

Poetry Month

2010

Event
Kit

Shel SilversteinTM

HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

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Poetry Month²⁰¹⁰ Event Kit

Dear Readers,

Celebrate National Poetry Month 2010 with the zany, wild, and very creative world of Shel Silverstein! From his cherished characters like Runny Babbit, The Missing Piece and Giraffe and a Half to unexpected surprises in the poems “The Gletcher” and “Overdues,” there are tons of ways to learn and celebrate using Shel Silverstein’s works.

Whether you’re in a classroom, a library or a bookstore, or at home, you can use the following reproducible activities to bring poetry to life and teach children about exploring the language of poetry.

Have fun!

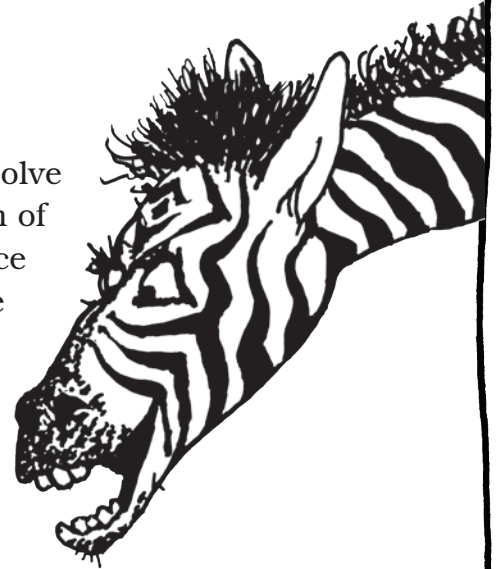
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Celebrate with Code-Doku!

Code-doku is a popular game based on numerical Sudoku puzzles. Instead of solving a grid with the numbers 1-9, Code-doku uses letters. When you solve the puzzle, you reveal a secret message! Place each of the letters S, W, A, N, H, E, L, R, and D exactly once in each row, column, and 3x3 box. When you have completed the puzzle, the shaded squares can be read left to right, from top to bottom to form a phrase answering this question:



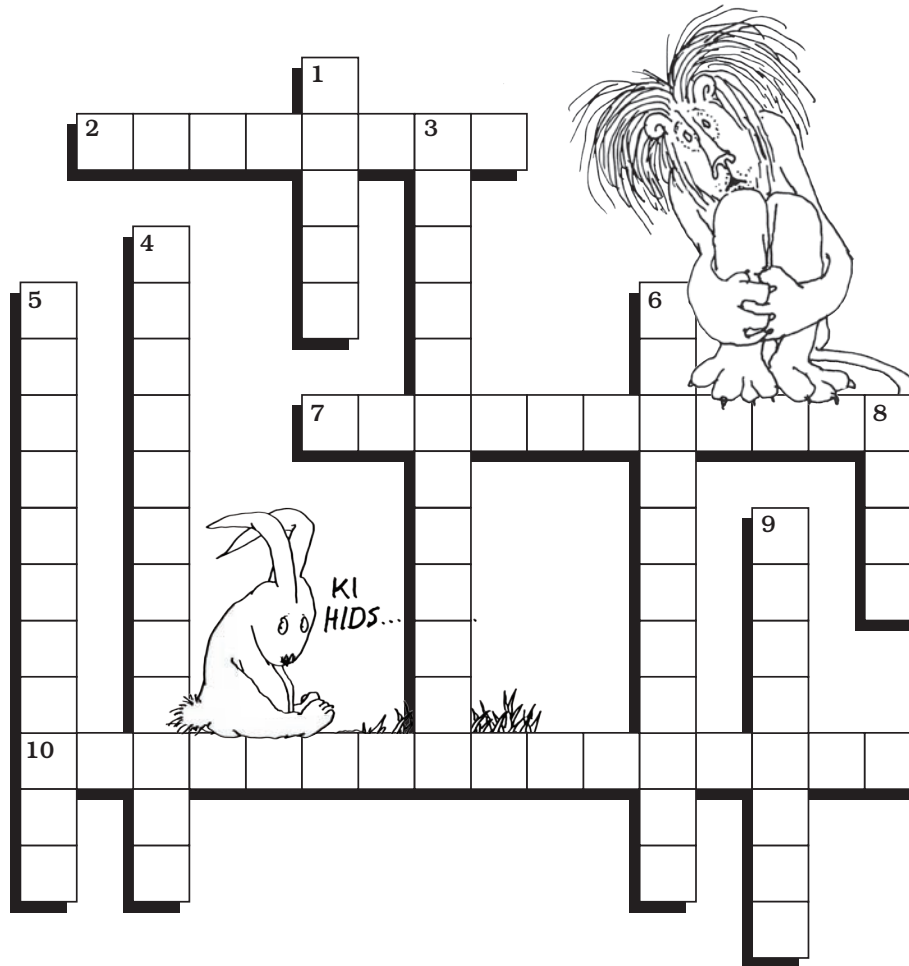
How do we celebrate poetry month?

