Maurice Sendak is widely recognised as an outstanding children's author, but he is more than that. He is an artist whose flair for visual storytelling is almost unmatched today. Jonathan Jones pays tribute. Why does a Polish Jewish American want to revisit German culture, anyway? All this becomes clearer in Sendak's 1988 book Dear Mili, in which he uses the style of Outside Over There to illustrate a story by Wilhelm Grimm. The story is about a girl who is sent into the woods to hide from an approaching war - Germany's Thirty Years War. She survives at strange and terrible cost. Maurice Sendak's work is indicative of Jewish literature after the Holocaust. The Jewish identity presented in the works of Sendak is one of compromise, of combining Jewish and gentile sources, of taking the images of oppression to create an easily recognizable visual vocabulary. What we see in Sendak's work is the Jewish people taking a variety of resources to create an identity after the destruction of a culture.