



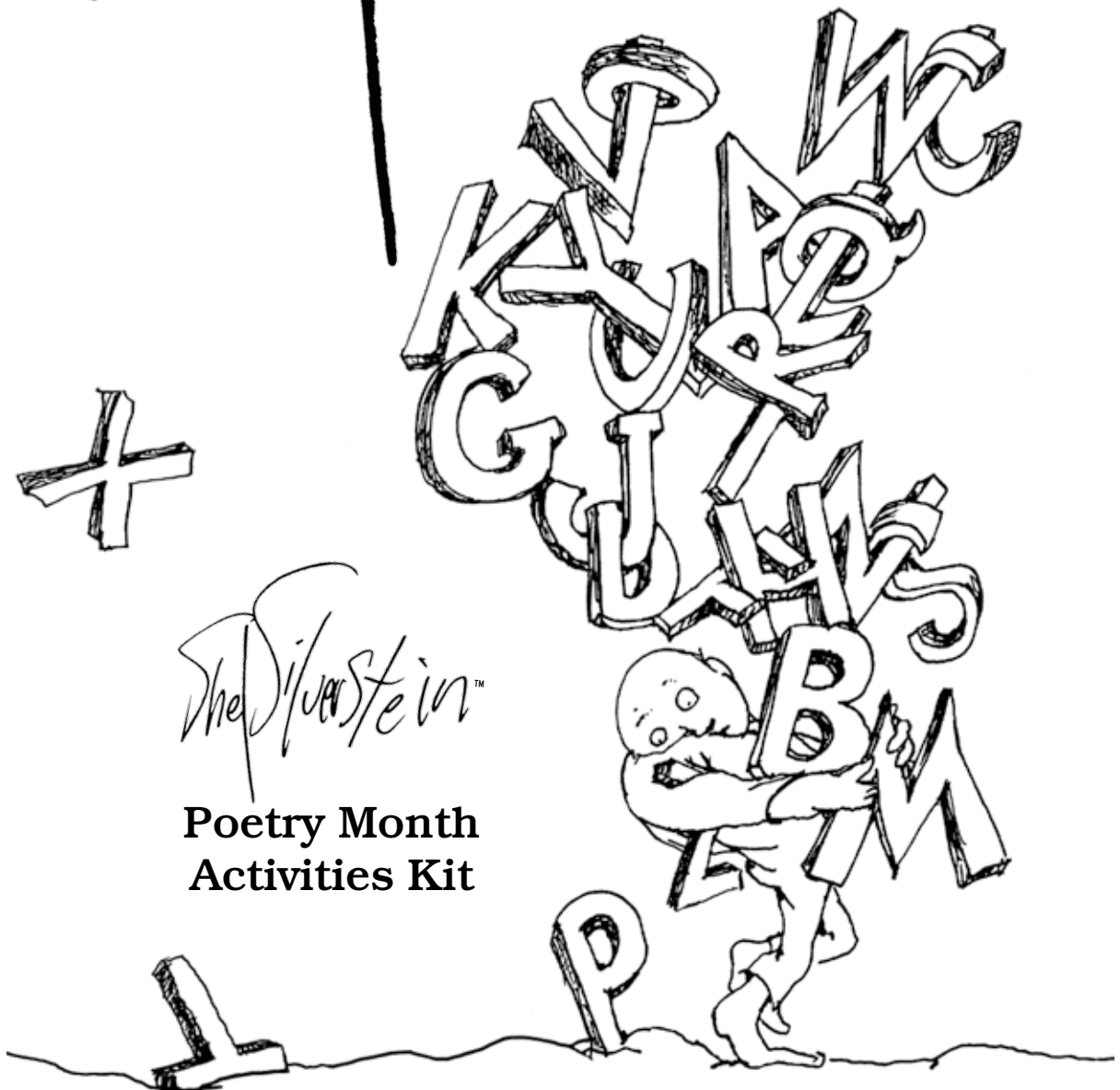
**Poetry Month
2011**

Celebrate



Shel Silverstein™

**Poetry Month
Activities Kit**



Poetry Month 2011 Event Kit

Dear Reader,

It's here, it's here! Poetry Month
is here once again—so let's *Shelebrate*!