(Answers on final page)

	S		W	R		L		
	N	E				H		
L	R		H					D
		R		L			D	
		L				N		
	H			W		E		
A					L		N	S
		D				W	A	
		S		D	W		L	

Cherished Characters Crossword

Below is a crossword puzzle containing the names of some of Shel Silverstein's cherished characters. Read each quote in the clue section. When you know which character a specific quote is describing, write that character's name, one letter per box, in the corresponding spaces. Omit any spaces in the character's name.



ACROSS

2. "Ickle Me, __ __, Tickle Me too / Went for a ride in a flying shoe."
7. "If you say, 'Let's bead a rook / That's billy as can se,' / You're talkin' __ __ talk, / Just like mim and he."
10. "If you had a giraffe and he stretched another half, you would have __ __ __ __."

(Answers on final page)

DOWN

1. "A warning for those who chance to meet a wild __ coming home late at night, down a dark street."
3. "The __ __ sat alone... waiting for someone to come along and take it somewhere."
4. " __ __ he rides like the wind / Don't know where he's going but sees where he's been."
5. " __ __ __, / With your chin in your hand, / Haven't you ever been pleased?"
6. "Me who? / Yes, exactly! / Exactly what? / Yes, I have an __ on a chain?"
8. "Once there was a __ ... and she loved a little boy."
9. "'Make up your mind,' they all said together, and poor __ the Great, he couldn't make up his mind; he wasn't really a lion anymore and he certainly wasn't really a man."

The Five W's

In stories and poems, the Five W's are the basic pieces of information that the reader needs to know. Look at the chart below describing the Five W's. Then read **THE MISSING PIECE**. After you've finished the story, see if you can answer each of the W's.

The Five W's:

Who? Who is the story about?
What? What happens in the story?
Where? Where does the story take place?
When? When does the story take place?
Why? Why does the story happen?

The Five W's in **THE MISSING PIECE**:

Who? _____
What? _____
Where? _____
When? _____
Why? _____

After reading and thinking about **THE MISSING PIECE**, write your own poem using the Five W's on the lines below. Once you have your 5 W's, place a piece of paper over the instructions on the left and read the poem you've created.

Write Your Own 5 W Poem

Line One: **Who?** _____
Line Two: **What?** _____
Line Three: **Where?** _____
Line Four: **When?** _____
Line Five: **Why?** _____

Perform a Poem



Bringing poetry to life for an audience can be fun and exciting! Read the two poems below from *Runny Babbit* and *A Light in the Attic* aloud with emotion and actions. Stage directions are offered in italics for each poem. Have friends or family members act while you read, or memorize the poem and perform a monologue!

RUNNY HETS GANDSOME

Read:

Runny bought a wurly cig —————→
And tuck it on with star. —————→
Runny thought, "Now I look like —————→
A handsome stovie mar."
But the tair it got all hangled —————→
In the twicket and the thighs.
Runny said, "I guess some folks —————→
Just don't look wood in gigs."

