

2015 Poetry Month Event Kit

Featuring activities and fun from
these Shel Silverstein classics:
Falling Up Special Edition
Runny Babbit 10th Anniversary Edition

Everything you need for Poetry Month celebrations!

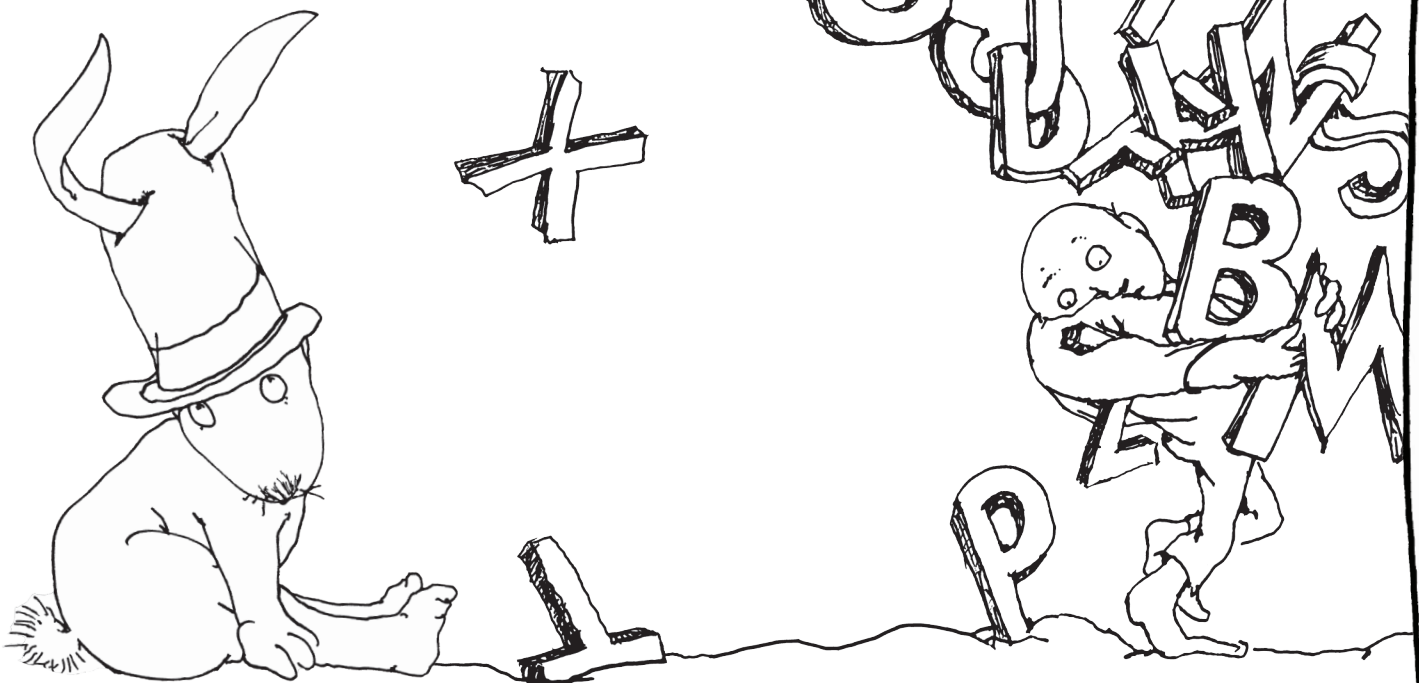
2015 Poetry Month Event Kit

Dear Reader,

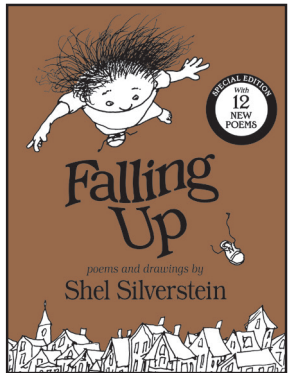
Celebrate Shel Silverstein with special editions of two poetry classics: *Falling Up Special Edition*, with 12 never-before-published poems, and the 10th anniversary edition of *Runny Babbit*.

