Celebrate
Poetry Month 2009

Shel Silverstein
Poetry Month Activities Kit
Dear Friends,

Lions...and Giraffes...and Babbits...oh my!

Shel Silverstein’s menagerie of beloved creatures has come together to help you Shelebrate National Poetry Month 2009 in “beastly” style.

Character favorites Lafcadio, Giraffe, Runny Babbit, and more are featured throughout the following activities, designed to provide you with suggestions and instructions for exploring poetry and language with children.

Each downloadable activity can be reproduced for an event, used in the classroom, or enjoyed at home.

Have fun!

HarperCollins Children’s Books Marketing Department

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Lafcadio the Lion Word Search

Look for the hidden words from
LAFCADIO, THE LION WHO SHOT BACK
in the word search below. Remember
that they can be horizontal, vertical,
diagonal, and backwards. Once you’ve
found a word, circle it in the grid and
check it off from the word list.

See an example below.

Lafcadio
Hunter
Coconut

Lion
Marshmallow
Grumbacker

Jungle
Suitcase
Circus

 Gentleman
Elevator
Tailor

Reproducible Activity — www.shelsilverstein.com
Create Your Own Poem

Create your own poem using the words below from the book *A Giraffe and a Half*. Cut along the dotted lines to separate the words. Choose words to write your poem and try them in different combinations. After you’ve completed your poem, tape or glue the words in place on a piece of paper. Then read to see how Shel Silverstein used these words in his poem.
Concrete poetry, also called shape or visual poetry, is poetry in which the lines are arranged in the shape of what the poem is about. In this type of poem, shape is just as important as the words themselves and helps further the meaning of the poem. Create your own concrete poem about Giraffe from *A Giraffe and a Half* by writing your words along the outline of his image above. Start at Giraffe’s shoe, go up his back to his long curved neck, around his head, along his flute and outstretched leg, and then back down to his shoe. Write about what Giraffe looks like, where he lives, what he eats, and how he spends his days.
It’s a Zoo in Here!

Identify each creature from DON’T BUMP THE GLUMP! by drawing a line from the name and description that best fits the picture in the middle column.

The Gheli

“Consider his feelings—Don’t ask him to dance.”

One-Legged Zantz

“He’d love for you to scratch his belly.”

The Considerate Soft-Shelled Phizzint

“Someone has mistaken this one for a pincushion and he’s too polite to say he isn’t.”

The Bald-Top Droan

“I’ll get awful, awful sick If I give your head a lick.”

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A rebus is a kind of puzzle in which letters, words, or pictures are combined to convey a word, phrase, or sentence. The rebus puzzle boxes below portray a common word or phrase. Can you guess what they are?

Rebus #1
![Image of a book with a worm]

Rebus #2
+Wish+

Rebus #3
+Cream+

Rebus #4
+ccccccc+

Rebus #5
+birthday+

Use this space to create your own rebus using Shel Silverstein’s art, or your own.

Answers: Rebus #1 is Bookworm; Rebus #2 is Wish Upon a Star; Rebus #3 is Ice Cream; Rebus #4 is Sailing on the Seven Seas; Rebus #5 is Happy Birthday.
Who is painting a picture? And HOW is it being painted? Start at the number one and connect the dots to find out.

Answer: Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back. Using his tail.
A cryptogram is a type of puzzle that consists of a short piece of writing in code. Replace each number with the corresponding letter in the key to solve the cryptogram and decode the poem from *A Light in the Attic* (p. 151).

Key:

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 19 | 7 | 20 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 11 | 26 | 4 | 16 | 24 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 25 | 23 | 3 | 21 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 22 |

Hint: The Lost Cat

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14 2 20 19 1 3 5 26 1 13 3 11 2 20 19 3
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14 2 13 8 1 3 16 1 8 14 14 11 2 25 2 23 11 2 23 19 3
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8 11 14 11 2 25 2 13 26 13 23 11 2 17 8

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13 8 2 23 19 1 9 8 1 2 16 1 8 14
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24 2 3 23 19 23 16 3 11 26 23 14 19 24 16 26 1 17 11 19 3
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Imagination Isn’t Always Black-and-White

What do you think the Gletcher looks like?
Read the poem below from DON'T BUMP THE GLUMP! and draw your own version of this whimsical creature.

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!
Make a Word Lib

Go mad: Make your own word lib using the poem below from Falling Up (p. 83). First, build a word bank from the different parts of speech: noun, plural noun, adjective, and verb. Next, as you read Shel Silverstein’s poem, fill in each blank with a word from the column corresponding to the part of speech written below the blank. Have fun reading your story aloud.

Here’s a quick review of the parts of speech:

- A **noun** is the name of a person, place, or thing.
- A **plural noun** is more than one person, place, or thing.
- An **adjective** describes someone or something.
- A **verb** is an action word.

### Hypnotized

How would you like to get hypnotized? ________________ deep, deep into my ________________. Now you’re getting ________________, falling deep. Deep, deep, deep—asleep, And I have you in my power. ________________ the ________________ for half an hour. Shine my shoes, ________________ my hair, Wash out all my ________________. Do my homework, scratch my ________________. Cook me up a great ________________ stack Of ________________, and go wash my ________________. Get some ________________ and fix the gate. Now wake up and ________________ your eyes. Wasn’t it ________________ to be hypnotized?

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Reproducible Activity — www.shelsilverstein.com
Organize students into small groups, selecting one person in each group to take notes. Provide each group with a photocopy of the decoder game below and instruct them to work together to unscramble the words within each box. Remind students to use Shel Silverstein’s drawings from *Runny Babbit* to help them decode the phrases.

**Decoder Game**

- Runny Babbit
- mour yajest
- kittle litten
- tash wub
- hop tat
- babble buth
- mancy feal
- droud lum
- boetry pook
- frest blends
- chigh hair
- hig bug
- chocking rair
- rangin’ hound
- pessy mig
- rike bide
Can you help the Missing Piece meet the Big O?
DON'T BUMP THE GLUMP! Word Finder

How many words can you make from the letters found in each creature's name below?

**POINTY-PEAKED PAVARIUS**


**GLUB-TOOTHED SLINE**


**SLITHERGADDEE**


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What’s in a Name?

An **acrostic** poem uses letters from a name or word to begin each line of the poem. Each line must relate to or describe the topic word. Compose your own acrostic poem in the space below, using the example provided as your guide. Write about your name, a friend’s name, a famous person, or a favorite animal, hobby, or sport. For an even greater challenge, try to make the lines rhyme.

*For example:*

**SHEL**

Shel was a poet,  
He wrote many a book.  
Everyone loves them,  
Let’s take a look!
Help Runny Babbit unscramble the notes and then follow these simple instructions for added fun.

1. Circle "wash your face."
2. Color in the square that says "change your socks."
3. Put a triangle above "don't chew with your mouth full."
4. Draw a heart around "feed your pet."
5. Put a star under "be nice."
6. Draw a line from "don't eat with your fingers" to "brush your teeth."
7. Put your shoe size next to "wipe your feet."
8. Draw a rectangle around "errors."
9. Draw a smiley face next to "stop making faces."
10. Underline "please" and "thank you."

Runny's Rittle Leminders

Runny doesn't always do
The thoper pring at all.
Just see the motes his namma
Has pasted on his wall:

Help Runny Babbit unscramble the notes and then follow these simple instructions for added fun.