Act:

Twirl your finger in the air or in your hair.

Pretend to stick something on your head.

Act like you are someone famous.

Grab at your hair or head in confusion.

Shrug your shoulders.

Take a bow!

LITTLE ABIGAIL AND THE BEAUTIFUL PONY

Read:

There was a girl named Abigail
Who was taking a drive —————→
Through the country
With her parents
When she spied a beautiful sad-eyed —————→
Grey and white pony.
And next to it was a sign
That said,
FOR SALE—CHEAP. —————→
"Oh," said Abigail,
"May I have that pony? —————→
May I please?"

Act:

Pretend to steer a steering wheel.

Put your hand above your eyes as if looking into the distance.

Make a prop sign in advance and hold it up now.

Point at another actor playing pony or at an imaginary pony.

(Continued on next page)

Perform a Poem

(Continued)

Read:

And her parents said,

"No you may not."

And Abigail said,

"But I MUST have that pony."

And her parents said,

"Well, you can't have that pony,

But you can have a nice butter pecan

Ice cream cone when we get home."

And Abigail said,

"I don't want a butter pecan

Ice cream cone,

I WANT THAT PONY—

I MUST HAVE THAT PONY."

And her parents said,

"Be quiet and stop nagging—

You're *not* getting that pony."

And Abigail began to cry and said,

"If I don't get that pony I'll die."

And her parents said, "You won't die.

No child ever died yet from not getting a pony."

And Abigail felt so bad

That when they got home she went to bed,

And she couldn't eat,

And she couldn't sleep,

And her heart was broken,

And she DID die—

All because of a pony

That her parents wouldn't buy.

(This is a good story

To read to your folks

When they won't buy

You something you want.)

Act:

Shake your finger and head back and forth.

Stomp your foot on the ground.

Pretend to lick an ice cream cone.

Shake your head back and forth.

Stomp your feet and point toward the pony.

Put one finger on your lips in a sign of "Shhh."

Wipe your eyes as if you are crying.

Throw your head and arms back.

Put your hands under your head and keep your eyes wide open.

Put your hands over your heart.

Take a bow!



Share a Word Lib

A Quick Review:

Noun:

the name of a person, place, or thing

Adjective:

describes someone or something

Verb:

an action word

The fun of word libs is to create a hilarious poem using word substitutions. In the poem below from **Falling Up** words have been removed and descriptions are accompanied by blank spaces. Ask a friend to give you words that match each description (without seeing the poem). When you have finished filling in the blanks, read the completed hilarious poem aloud.

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE

_____ said, "How do you get to _____?"
(friend's name) (place)

I said, "By _____," and _____ smiled.
(mode of transportation) (same friend's name)

"When I was your age," _____ said,
(same friend's name)

"I _____ it barefoot—_____ miles."
(verb ending in -ed) (number greater than one)

_____ said, "How much weight can you tote?"
(same friend's name)

I said, "One bag of _____." _____ laughed.
(noun) (same friend's name)

"When I was your age," _____ said,
(same friend's Name)

"I could drive a _____—and lift a _____."
(mode of transportation) (noun)

_____ said, "How many fights have you had?"
(same friend's name)

I said, "_____—and both times I got whipped."
(number)

"When I was your age," _____ said,
(same friend's name)

"I fought every day—and was *never* licked."