Inside this kit, you'll celebrate Poetry Month with activities for use in the classroom, library, bookstore, or home, featuring the wonderful cast of characters in *Falling Up Special Edition* and *Runny Babbit*. You'll meet the Monkey, have some fun with Headphone Harold, get silly with spoonerisms with Runny Babbit and his friends, and much more. Be sure to look out for the helpful reminders from Runny along the way!

Use this kit to laugh and learn with poetry during National Poetry Month in April or anytime during the year.

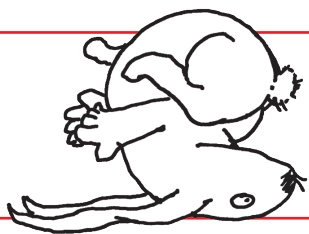


Invention Inspiration



In “Rainglasses,” Shel Silverstein assumes that if sunglasses keep out the sun, then rainglasses should keep out the rain, and reimagines a pair of glasses with windshield wipers. If you could transform an ordinary object into something extraordinary, what would YOU invent? Draw your invention in the space below and then write a two-line poem describing your creation.

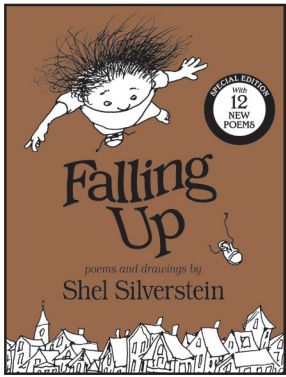




RUNNY'S RITTLE LEMINDER:

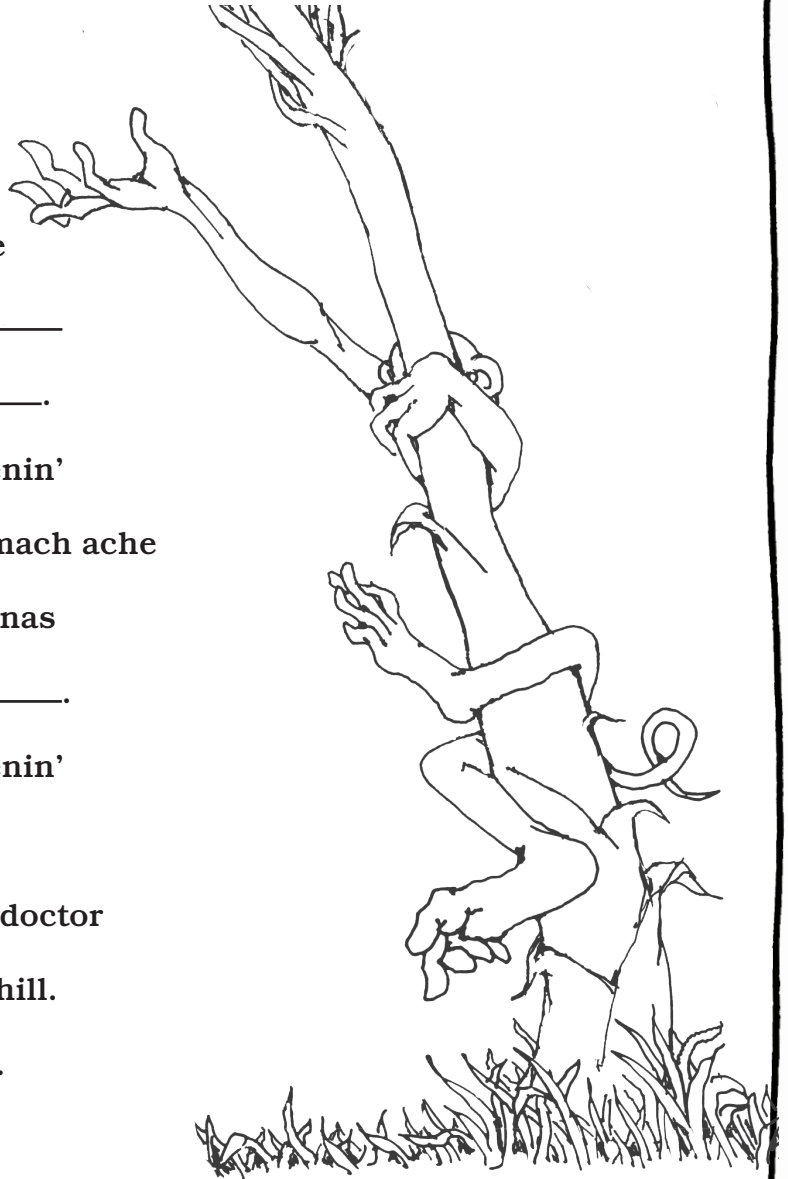
If you need some inspiration, think of the items around your house that you use every day.