Please enjoy these activities, which are
perfect to use in a classroom, library, or
bookstore, or at home. We hope this event kit
will help you make the reading and understanding
of poetry an exciting and meaningful experience.

As we look forward to the coming publication of Shel Silverstein's
new poetry collection, *Every Thing On It*, let's play with his delightful
poetry that we already know and love.

Have fun!
HarperCollins Children's Books
Marketing Department



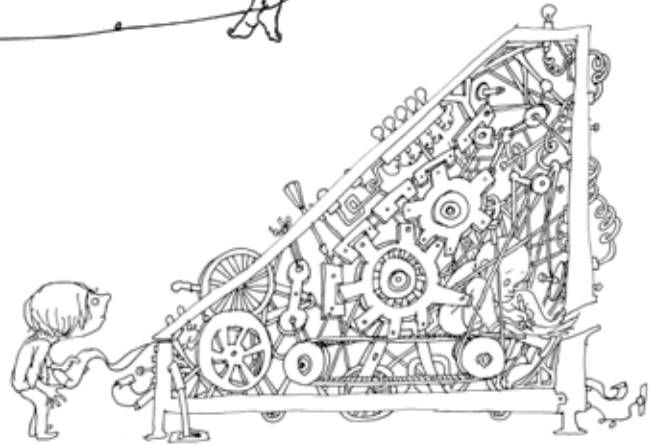
Inventions

Have an idea for a brilliant invention? So did Shel!
Match the picture of the invention to the description.

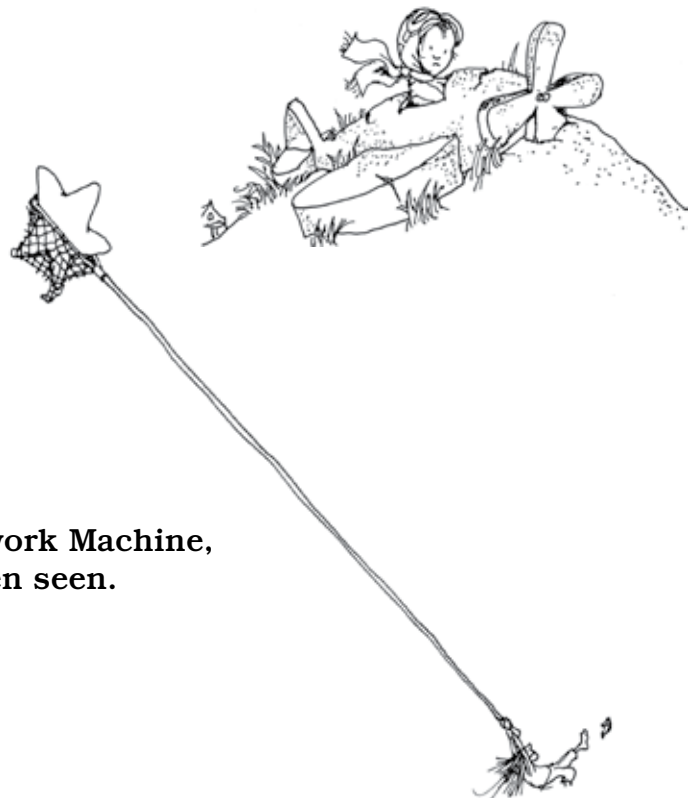
1. I've made me a moon-catchin' net,
And I'm goin' huntin' tonight,
I'll run along swingin' it over my head,
And grab for that big ball of light.



2. I made an airplane out of stone . . .
I always did like staying home.



3. Guess what I've done!
Invented a light that plugs into the sun.



4. The Homework Machine, oh the Homework Machine,
Most perfect contraption that's ever been seen.

What are your fantastic invention ideas?
Draw them and write a poem about what they can do!