_____ said, "How old are you?"
(same friend's name)

I said, "_____, " and then
(number)

_____ puffed out his chest and said,
(same friend's name)

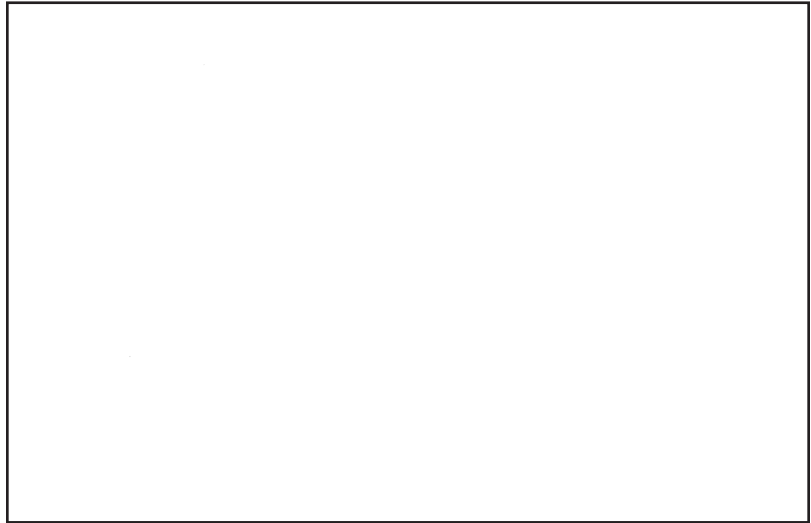
"When I was your age... I was ten."

A Partial Poem?

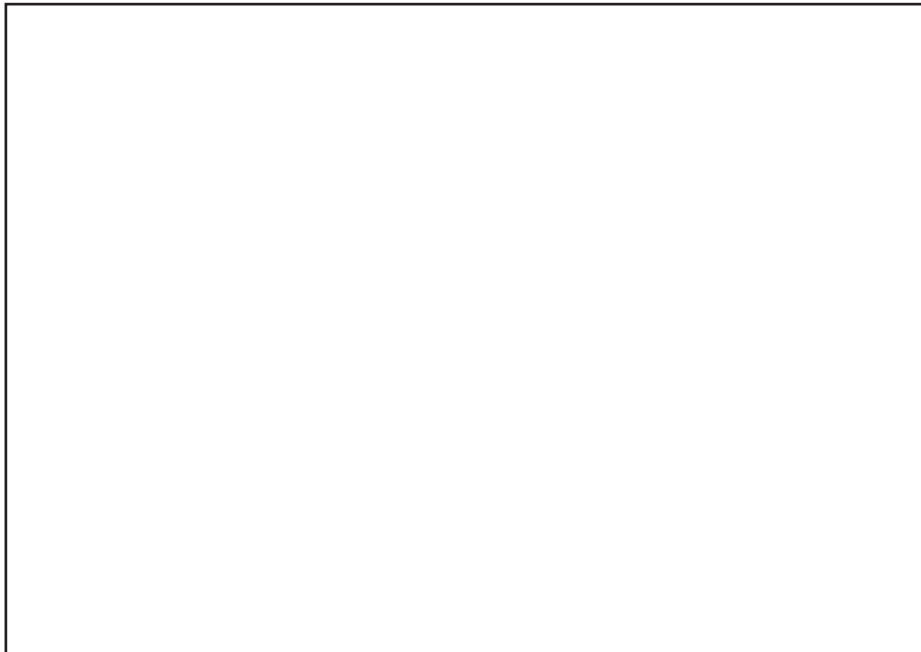
Read the poem “Overdues” from *A Light in the Attic*. Then write a response paragraph to the question posed in “Overdues.”

OVERDUES

What do I do?
What do I do?
This library book is 42
Years overdue.
I admit that it's mine
But I can't pay the fine—
Should I turn it in
Or hide it again?
What do I do?
What do I do?

