

# Early Life

- Born June 10, 1928
- Polish, born and raised in Brooklyn
- Jewish immigrants
- 2 older siblings
- Father blamed Sendak for loss of everything from 1929 crash

# Childhood

- Sendak's family spent most of their time and savings trying to bring their family over from Poland
- Only his mother's family made it
- Felt as though never had a childhood
- Life was a constant reminder that he was lucky to be alive

# The Monsters

- Sundays were spent with many relatives, with funny faces, and accents who were large in size
- Never wanted to grow up yet never wanted to stay a kid
- Death

# Development of an Artist

- When younger, spent hours drawing with older brother Jack who became an author
- Started painting FAO Schwartz store fronts
- Befriends Ursula Nordstrom

# Style

- Success didn't come as quickly as wanted, but did what loved
- Own style made of past experiences and music

# Influences

- Etchings from Grimm brothers' works
- The Holocaust
- Music
  - Mahler

# Therapy

- Writing and illustrating were a form of therapy for Sendak
  - Allowed him to express suppressed emotions
  - Gave him a way of coping with events
    - Jennie's death: *Must Be More To Life*
    - Father's death: *In the Night Kitchen*
    - Eugene's Illness: *Bumble-Ardy*
    - Holocaust: *Brundibar* (Opera, 2003, Tony Kushner)

# *Bumble-Ardy*

- Wrote while Eugene (Dr. Eugene Glynn) was ill
- Sendack wrote *Bumble-Ardy* to keep himself alive
- Illustrations brighter and more lively
- Emphasis of Noses
- Ode to staying in the present, nothing changes



# Media

- Pen and Ink
- Would later go on to use paint but pen and ink stuck to etchings

# Importance

- Gothic art
- “Wrenched the picture book out of the safe, sanitized world of the nursery and plunged it into the dark, terrifying and hauntingly beautiful recesses of the human psyche” – Margalit Fox, *NYT Obituary*
- Imagination is everything

# Awards & Honors

- Numerous....
  - Caldecott Award
  - Newberry Medal
  - Hans Christen Andersen Award
  - Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
  - National Book Award
  - National Medal of the Arts

# Maurice Sendak

June 10, 1928- May 8, 2012