By Any Other Name . . .

Can you guess these classic Shel Silverstein characters from their descriptions?
Match the stanza and name to the illustration for each character.

1. _____, the dancin' bear,
Ran away from the County Fair,
Ran right up to my back stair
And thought he'd do some dancin' there.



2. Poor _____,
From Wilmington,
His buttons will not come undone.



3. _____ screamed a scream
So loud it made her eyebrows steam.



4. Oh the blithery, blathery pirate
(His name, I believe is _____),
His manner is sullen and irate,
And his humor is vulgar and broad.



Claude

Danny
O'Dare

Millie
McDeevit

Benjamin
Bunn

Poetic List

Wow! Shel came up with many different kinds of shoes for his poem “A Closet Full of Shoes.” By matching up the words that rhymed, he made a poem out of a list. Now it’s your turn! Come up with a list of similar things and create a poem. For example, types of desserts? Breeds of dogs? Places? Colors? The possibilities are endless!

A CLOSET FULL OF SHOES

Party shoes with frills and bows,
Workin' shoes with steel toes,
Sneakers, flip-flops, and galoshes,
Boots to wear with mackintoshes,
Brogans, oxfords, satin pumps,
Dancin' taps and wooden clumps,
Shoes for climbin', shoes for hikes,
Football cleats and baseball spikes,
Shoes of shiny patent leather,
Woolly shoes for winter weather,
Loafers, rough-outs, sandals, spats,
High heels, low heels, platforms, flats,
Moccasins and fins and flippers,
Shower clogs and ballet slippers . . .
A zillion shoes and just one missin'—
That's the one that matches this'n.



A list of _____

[illegible]

Vocabulary

It's important for a poet to have a large vocabulary—so here's a challenge! Use the definitions below to come up with a word that fits. Fill in each word—then read the highlighted vertical boxes to uncover a classic Shel character.

1. F E R O C I O U S : fierce like a wild creature

2. A : a light blue, like a clear sky

3. M : an item kept to remember something by

4. P : to move with a spring in one's step, like a horse

5. P : to feel compassion toward, or feel sorry for

6. R : a flexible solid material used to make
tires and elastic bands

7. D : far-off or remote, removed

8. E : decorated with needlework

9. I : unable to be seen by the eye

10. M : to make better or more valuable

11. D : to cease or stop



Home Sweet Home

In "Dinner Guest," the narrator lists all the places he's likely to be when the Razor-Tooth Sline comes for dinner. To find the name of the city where Shel Silverstein grew up, write all of the circled letters into the first line below the poem. Then unscramble them to fill in the second line!

(Here's a hint: it's known as the Windy City!)

DINNER GUEST

When the Razor-Tooth Sline
Comes to my house to dine,
You may find me in Fran(C)e or Detro(I)t,
Or off in Khart(O)um or in the spare room
Of my Uncle Ed's place in Belo(I)t.
You may find me in Ph(I)lly, Ra(C)ine or R(A)bat,
You may reach me in Ma(L)mo or (G)hor.
You may see me in S(I)kkim and likely as not
You will run into me at the store.
You may find me in (H)amburg
Or up in St. Pau(L),
In Ky(O)to, Keno(S)ha or (N)ome,
But one thing is sure, if you find me at all,
You NEVER shall find me at home!

Write down all the circled letters here:

Answer:

 C _____, I _____

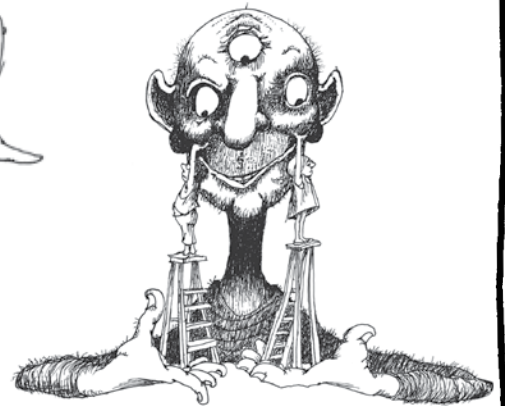
Amazing Occupations

What do you want to be when you grow up? In Shel's world, there are all kinds of amazing occupations. Match the job to the picture that describes it!

