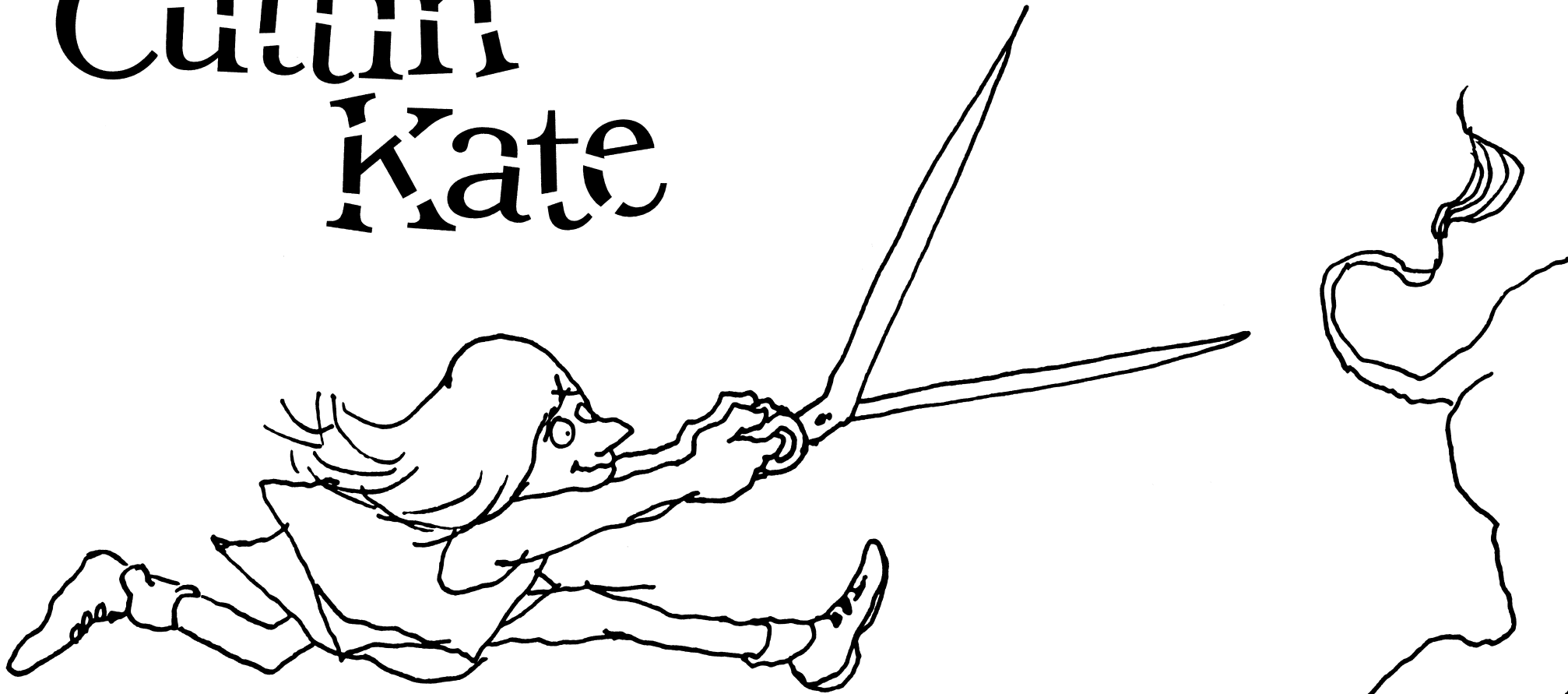


# Cuttin' Kate



by Shel Silverstein

Ways to Play with

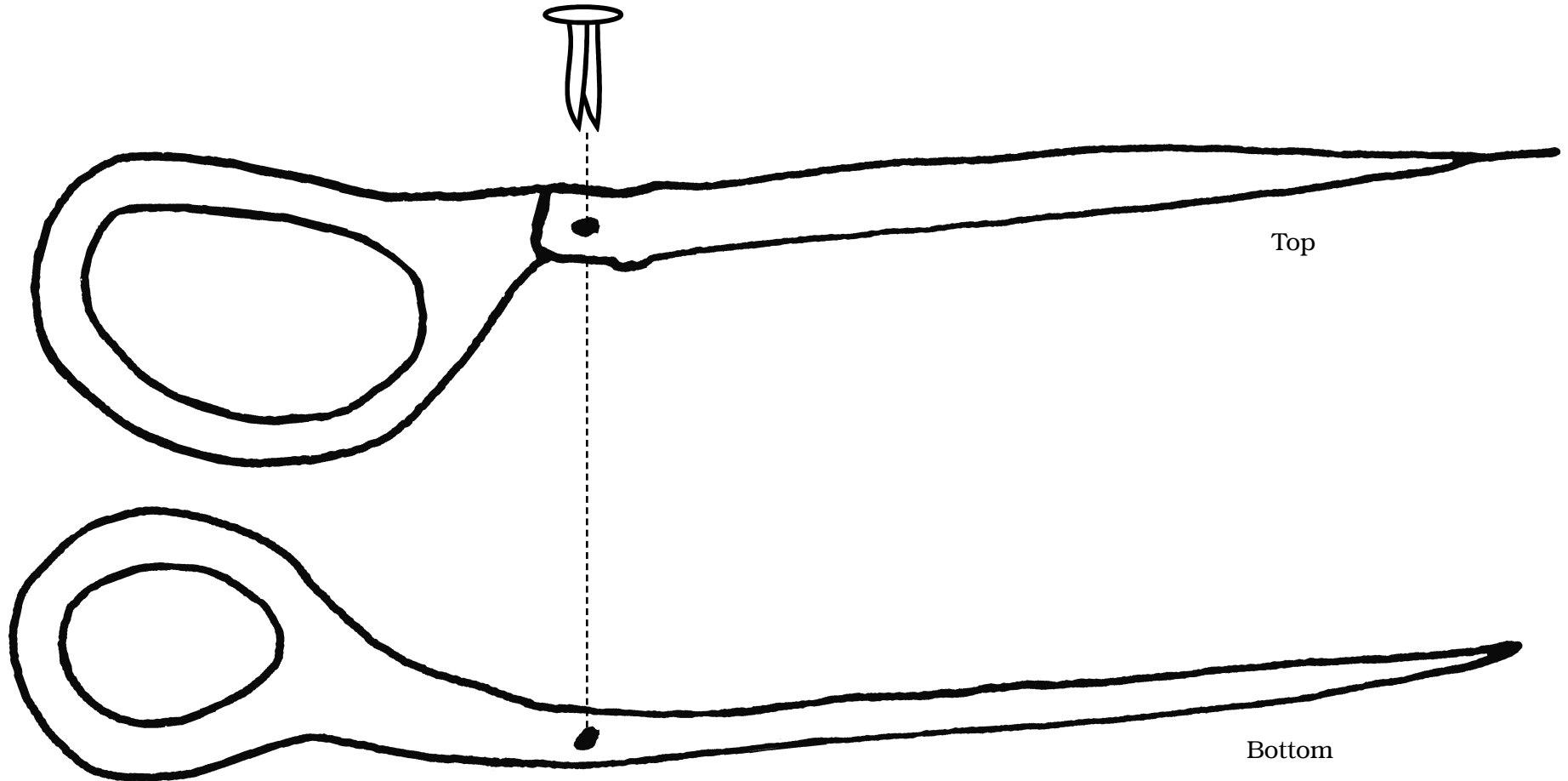
# Cuttin' Kate

Make copies of the pages and give them to your friends to draw. You can work in pairs, two people drawing on the same page if you have a