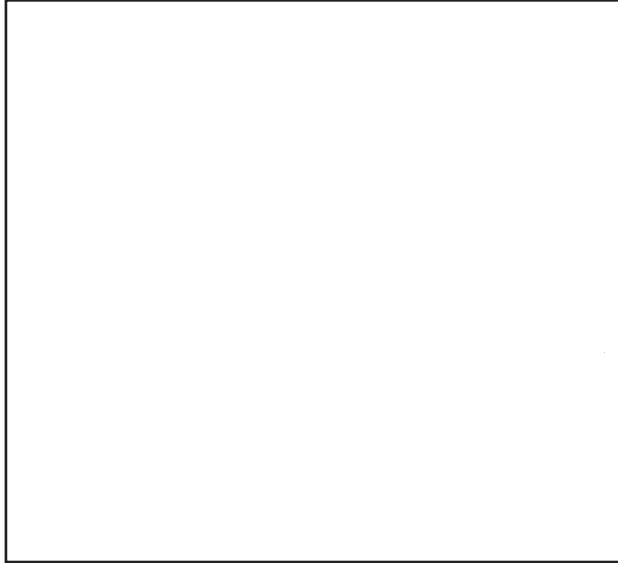


Next, look at the art to the right from *A Light in the Attic Special Edition*. Write a short poem based on what you think is happening in the picture—don't forget to give it a title. After you've written your poem, go to page 177 in the book and compare your poem with Shel Silverstein's!



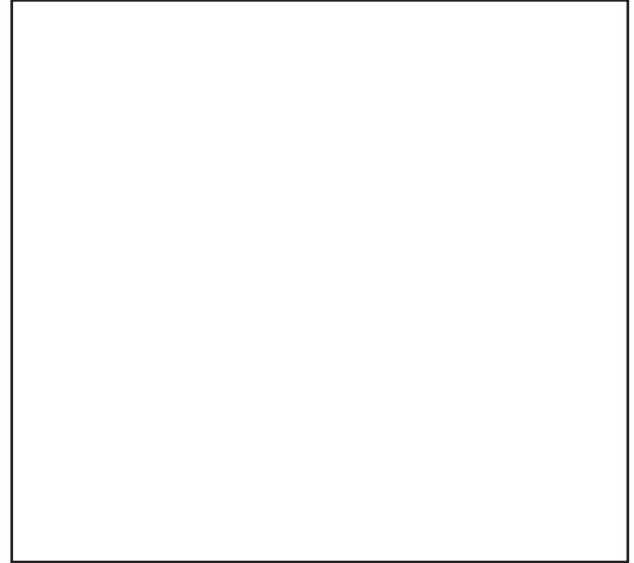
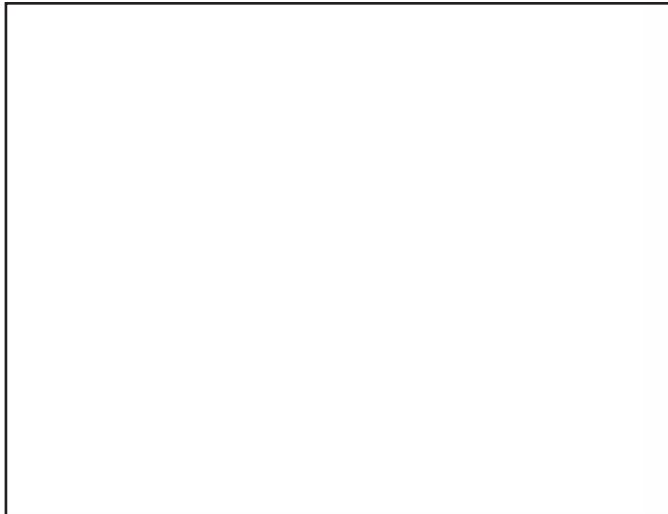
Draw Your Own!

Below are three different poems from **DON'T BUMP THE GLUMP!** Read each poem below. Listen to what the poem is saying and draw a picture of what you think each creature looks like!



QUICK-DISGUIISING GINNIT

This is the Quick-Disguising Ginnit.
Didn't he have you fooled for a minute?



ONE-LEGGED ZANTZ

Please be kind to the One-Legged Zantz.
Consider his feelings—
Don't ask him to dance.