1. So please get your rags
And your polishing jars,
Somebody has to go polish the stars.



2. I paint the flamin' red on Robin Redbreast,
I pour the blue on bluegills by the shore.



3. The great sword-swallower Salomar,
He wears no ties or collars.
He leans back, opens up his mouth,
And "Gulp," his sword he swallows.



4. Sometimes it sure can be hard work
To make somebody smile.



Verb Placement

Using the list of verbs below, complete Shel's poem
"Magic" from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

MAGIC

Sandra's _____ a leprechaun,
Eddie's _____ a troll,
Laurie _____ with witches once,
Charlie _____ some goblins' gold.
Donald _____ a mermaid sing,
Susy _____ an elf,
But all the magic I have _____
I've had to _____ myself.

VERBS:

danced
found
heard
known
make
seen
spied
touched

Can you write a poem that uses at least eight action words in two sentences?

YOUR POEM:

Fill in the Blanks!

Are you superstitious? Match the words below to the correct superstitions in this poem from *A Light in the Attic*.

SUPERSTITIOUS

If you are superstitious you'll never step on _____ .
When you see a _____ you will never walk beneath it.
And if you ever spill some _____ you'll throw some 'cross your back,
And carry 'round a _____ 's foot just in case you need it.
You'll pick up any _____ that you find lying on the ground,
And never, never, ever throw your _____ upon the bed,
Or open an _____ when you are in the house.
You'll bite your _____ each time you say
A thing you shouldn't have said.
You'll hold your _____ and cross your fingers
Walkin' by a graveyard,
And number _____ 's never gonna do you any good.
Black _____ will all look vicious, if you're superstitious,
But I'm not superstitious (knock on _____).



ANSWERS:

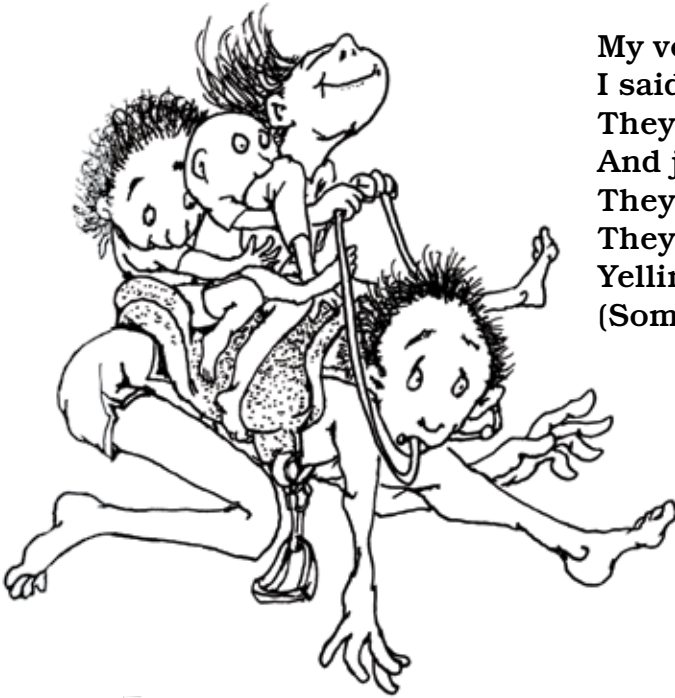
breath cats cracks hat ladder pin rabbit
salt thirteen tongue umbrella wood

Homonyms

Homonyms are words that sound alike but mean different things and can be spelled differently. In “Little Hoarse” from *Falling Up*, the words “hoarse” and “horse” are mixed up to get a laugh.

LITTLE HOARSE

My voice was raspy, rough, and cracked.
I said, “I *am* a little hoarse.”
They stuck a saddle on my back
And jumped on me—and now, of course,
They trot me and they gallop me,
They prance me up and down the town
Yellin’, “Giddy up, little hoarse.”
(Some things don’t mean the way they sound.)