big group, or one page per person if your group is small. When you're finished, tape the pages together in the same order as the book to make one long illustrated poem.

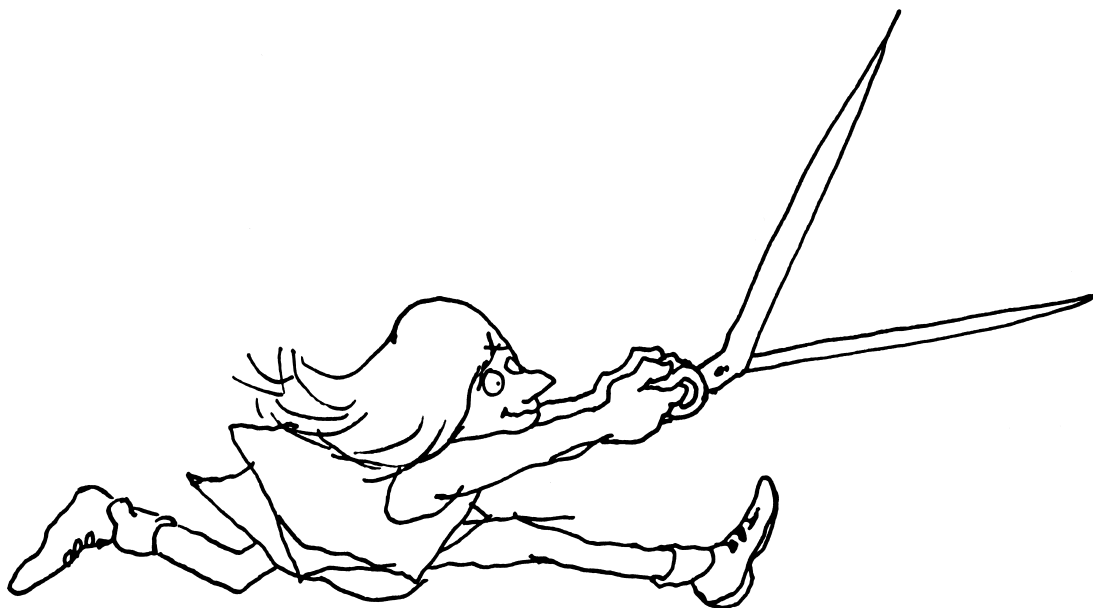
At the end of this book you will also find a way to make *Cuttin' Kate* into a play.

