50th Anniversary Event Kit
Activity Booklet

With activities and fun for six Shel Silverstein classics:

The Giving Tree
Don’t Bump the Glump!
A Giraffe and a Half
Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back
Who Wants a Cheap Rhinoceros?
Where the Sidewalk Ends
Dear Reader,

Shel Silverstein has inspired readers to dream, discover, laugh, and imagine the impossible for decades, but this year we’re marking a milestone moment: the 50th anniversary of *The Giving Tree*, as well as the 50th anniversaries of *Don’t Bump the Glump!*; *A Giraffe and a Half*; *Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back*; and *Who Wants a Cheap Rhinoceros?*; and the 40th anniversary of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

Inside this kit, you’ll find activities for use in the classroom, library, bookstore, or home that bend your brain, open your imagination, and bring each of these anniversary titles to life in a new way. You’ll love a little boy and his tree, visit a zany zoo, get silly with Giraffe, meet a lion who loves marshmallows, discover what to do with a cheap rhinoceros, and even find out where the sidewalk ends.

So come in, have fun, and be delighted by the timeless magic of Shel Silverstein!
Once there was a ____________ . . .

and she ____________ a little ____________.

And every ____________ the boy would come

and he would ____________ her ____________

and make them into ____________

and play king of the ____________.

He would ____________ up her trunk

and ____________ from her ____________

and eat ____________.

forest    gather    crowns    loved    tree
apples    climb
leaves    branches    day    boy    swing
It’s a Zoo in Here

The Wild Gazite, the Terrible Feezus, and the Glub-Toothed Sline are looking for some new friends! In the space provided, draw an original crazy creature to add to Shel’s zany zoo from *Don’t Bump the Glump!* Be creative, and don’t forget to give your character a name.

My creature’s name is ___________________________
Get Silly with Giraffe

Giraffe in *A Giraffe and a Half* puts on a suit, gets stung by a bee, and steps in glue, but what other crazy antics might he encounter? Finish the beginning line of the story with a new silly situation for Giraffe. Write your idea in the lines below and add it to the picture of Giraffe—the sillier the better!

If you had a giraffe
and he stretched another half . . .
you’d have a giraffe and a half.

If he _________________________
_____________________________
_____________________________
_____________________________
_____________________________
_____________________________.

[Image of a giraffe and a cartoon character]
What does the world’s most famous lion like? Unscramble the words below to find out some of Lafcadio’s favorite things.

(Hint: all the words are in Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back.)

1. hsaawlolmrsms
2. onil
3. erovltae
4. elkbmittru
5. caebh
6. tarugi
7. riccus
8. pgninati
9. wimmsing
10. reciexse

Answer key: 1. marshmallows; 2. lion; 3. elevator; 4. buttermilk; 5. beach; 6. guitar; 7. circus; 8. painting; 9. swimming; 10. exercise
If you had a rhinoceros for a pet, what would you do with him? Connect the dots to discover one of Shel’s many uses for a cheap rhinoceros; then come up with your own!

Can you name five other uses for a pet rhinoceros that Shel doesn’t mention in the book?

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
4. ____________________
5. ____________________
Sidewalk Celebrities

How well do you know the world where the sidewalk ends? Read the excerpts below from poems in *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and guess the well-known character who stars in the poem. Use the list of names to help you decipher who is who.

He watched till his eyes were frozen wide, 
And his bottom grew into his chair.
And his chin turned into a tuning dial, 
And antennae grew out of his hair.

Pieces out of picture puzzles,
Bent-up nails and ice-cream sticks,
Twists of wires, worn-out tires,
Paper bags and broken bricks.

And so it piled up to the ceilings:
Coffee grounds, potato peelings,
Brown bananas, rotten peas,
Chunks of sour cottage cheese.

He hasn’t changed his clothes since last July. 
And why?
‘Cause no one can unbutton him
No matter how they try, poor guy.

She thought she could,
She said she would,
So she started in right at the tail.

... she wants a drink of water so she waits 
and waits and waits and waits and waits for it to rain.

Answer key, 1 Jimmy Jet; 2 Hector the Collector; 3 Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout; 4 Benjamin Bunnn; 5 Melinda Mae; 6 Lazy Jane
Upside Down Poet

Shel Silverstein writes upside down in “Oops!” from Where the Sidewalk Ends—now it’s your turn! Compose a poem about Shel in the tree below, but remember to start from the bottom of the page and work your way up. We wrote in the first lines to help you get started!

laugh me make poems His
favorite my is Shel
Using the maze, follow the journey of the boy and the tree in *The Giving Tree*. What do you think the relationship between the boy and the tree symbolizes?

Once there was a tree...

And the tree was happy.
We’ve hidden some special words from Shel Silverstein’s books in the puzzle—can you find them all? Remember that words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backward, and all the words are from the six books featured in this kit.

Giving  Lafcadio  Giraffe
Rhinoceros  Sidewalk  Glump
Shel  Apple  Boy  Lion

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