Monkeying Around



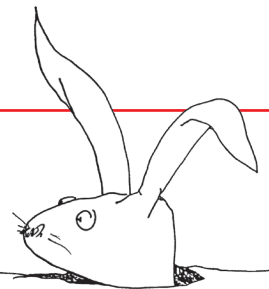
Shel uses a clever play on words in the poem “The Monkey” from *Falling Up* by using numbers in place of words, but many of the numbers only *sound* like the word Shel means. Can you guess the actual word the numeral represents in the poem? Write the word in the space next to the number in the poem below. Be sure to read the poem aloud when you’re finished!

1 _____ little monkey
Was goin’ 2 _____ the store
When he saw a banana 3 _____
He’d never climbed be4 _____.
By 5 _____ o’clock that evenin’
He was 6 _____ with a stomach ache
`Cause 7 _____ green bananas
Was what that monkey 8 _____.
By 9 _____ o’clock that evenin’
That monkey was quite ill,
So 10 _____ we called the doctor
Who was 11 _____ on the hill.
The doctor said, “You’re almost dead.
Don’t eat green bananas no more.”
The sick little monkey groaned and said,
“But *that’s* what I 1-2 _____ the 3-4 _____.”



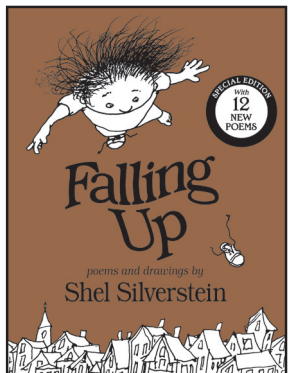
RUNNY'S RITTLE LEMINDER:

Some of the numerals stand for the actual numbers they represent; while some stand for similar-sounding words.



Answer Key: 1: one; 2: two; 3: tree; 4: before; 5: five; 6: sick; 7: seven; 8: ate; 9: nine; 10: then; 11: a-ll-in; 1-2: went to; 3-4: tree for

Animal Behavior



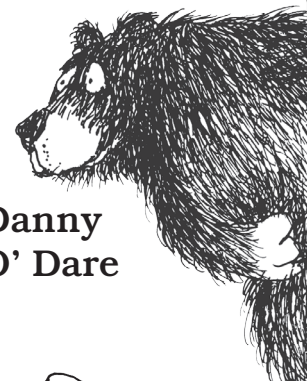
Shel writes about many zany creatures in *Falling Up*, but can you name them all? Read the excerpts from the poems below and match the poem with the illustration of the animal it describes. Which character is your favorite, and why?

1. He started jumpin' and skippin' and kickin',
He did a dance called the Funky Chicken,
He did the Polka, he did the Twist,
He bent himself into a pretzel like this.



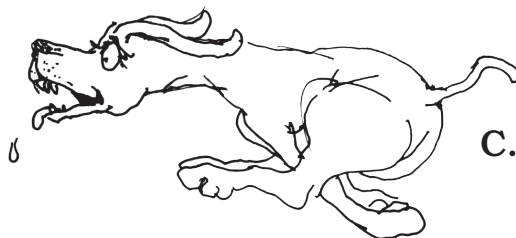
A. Weird-Bird

2. He says, "It's not that I like ice
Or freezin' winds and snowy ground.
It's just sometimes it's kind of nice
To be the only bird in town."



