book is really like a lover. It arranges itself in your life in a way that is beautiful.

~Maurice Sendak

And now," cried Max, "let the wild rumpus start!"

~Maurice Sendak

Kids don't know about best sellers. They go for what they enjoy. They aren't star chasers and they don't suck up. It's why I like them.

~Maurice Sendak

There's so much more to a book than just the reading.

~Maurice Sendak

Sipping once, sipping twice, sipping chicken soup with rice.

~Maurice Sendak

Each month is gay, Each season nice, When eating Chicken soup With rice

~Maurice Sendak

And Max, the king of all wild things, was lonely and wanted to be where someone loved him best of all.

~Maurice Sendak

Children are the best living audience in the world because they are so thoroughly honest.

~Maurice Sendak

There should be a place where only the things you want to happen, happen.

~Maurice Sendak

There are so many beautiful things in the world which I will have to leave when I die, but I'm ready, I'm ready, I'm ready.

~Maurice Sendak

I did not know how to paint a mural. I did not know how to prepare the surface. There was nobody from the Renaissance around who could advise me, and I did the best I could.

~Maurice Sendak

Kids tell you what they think, not what they think they should think.

~Maurice Sendak

I've always loved pigs: the shape of them, the look of them, and the fact that they are so intelligent.

~Maurice Sendak

I cry a lot because I miss people. They die and I can't stop them. They leave me and I love them more.

~Maurice Sendak

You cannot write for children They're much too complicated. You can only write books that are of interest to them.

~Maurice Sendak

I write books that seem more suitable for children, and that's OK with me. They are a better audience and tougher critics. Kids tell you what they think, not what they think they should think.

~Maurice Sendak

Oh, please don't go "we'll eat you up" we love you so!

~Maurice Sendak

there is no such thing as fantasy unrelated to reality

~Maurice Sendak

Knowledge is the driving force that puts creative passion to work.

~Maurice Sendak

And the wild things roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth and rolled their terrible eyes and showed their terrible claws.

~Maurice Sendak

Peter Rabbit, for all its gentle tininess, loudly proclaims that no story is

worth the writing, no picture worth the making, if it is not a work of imagination.

~Maurice Sendak

I don't write for children. I write, and somebody says, 'That's for children.'

~Maurice Sendak

Mothers and children are human beings, and they will sometimes do the wrong thing.

~Maurice Sendak

I want to write something so simple, so short and so silly... and I want it to be for my brother.

~Maurice Sendak

It's only adults who read the top layers most of the time. I think children read the internal meanings of everything.

~Maurice Sendak

If children are different from us, they are more spontaneous. Grown-up lives have become overlaid with dross.

~Maurice Sendak

I have to accept my role. I will never kill myself like Vincent Van Gogh. Nor will I paint beautiful water lilies like Monet. I can't do that. I'm in the idiot role of being a kiddie book person.

~Maurice Sendak

Parents shouldn't assume children are made out of sugar candy and will break and collapse instantly. Kids don't. We do.

~Maurice Sendak

I adored Mickey Mouse when I was a child. He was the emblem of

happiness and funniness.

~Maurice Sendak

I don't believe in an afterlife but I still fully expect to see my brother again.

~Maurice Sendak

I know there are supposedly happy people in this world. I never believed it, but I take it for granted. God knows, they're all on television.

~Maurice Sendak

I often went to bed without supper cause I hated my mother's cooking. So, to go to bed without supper was not a torture to me. If she was gonna hurt me, she'd make me eat.

~Maurice Sendak

Girls are infinitely more complicated than boys, and women more than men.

~Maurice Sendak

I refuse to cater to the bullshit of innocence.

~Maurice Sendak

That's what art is. You don't make up stories. You live your life.

~Maurice Sendak

I'm not Hans Christian Andersen. Nobody's gonna make a statue in the park with a lot of scrambling kids climbing up me. I won't have it, okay?

~Maurice Sendak

Children surviving childhood is my obsessive theme and my life's concern.

~Maurice Sendak

I hate those e-books. They can not be the future... they may well be... I will be dead.

~Maurice Sendak

When Mozart is playing in my room, I am in conjunction with something I can't explain... I don't need to. I know that if there's a purpose for life, it was for me to hear Mozart.

~Maurice Sendak

And [he] 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

~Maurice Sendak

Inside all of us is... hope. Inside all of us is... fear. Inside all of us is... adventure. Inside all of us is a wild thing.

~Maurice Sendak

To be a healthy person, you have to be sympathetic to the child you once were and maintain the continuity between you as a child and you as an adult.

~Maurice Sendak

I can't believe I've turned into a typical old man. I can't believe it. I was young just minutes ago.

~Maurice Sendak

Then from far away across the world he smelled good things to eat, so he gave up being king of the wild things.

~Maurice Sendak

I hate [ebooks]. It's like making believe there's another kind of sex. There isn't another kind of sex. There isn't another kind of book! A book is a book is a book.

~Maurice Sendak

It is a blessing to get old. It is a blessing to find the time to do the things, to read the books, to listen to the music. I have nothing now but praise for my life.