# Make Your Own Scissors

Enlarge the scissors with a photocopier onto 11 x 17" paper if possible. Paste each piece on cardboard or foam core board. Cut around the shapes about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " outside the lines. (Don't make the points too sharp!) Punch a hole through both pieces at the black dot. Insert a brass paper fastener through both holes. Color, paint, or cover the scissors with aluminum foil if you'd like. Now you're ready to play "Cuttin' Kate." Remember, "Cuttin' Kate" is a play to be acted out. Be careful using these pretend scissors, just as you would when using real scissors.



**H**ere comes Cuttin' Kate!  
Can you draw what happens  
when she runs with her scissors?



---

Cuttin' Kate she took her scissors,  
Cut off the kitty cat's long white whiskers,

---

Cut off her mamma's beautiful hair,

Cut out the seat of her dad's underwear,

---

Cut the tomatoes off the farmer's vine,

Cut her grandpa's fishin' line,

---

Cut the string on her cousin's kite,

Cut the cord off the coal miner's light,

---

Cut the sails off the captain's boat.

She cut a hole in her best friend's coat,



---

Cut her grandma's washin' line,

Even cut down the "no cutting" sign,

---

Cut down all the gardener's roses,

Cut off all her dollies' noses.

---

They all shouted, "You just wait until we catch you, Cuttin' Kate!"  
And they come a-chasin' her, mad as sin,

---

The kitty cat chased her coverin' his chin. Her best friend chased her with a needle and thread.

---

Her momma chased her with her baldy head.

Her daddy chased her in his raggedy drawers.

---

The captain chased her shaking an oar.

The sign painter chased her with his whitewash can.

---

Her grandpa chased her with a fish in his hand. Her cousin chased her with his kite in tatters.

---

The farmer chased her throwin' green tomatoes.

The gardener chased her swingin' his hoe.



---

The coal miner chased her flingin' lumps of coal. Her grandma chased her wavin' wet clothes.

---

Her dollies chased her beggin' for a nose.

And when they finally caught her,  
What do you suppose they did to her?  
Well, I won't say, but her name *was*...  
*Cuttin' Kate.*

# On with the Play!

A poem can be the beginning of many other ways to express yourself. A poem could become a song, a dance, or even a play. Choose friends to play all the roles. Everyone sits in a big circle in the order of appearance in the poem. As the narrator reads the lines, Cuttin' Kate goes around the circle and acts out what happens to the characters as they stand up one at a time. After Cuttin' Kate has gone all the way around, she stands in the center of the circle. First the kitty stands up and circles around Cuttin' Kate then returns to his or her seat, then the best friend, and so on, till everyone has had their turn. At the end, all stand up, join hands, and circle around Cuttin' Kate shouting together, "You just wait until we catch you, Cuttin' Kate!" You can make simple props, draw the objects on paper or cardboard, or just pretend.

## CAST

Narrator \_\_\_\_\_

Cuttin' Kate \_\_\_\_\_

Kitty \_\_\_\_\_

Momma \_\_\_\_\_

Dad \_\_\_\_\_

Farmer \_\_\_\_\_

Grandpa \_\_\_\_\_

Cousin \_\_\_\_\_

Coal Miner \_\_\_\_\_

Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Best Friend \_\_\_\_\_

Grandma \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Painter \_\_\_\_\_

Gardener \_\_\_\_\_

Dollies \_\_\_\_\_

## PROPS

Scissors

Kitty whiskers

Long hair

Underwear

Tomato vine and tomatoes

Fishing pole, line, and fish

Kite and string

Miners lamp with cord and coal

Sailboat sails and oar

Coat

Laundry line and clothes

Sign, paint can, and brush

Rose bush

Doll's noses

NARRATOR: Cuttin' Kate she took her scissors,  
Cut off the kitty cat's long white whiskers,  
Cut off her momma's beautiful hair,  
Cut out the seat of her dad's underwear,  
Cut the tomatoes off the farmer's vine,  
Cut her grandpa's fishin' line,  
Cut the string on her cousin's kite,  
Cut the cord off the coal miner's light,  
Cut the sails off the captain's boat.  
She cut a hole in her best friend's coat,  
Cut her grandma's washin' line,  
Even cut down the "no cutting" sign,  
Cut down all the gardener's roses,  
Cut off all her dollies' noses.

ALL: "You just wait until we catch you, Cuttin' Kate!" (repeat at end)

NARRATOR: And they come a-chasin' her, mad as sin.  
The kitty cat chased her coverin' his chin.  
Her best friend chased her with a needle and thread.  
Her momma chased her with her baldy head.  
Her daddy chased her in his raggedy drawers.  
The captain chased her shaking an oar.  
The sign painter chased her with his whitewash can.  
Her grandpa chased her with a fish in his hand.  
Her cousin chased her with his kite in tatters.  
The farmer chased her throwin' green tomatoes.  
The gardener chased her swingin' his hoe.  
The coal miner chased her flingin' lumps of coal.  
Her grandma chased her wavin' wet clothes.  
Her dollies chased her beggin' for a nose.  
And when they finally caught her,  
What do you suppose they did to her?  
Well, I won't say, but her name was... *Cuttin' Kate.*