Come Sit Under the “Poet Tree” with Shel Silverstein!

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THE POET TREE

Underneath the poet tree
Come and rest awhile with me
And watch the way the web weaves
Between the shady story leaves.

The branches of the poet tree
Reach from the mountains to the sea.
So come and sit... and dream... and climb—
Just don’t get hit by falling rhymes.

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RUNNY’S HEADING RABBIT

Runny lent to the librar’y
And there were hundreds of books—
History books, biography books,
And lots of story books.
He looked them over one by one—
And guess which one he took—
A shience scook? A poetry book?
Oh, no—a bomic code!

GARDENER

We gave you a chance
To water the plants.
We didn’t mean that way—
Now zip up your pants.

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DIRTY RUNNY
Runny, he would not bake a tach.
He would not shake a tower.
Just like a tree or trower.
But soon he dot so gritty.
That he started takin’ root.
He said, “T’d better bake a tach.
Fore I start frowin’ grut.”

LISTEN TO THE MUSTNTS, child.
Listen to the SHOULNTS.
The IMPOSSIBLES, the WONTS.
Listen to the NEVER HAVES—
Then listen close to me—
Anything can happen, child.
ANYTHING can be.
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PUT SOMETHING IN

- Draw a crazy picture.
- Write a nutty poem.
- Sing a mumble-gumble song.
- Whistle through your comb.
- Do a loony-goony dance.
- Cross the kitchen floor.
- Put something silly in the world.
- That ain't been there before.

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Put something in a leaf and tie it to a tree.
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THE VOICE
There is a voice inside of you
That whispers all day long.
“Feel that this is right for me,”
I know that this is wrong.
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend
Or wise man can decide
What’s right for you—just listen to
The voice that speaks inside.

THE FUNNY BAMILY
Runny had a hammy—
Matter of fact, he had
A sother and two bristles.
His mamma fed him marrot clink
And parrot cie and such.
And all of them were happy
In their cozy hunny butch.
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A LIGHT IN THE ATTIC

There's a light on in the attic.
Though the house is dark and shuttered,
I can see a flickerin' flutter,
And I know what it's about.
There's a light on in the attic.
I can see it from the outside,
And I know you're on the inside... lookin' out.

HAT

Teddy said it was a hat.
So I put it on.
Now Dad is saying,
"Where the heck's the toilet plunger gone?"

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RUNNY’S RIG ROMANCE
Runny had a girlfriend.
Her name was Sunny Bue.
He called her nots of nicknames,
Like “Kitchy-Kitchy-Koo.”
Sometimes he called her “Dovey Lear.”
But he only called her “Poetry-Swigs.”
When no one else could hear.

WAY HAIR
I thought that I had wavy hair.
Until I shaved. Instead,
I found that I have straight hair.
And a very wavy head.

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THE LOST CAT
We can’t find the cat.
We don’t know where she’s at.
Oh, where did she go?
Does anyone know?
Let’s ask this walking hat.

HAPPY ENDING?
There are no happy endings.
Endings are the saddest part.
So just give me a happy middle.
And a very happy start.

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INVENTION

I've done it, I've done it!
Guess what I've done!
Invented a light that plugs into the sun.
The bulb is bright enough.
But, oh, there's only one thing wrong . . .
The cord ain't long enough.

RUNNY'S JIG BUMP

Runny be nimble.
Runny be quick.
Runny lomp over the jinglestick.
But now—what smells like burning bluff?
Guess he didn't jamp jibb enough.
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