Now it’s your turn to try out some homonyms!

Think of a homonym for each of the words below. What other homonym pairs can you think of? Try to come up with a joke that uses homonyms!
(Example: What’s black and white and **read** all over? A newspaper!)

1. New _____

2. Plain _____

3. See _____

4. Brake _____

Cryptogram

Think you can crack this code? Test your skills to figure out this famous first line. We've filled in a few to help you along!

S R G I X L I V I A E W E X V I I ...
 _____ T _____ W _____ T _____ ...

E R H W L I P S Z I H E
 _____ V _____

P M X X P I F S C .
 _____ T T _____ .

A = W B = X C = D = Z E = F = G =

H = I = J = F K = G L = M = N = J

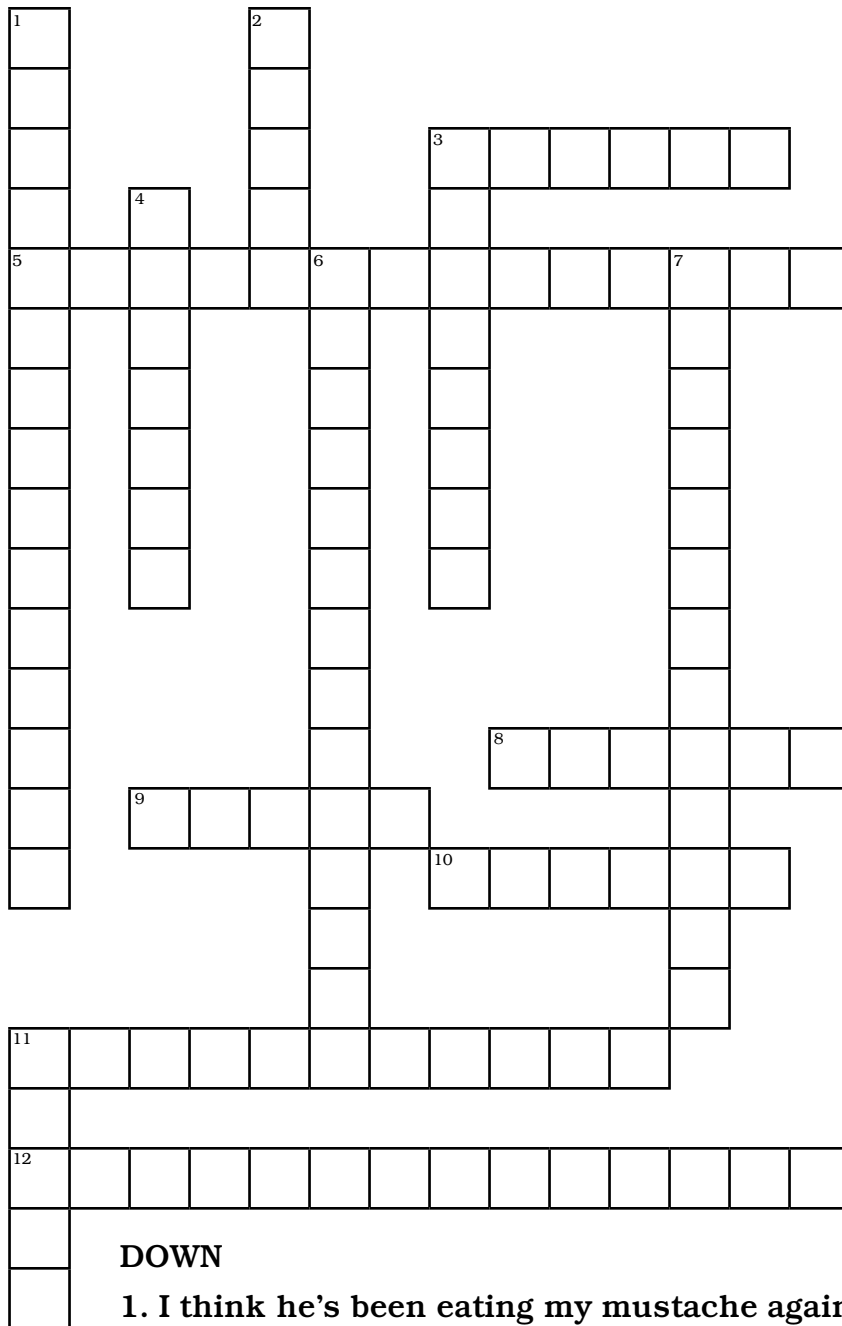
O = K P = Q = M R = N S = T =

U = V = W = X = T Y = U Z = V



Creatures Crossword

In *Don't Bump the Glump*, Shel Silverstein introduced us to many different creatures! Using your copy of *Don't Bump the Glump*, seek out some of the amazing creatures by their descriptions below!

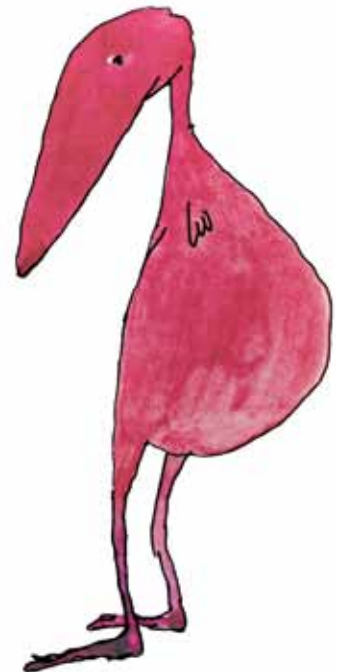


ACROSS

3. We can catch him if we wait, wait, wait
5. I don't think he sees us
8. He feeds upon poets and tea
9. At the very first inkling of danger or dread, Will bury himself most completely
10. A native of Uganda Who sort of lost his way
11. You may bounce on his belly And call him old Nelly
12. I fear his wrath

DOWN

1. I think he's been eating my mustache again
