

The Art of Maurice Sendak

Cover: from Where the Wild Things Are. 1963. Pen-and-ink line and watercolor. 9 x 19 1/4"

Title page: from the animated film Really Rosie, starring the Nutshell Kids. 1975. Pencil and tempera. 10 1/4 x 38 1/8"

Table of Contents: from Lullabies and Night Songs. 1965. Pen-and-ink line and watercolor. 1 1/8 x 7 1/4"

Endpapers: act curtain design for the opera version of Where the Wild Things Are. 1979. Pen-and-ink line and watercolor. Approx. 7 x 9 1/4"

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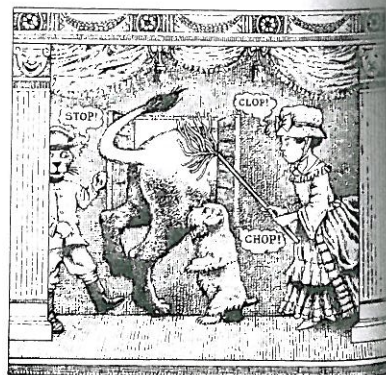
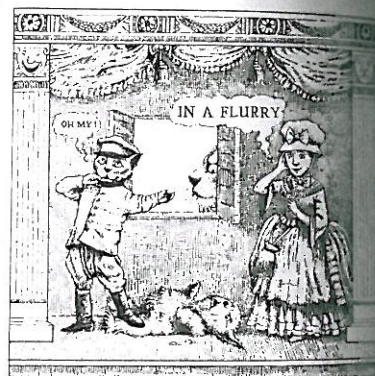
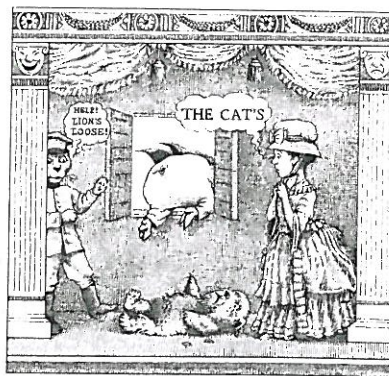
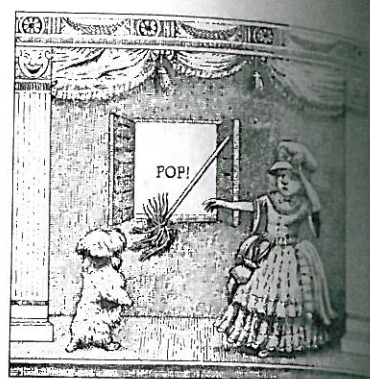
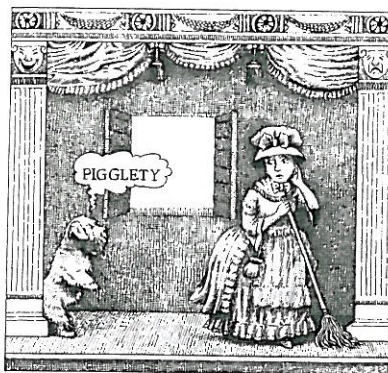
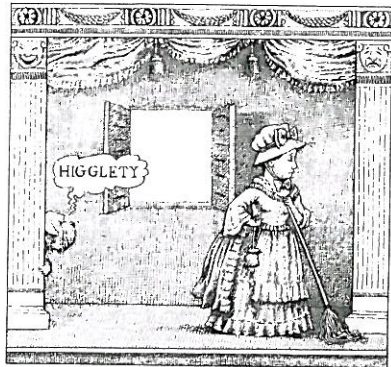
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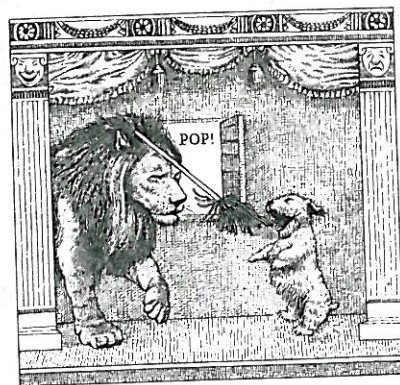
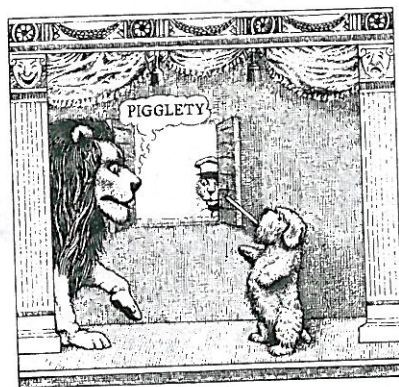
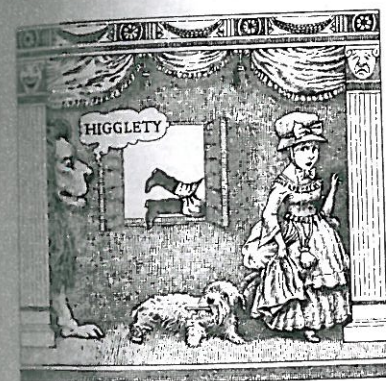
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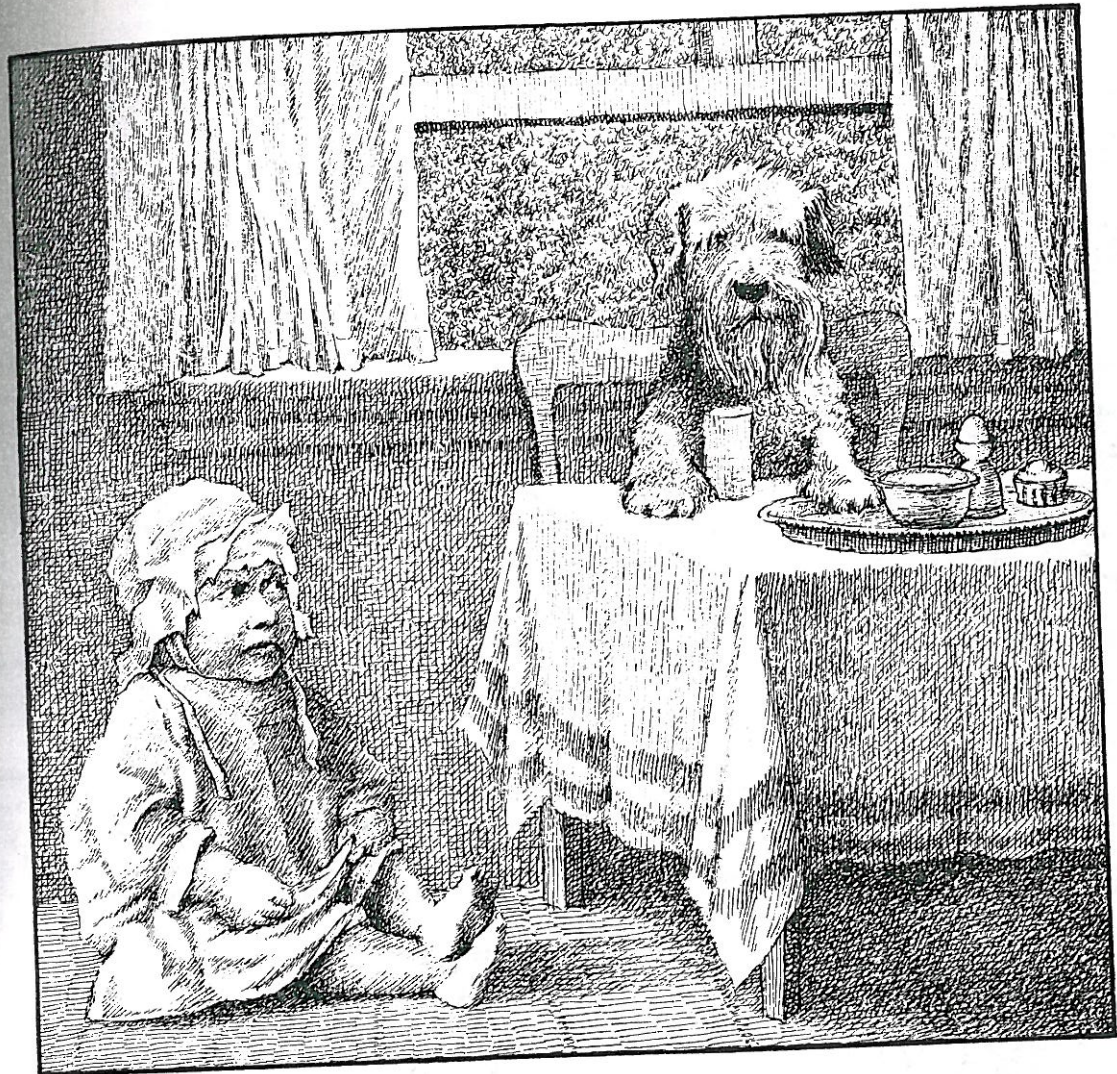
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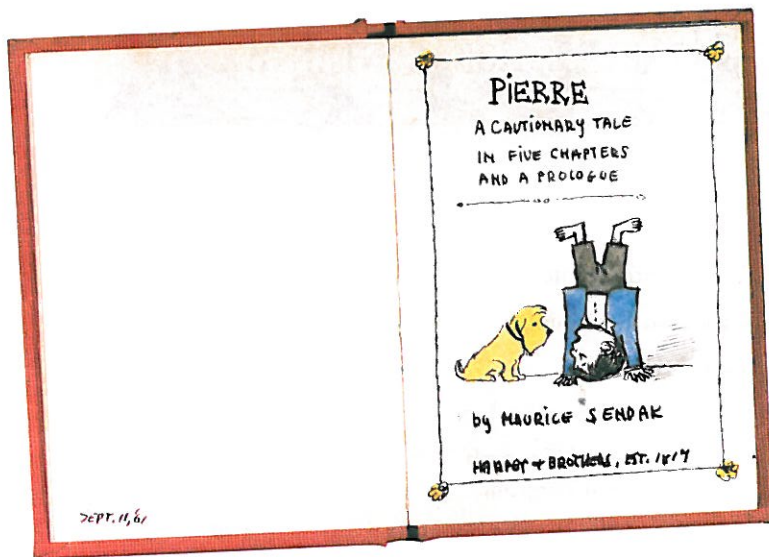