~Maurice Sendak

I hate, loathe and despise schools. School is bad for you if you have any talent. You should be cultivating that talent in your own particular way.

~Maurice Sendak

Childhood is a tricky business. Usually, something goes wrong.

~Maurice Sendak

I stress character, character, character.

~Maurice Sendak

Bumble-Ardy looks like a happy book. That's the funniest thing about it. But this was survival. I was working very hard to survive.

~Maurice Sendak

My life in Brooklyn was in constant danger because of my bad health.

~Maurice Sendak

My father could be very witty, even if the humor was always on the darker side of irony.

~Maurice Sendak

I never spent less than two years on the text of one of my picture books, even though each of them is approximately 380 words long. Only when the text is finished ... do I begin the pictures.

~Maurice Sendak

Kids lead a very private life.

~Maurice Sendak

I never can satisfy some need in me to achieve something of incredible height. For my sake. It puzzles me deeply. And it sours my life. So there is a permanent dissatisfaction.

~Maurice Sendak

I think people should be given a test much like driver's tests as to whether they're capable of being parents!

~Maurice Sendak

How do you write for children? I really have never figured that out. So I decided to just ignore it

~Maurice Sendak

Newt Gingrich is an idiot of great renown... There's something so hopelessly gross and vile about him it's hard to take him seriously.

~Maurice Sendak

I want to see me to the end working, living for myself. Ripeness is all.

~Maurice Sendak

You can start making up any kind of story if you want to.

~Maurice Sendak

The magic of childhood is the strangeness of childhood — the uniqueness that makes us see things that other people don't see.

~Maurice Sendak

We've educated children to think spontaneity is inappropriate.

~Maurice Sendak

What is the point of it all? Not leaving legacies. But being ripe. Being ripe.

~Maurice Sendak

When you hide another story in a story, that's the story I am telling the children.

~Maurice Sendak

Because love is so enormous, the only thing you can think of doing is swallowing the person that you love entirely.

~Maurice Sendak

Life has only gotten better personally for me as I've gotten older. I mean, being young was such a gross waste of time. I was just such a miserable, miserable person.

~Maurice Sendak

I remember my own childhood vividly...I knew terrible things. But I knew I mustn't let adults know I knew. It would scare them

~Maurice Sendak

Truthfulness to life-both fantasy life and factual life-is the basis of all great art.

~Maurice Sendak

The fan mail I get from kids are asking me questions which they do not ask their mothers and fathers. Because if they had, why write to me, a perfect stranger?

~Maurice Sendak

I'm not jaded. I never have been jaded. I've always been surprised at my success. I've always enjoyed it.

~Maurice Sendak

I want to be free again. I want to be free like when I was a kid, working with my brother and making toy airplanes and a whole model of the

World's Fair in 1939 out of wax.

~Maurice Sendak

My big concern is me and what do I do now until the time of my death. That is valid. That is useful. That is beautiful. That is creative.

~Maurice Sendak

I thought that if I were going into old age I would want to do what [Giuseppe] Verdi did, which is to write extraordinary things, and to really find myself.

~Maurice Sendak

I had been reading a fabulous book [The Man Verdi, by Frank Walker] about [Giuseppe] Verdi, whom I adore.

~Maurice Sendak

Venturing back further, learning is so slow. Accomplishment is so slow. Experiencing and evaluating your experience is so slow.

~Maurice Sendak

I really don't like the city anymore. You get pushed and harassed and people grope you. It's too tumultuous. It's too crazy.

~Maurice Sendak

Art has always been my salvation.

~Maurice Sendak

I don't believe in things literally for children. That's a reduction.

~Maurice Sendak

I became a set designer for opera. I'm a great opera buff, I love classical music, and I needed a time-out.

~Maurice Sendak

I do not remember any proper children's books in my childhood. I was not exposed to them.

~Maurice Sendak

I don't know how to write a children's book.

~Maurice Sendak

I wanted to be acknowledged as an artist, not just some kiddie-book artist.

~Maurice Sendak

I grew up in a house that was in a constant state of mourning.

~Maurice Sendak

There's a mystery there, a clue, a nut, a bolt, and if I put it together, I find me.

~Maurice Sendak

My brother, who was older, was the gifted one, much more talented than I.

~Maurice Sendak

You don't want to do something that's all terrifying.

~Maurice Sendak

There's something in this country that is so opposed to understanding the complexity of children.

~Maurice Sendak

There are certain pieces of music that are always attached to certain books.

~Maurice Sendak

My father belonged to a Jewish social club.

~Maurice Sendak

I remember how much - when I was a small boy I was taken to see a version of 'Peter Pan.' I detested it. I mean, the sentimental idea that anybody would want to remain a boy.

~Maurice Sendak

To get a child's trust - you may know or not - is a very hard thing to do. They're so used to not believing adults - because adults tell tales and lies all the time.

~Maurice Sendak

Childhood is cannibals and psychotics vomiting in your mouth!

~Maurice Sendak

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