B. Danny O' Dare

3. And when you feel like dancin',
You simply shake a hoof
And hop on the top of your little hut
On your leafy kangarooof. . . .



C. Christmas Dog

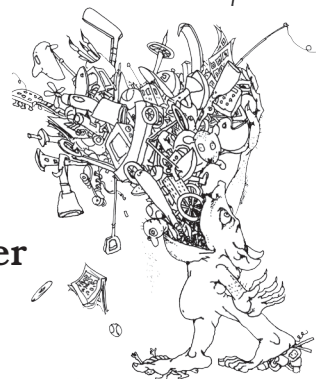
4. And who will comb his tail,
And who will shine his long sharp quills
And manicure his nails?

D. Kanga Ruby



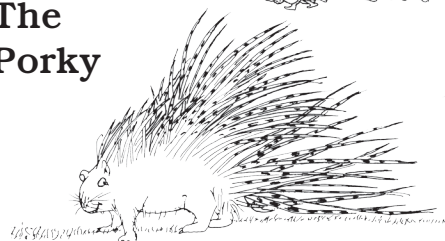
5. He'll crunch all your soldiers, he'll munch on your trucks,
He'll chew your poor puppets to shreds,
He'll swallow your Big Wheel and slurp up your paints
And bite off your dear dollies' heads.

E. The Toy Eater



6. I'm barkin', I'm growlin', I'm bitin' his butt.
He howls and jumps back in his sleigh.
I scare his strange horses, they leap in the air.
I've frightened the whole bunch away.

F. The Porky

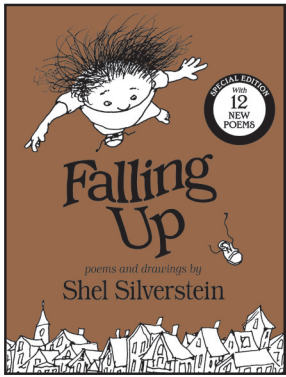


RUNNY'S RITTLE LEMINDER:

The poems contain key words and context clues that describe each character—be sure to read them carefully!

Answer Key: 1: B; 2: A; 3: D; 4: F; 5: E; 6: C

Word-Lib Wonder



Now that you've read Shel's poems in *Falling Up*, it's time to put your vocabulary and poetry writing skills to the test! Write your own version of "Headphone Harold" by filling in the blanks in the poem below with a noun, verb, or adjective. Be creative—the sillier the better! Don't forget to share and read aloud your poem when you're finished.

HEADPHONE HAROLD

Headphone Harold wore his _____
NOUN

Through the _____ and through the day.
NOUN

He said, "I'd rather _____ my music
VERB

Than the _____ things people say."
ADJECTIVE

In the city's honkin' _____,
NOUN

He heard trumpets 'stead of trucks.

Down the quiet country back roads

He _____ drums instead of ducks.
VERB

Through the patterin' springtime _____
NOUN

He heard _____ instead of _____.
NOUN NOUN

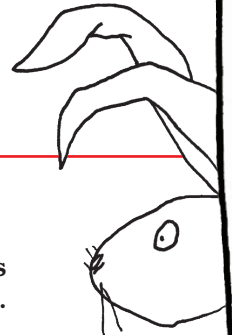
Down the track at the railroad crossin'

He _____ the trombones—not the
VERB

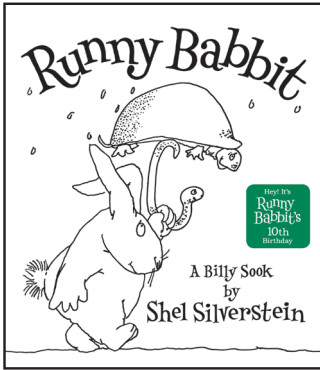
NOUN

RUNNY'S RITTLE LEMINDER:

Nouns are people, places, or things;
verbs are action words; and adjectives
are words that describe another word.



