

Where the Wild Things are Story Activities

Draw a Wild Thing: Fold a piece of A4 paper three times into a concertina shape and split your class into groups of three. Then ask one person in each group to draw the head of a monster on the first section of the paper, ask them to make it as fantastical as they can. Then fold the paper so the drawing is no longer visible and ask the next child to draw the monsters body. Finally ask the last child to draw the monsters feet and then unfold the paper to find out what their monster looks like.

Fill in the Blanks: During the middle of the book Max calls for a 'Wild Rumpus', in which all the Wild Things dance and have fun. These pages have been left blank by the author and only contain images, ask the children to think about the words they would've put there if they had written the book.

Emotional Storyboard: Read through the story again and ask the children to identify the different emotions that are featured in the story. How does Max feel when he is sent to bed without any dinner? How do the Wild Things feel when they meet Max? How does Max feel when all the Wild Things have gone to sleep? Once you have identified the different emotions in the story then you can put them together into a storyboard of events, showing how each scene affected the characters feelings.

Drawing Emotions: Leading on from the last exercise, you could then ask the children to draw how they think different emotions would look. What colour is sadness? How big is anger? Does happiness have a name?

We're Going on a Monster Hunt: This activity is very similar to 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and has lots of actions to learn and join in with, just like the original story. You can find the poem here.

Wild Cooking: Towards the end of the story Max becomes homesick, but the final thing that makes him decide to leave is the smell of his Mum's cooking!

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

Discuss with the children what their favourite food is and whether they would be willing to give up being king to eat it. This could then lead on to cooking the children's favourite food or trying to recreate the faces of the Wild Things during snack time.

Hairy Wild Things: Bring in some Styrofoam cups and ask each child to draw what they think a Wild Thing would look like on to it. Then fill the cup with soil, sprinkle in a few cress seeds and wait for the monsters hair to grow. The children can even have cress on their sandwiches once it has finished growing.