THE GLETCHER

See the Gletcher in his cage,
His claws are sharp, his teeth are double.
Thank heaven he's locked up safe inside,
Or we'd all be in terrible trouble!



Sing a Poem!

Song lyrics are oftentimes poems set to music. You can have fun singing Shel Silverstein poems in any style you would like. If you are uncomfortable with singing, then clapping, snapping and foot stomping can make an equally exciting rhythm. You don't even need instruments! Below are two poems from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. Have fun turning them into your own songs!

EIGHTEEN FLAVORS

Eighteen luscious, scrumptious flavors—
Chocolate, lime and cherry,
Coffee, pumpkin, fudge banana,
Caramel cream and boysenberry,
Rocky road and toasted almond,
Butterscotch, vanilla dip,
Butter brickle, apple ripple,
Coconut and mocha chip,
Brandy peach and lemon custard,
Each scoop lovely, smooth, and round,
Tallest ice cream cone in town,
Lying there (sniff) on the ground.

BOA CONSTRICTOR

Oh, I'm being eaten
By a boa constrictor,
A boa constrictor,
A boa constrictor,
I'm being eaten by a boa constrictor,
And I don't like it—one bit.
Well, what do you know?
It's nibblin' my toe.
Oh, gee,
It's up to my knee.
Oh my,
It's up to my thigh.
Oh, fiddle,
It's up to my middle.
Oh, heck,
It's up to my neck.
Oh, dread,
It's upmmmmmmmmmmmmffffffffff . . .



Alliteration Activity

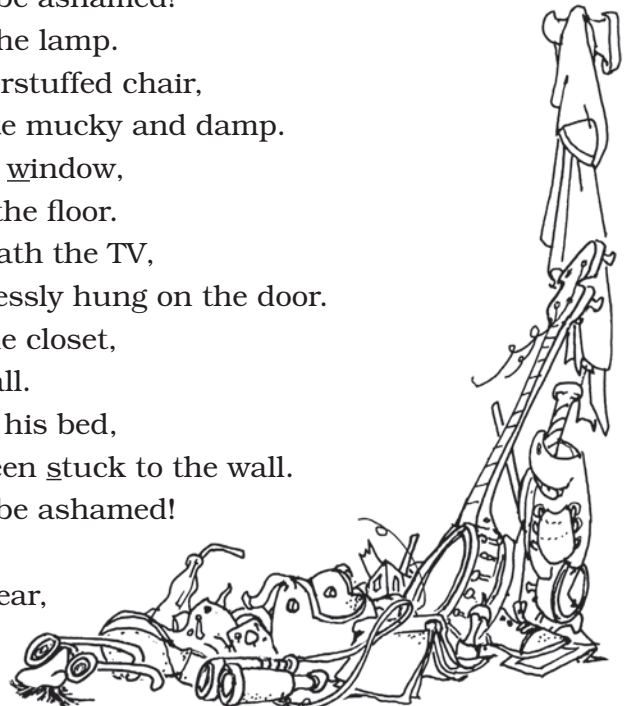
Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of several words that occur close together. For example, if you read “Messy Room,” below, from *A Light in the Attic*, you will hear repetition of the letter w (“workbook is wedged in the window”). The sounds with alliteration have been underlined. Read “Standing Is Stupid” below, from *A Light in the Attic*. Underline the parts of the poem with alliteration. “Rotten Convention” from *Falling Up* is also a great example of a poem with alliteration. When you’ve finished, write you own poems using alliteration.

STANDING IS STUPID

Standing is stupid,
Crawling’s a curse,
Skipping is silly,
Walking is worse.
Hopping is hopeless,
Jumping’s a chore,
Sitting is senseless,
Leaning’s a bore.
Running’s ridiculous,
Jogging’s insane—
Guess I’ll go upstairs and
Lie down again.

