

THE BAT-POET



By Randall Jarrell & Maurice Sendak

Included in the exhibit is a recording of *The Bat-Poet*, read by the author himself, reflecting the story's lyricism and poetic nature. Also of note, is a handwritten letter from Maurice Sendak with the greeting "Dear Bat Poet & Wife" (Randall and Mary Jarrell) and an illustration of a bat for the signature.

The Bat-Poet is a story by Randall Jarrell, with illustrations crafted by Maurice Sendak. It is a heartfelt children's book from 1963 that is still remembered today. It chronicles the experiences of a bat that wakes during the day and writes poems about the strange world that he becomes aware of.

Following Randall Jarrell's death, his wife recounted him once saying "*The Bat-Poet* was a story half for children and half for grown-ups and that makes for a book as peculiar among books as bats are among animals, and poets are among people."

Jarrell, Randall. 1963. *The Bat-Poet*. Illustrated by Maurice Sendak. New York: The Macmillan Company.