*The World Mother Goose Theatre production, from
Higglety Pigglety Pop!. 1967. Pen-and-ink line.
Each frame 4 1/8 x 4 7/16"*







Opposite: working dummy for *Alligators All Around*. Around. 1961. Pen-and-ink line and watercolor. 10½ x 9". Above: title pages from dummy for *Pierre*. 1961. Pen-and-ink line and watercolor. 3½ x 5"

parents' permission to use the text for "a very little book." But by the time she had written to the teacher, Alice was no longer in the class and couldn't be located. The project was thus abandoned, "but the idea of a little book remained in our heads in the children's department," Miss Nordstrom recalls. "One day I told the story to Maurice, and he was taken with the notion of trying a miniature-size volume, with story to match. The result, of course, was more wonderful than anything we could have imagined, and it was Ferdinand Monjo, another Harper editor at the time, who thought of the inspired overall title *The Nutshell Library*."

Quintessentially Sendak, *Alligators All Around* finds an amiable family of three alligators journeying joyously from A to Z. Whether "D doing dishes," "R riding reindeer," or "X x-ing x's," they are single-mindedly devoted to the activity at hand, encouraging the young listener/viewer to learn each alliterative alphabetical label. Effortless as the little book seems, it went through a number of drafts. The alligators started their literary life as a family of apes in Sendak's first version. Says the author, "The least important aspect of *Alligators* is that it is an alphabet. I wanted to see how much I could get away with in a form that is so fixed and