MESSY ROOM

Whosever room this is should be ashamed!
His underwear is hanging on the lamp.
His raincoat is there in the overstuffed chair,
And the chair is becoming quite mucky and damp.
His workbook is wedged in the window,
His sweater’s been thrown on the floor.
His scarf and one ski are beneath the TV,
And his pants have been carelessly hung on the door.
His books are all jammed in the closet,
His vest has been left in the hall.
A lizard named Ed is asleep in his bed,
And his smelly old sock has been stuck to the wall.
Whosever room this is should be ashamed!
Donald or Robert or Willie or--
Huh? You say it’s mine? Oh, dear,
I knew it looked familiar!



Match Game

When art is used next to a poem, it adds an element of excitement and description to the vivid imagery of the poem. Below are four short poems and four illustrations. Read each poem and match the text to the correct illustration. Poems are from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, **Falling Up**, and *Runny Babbit*.

CHESTER

Chester came to school and said,
"Durn, I grewed another head."
Teacher said, "It's time you knowed
The word is 'grew' instead of 'growed.'"



CARROTS

They say that carrots are good for your eyes,
They swear that they improve your sight,
But I'm seein' worse than I did last night—
You think maybe I ain't usin' 'em right?



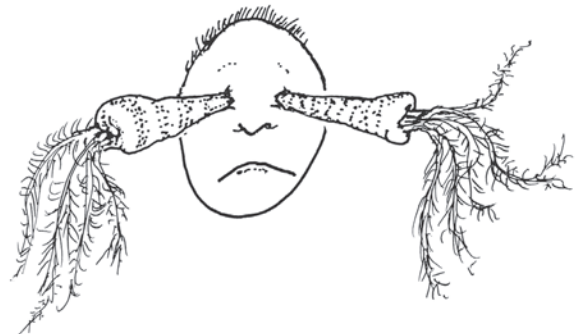
GLUB—GLUB

He thought it was
The biggest puddle
He'd go splashing through.
Turns out it was
The smallest lake—
And the deepest, too.



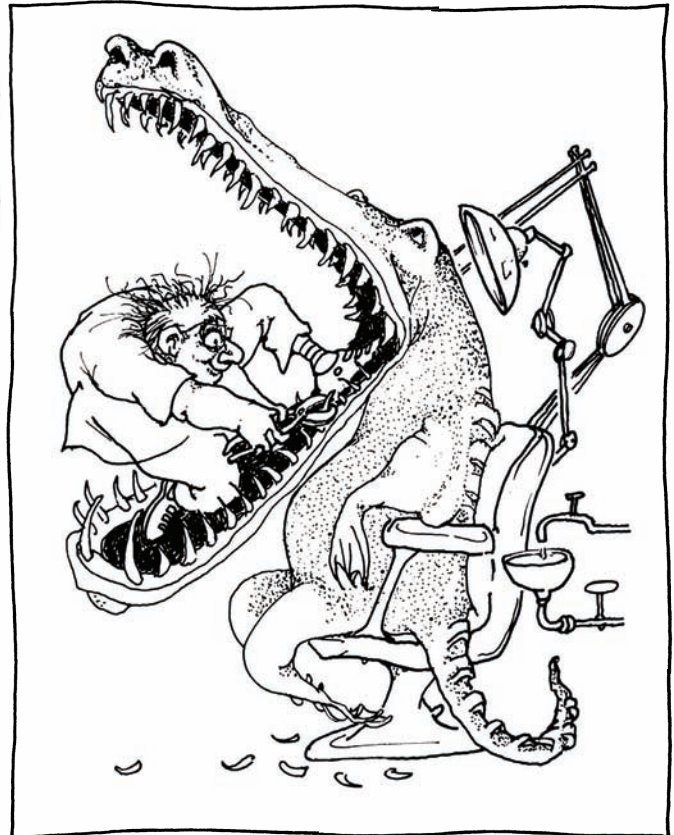
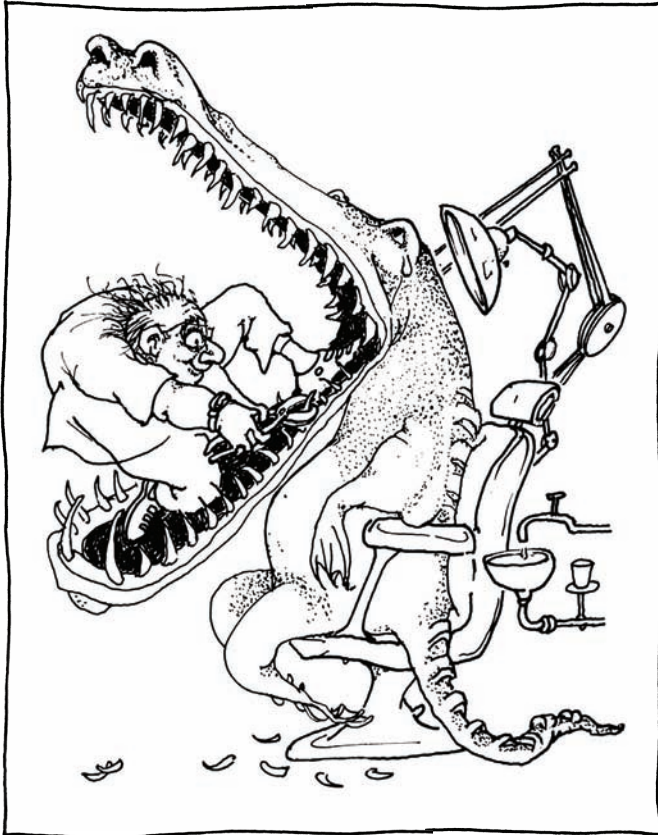
THE KUNGLE JING