2. He'd love for you to scratch his belly
3. His claws are sharp, his teeth are double
4. That silly fish ... Has been swimming in my coffee
6. A model of meekness, With only one weakness, And that is for eating his mate
7. It's up to me to announce him. . . . Uh . . . how do you pronounce him . . . ?
11. Don't bump him



ANSWERS

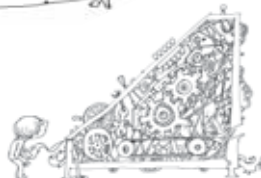
We hope you enjoyed celebrating Poetry Month with Shel Silverstein!
Here are the answers to our activities.

Inventions

1.



2.



3.



4.



By Any Other Name . . .

1. Danny O'Dare



2. Benjamin Bunn



3. Millie McDeevit



4. Claude



Vocabulary

1. FEROCIOUS

2. AZURE

3. MEMENTO

4. PRANCE

5. PITY

6. RUBBER

7. DISTANT

8. EMBROIDERED

9. INVISIBLE

10. IMPROVE

11. DESIST

Home Sweet Home

Chicago, Illinois

Amazing Occupations

1.



2.



3.



4.



ANSWERS

Here are more answers to our activities!

Verb Placement

seen, touched, danced, found,
heard, spied, known, make

Fill in the blanks!

cracks, ladder, salt, rabbit, pin,
hat, umbrella, tongue, breath,
thirteen, cats, wood

Homonyms

1. knew
2. plane
3. sea
4. break

Cryptogram

Once there was a
tree . . . and she
loved a little boy.

Creatures Crossword

ACROSS

3. Grinch
5. TerribleFeezus
8. Bloath
9. Zumby
10. Panada
11. Gumplegutch
12. UnderslungZath

DOWN

1. SkitteringSkeep
2. Gheli
3. Gletcher
4. Crawfee
6. BulbulousBrole
7. Zrbangdraldnk
11. Glump

