

# 'Where the Wild Things Are' dance

Invite your class to participate in an exciting dance sequence based around Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* with these instructions.

**Suggested music:** *Job – A Masque for Dancing* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Use Scene IV, 'Job's Dream', 'Dance of Plague, Pestilence, Famine and Battle' followed by the beginning of Scene V, 'Dance of the Messengers'.

- Six children lie very still on the floor in a rectangle shape to represent a **bed**.
- (*'Job's Dream' music starts.*) **Max** slowly enters and walks around, head hanging. He steps into the **bed** and goes to sleep.
- After a slight pause, the rest of the class enter from all sides as a **forest**. The **forest** starts to slowly grow and surround the **bed**.
- **Max** wakes, sits up and watches as the **forest** grows.
- The **bed** smoothly transforms into a **boat** (ends pointed) and the **forest** transforms into **waves**.
- **Max** steps out of **boat** and the **waves** fade away in all directions.
- (*'Dance of Plague, Pestilence, Famine and Battle' starts.*)
- Nine **wild things** enter, roar (in mime), gnash teeth, roll eyes, claw air and surround **Max**.
- **Max** points, indicating 'be still'.
- The **wild things** form a semi-circular line and bow to **Max**.
- **Max** divides them into three groups.
- The first **group** performs a wild dance to him, then the second, then the third, then all together (*there are four sections of 'wild' music to suggest this*).
- At the three loud brass blasts, **Max** points three times to the first **group** – they run away.
- Three more loud brass blasts – **Max** points to the second **group** who run away.
- Third set of blasts – **Max** points to the third **group**, who run away.
- The six '**bed/boat**' children resume the **boat** shape, the rest of the class become a **wild sea** around it. **Max** gets into the **boat**. After the last big 'wave' in the music, all **waves** fade away to sides.
- (*'Dance of the Messengers' music starts.*) **Max** steps out of the **boat**. It transforms smoothly back into a **bed**.
- He walks, bewildered, around his bedroom, staring.
- He shrugs, gets into bed, eats his supper, then lies down and goes to sleep. (*Fade music down to end.*)