"Oh I am the Jing of the Kungle,"
Runny roared to one and all
When he wore his cion's lostume
To the Walloheen bostume call.
But there he met a *leal* rion
Who said, "You'd best cake tare,
And do not start believin'
You're the costume that you wear."



Spot the Difference

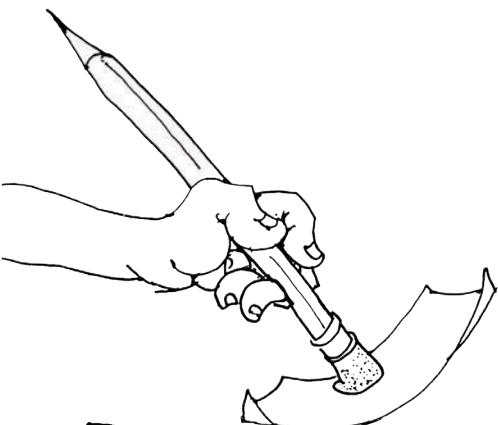
Below are two versions of the illustration from "The Crocodile's Toothache" (page 66) from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. Look at the two pictures and see if you can notice what is different. Find the ten differences and write them down below.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

(Answers on final page)



Answers!

CODE-DOKU:

H	S	A	W	R	D	L	E	N
D	N	E	L	A	S	H	W	R
L	R	W	H	N	E	A	S	D
E	A	R	N	L	H	S	D	W
W	D	L	E	S	R	N	H	A
S	H	N	D	W	A	E	R	L
A	W	H	R	E	L	D	N	S
R	L	D	S	H	N	W	A	E
N	E	S	A	D	W	R	L	H

Hidden Message: We read and share Shel.

CROSSWORD:

Answer Key: 1. Glump; 2. Pickle Me; 3. Missing Piece; 4. Backward Bill; 5. Sour Face Ann; 6. Exactlywatt; 7. Runny Babbit; 8. Tree; 9. Lafcadio; 10. A Giraffe and a Half

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

On the right side illustration: no tear in crocodile's eye, no watch on dentist, stripes on sock, dentist has more hair, one less tooth on floor, tail bends differently, no cup on sink pipe, chair has no headrest, lamp arm bends differently, crocodile has more spots on belly