Runny's Spoonerism Solver

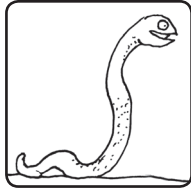


How well do you know Runny Babbit and his friends? In *Runny Babbit*, Shel uses spoonerisms, deliberate plays on words in which corresponding letters are switched between two words in a phrase.

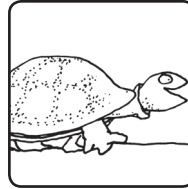
Unscramble the names of Runny's friends in the clues below, then write each name on the line provided.



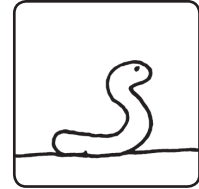
Millie Woose



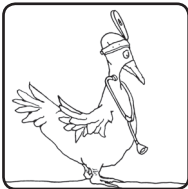
Snerry Jake



Toe Jurtle



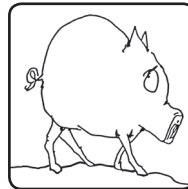
Wormy Squirm



Goctor Doose



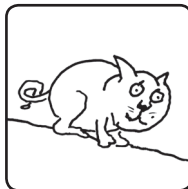
Skertie Gunk



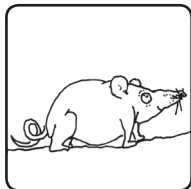
Ploppy Sig



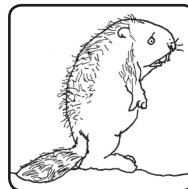
Gilip Phiraffe



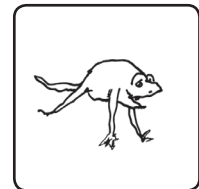
Kittle Litten



Rirty Dat



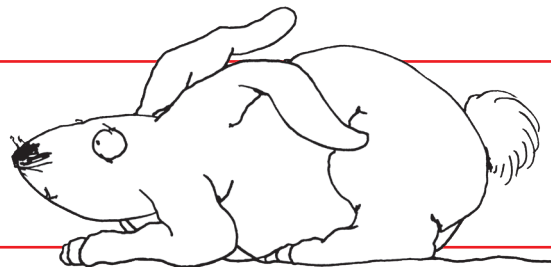
Batty Meaver



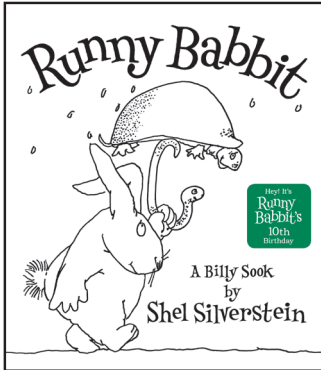
Franny Fog

RUNNY'S RITTLE LEMINDER:

If you get stumped on a word, use the illustrations as a hint as you decode the names.



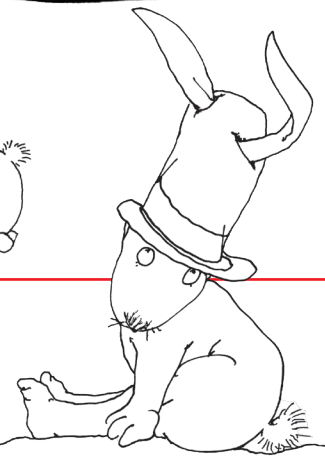
Runny's Name Tag



What would YOUR name look like as a spoonerism? Write your name (first and last) in *Runny Babbit* style on the name tag below. Then color and decorate your name tag and, with a grown-up's help, cut out along the line and affix to your shirt with a piece of tape.

Bonus fun! Parents, teachers, librarians, and booksellers: If you're doing this activity with a group of kids, compile all the name tags when finished and tape or glue them together for a spoonerism art piece to display in your home, classroom, library, or bookstore.

My name is . . .



RUNNY'S RITTLE LEMINDER:

Use your imagination to decorate your name tag, and always ask a grown-up for help when using scissors!