

THE ROMANCE

Said the pelican to the elephant,
"I think we should marry, I do.
'Cause there's no name that rhymes with me,
And no one else rhymes with you."

Said the elephant to the pelican,
"There's sense to what you've said,
For rhyming's as good a reason as any
For any two to wed."

And so the elephant wed the pelican,
And they dined upon lemons and limes,
And now they have a baby pelican,
And everybody rhymes.

Shel Silverstein



April is National Poetry Month

CELEBRATE WITH THE POEMS OF SHELL SILVERSTEIN • 2003

POETRY WORD SEARCH

The words below are used to describe some of the basic elements of poetry.

- poem:** Writing that is imaginative and condensed by using words chosen for their sound and meaning, with phrases that may have a certain pattern made with rhythm and rhyme.
- limerick:** A humorous poem that is five lines long. Usually the first, second, and last lines have the same rhyme. The third and fourth lines rhyme with each other.
- rhyme:** Words at the end of a line of a poem that sound alike, such as:
*There once was a fellow named Jack
 Who jumped up and down in a sack.*
- rhythm:** A pattern created with long and short, and weak and strong sounds.
- meter:** A rhythmic pattern in a poem.
- verse:** A line of a poem, or a group of lines within a long poem.
- couplet:** Two lines of a poem together, with the same rhythm and same rhyme at the end.
- stanza:** A part of a poem with similar rhythm and rhyme that will repeat later in the poem.
- sonnet:** A 14-line poem that begins with eight lines and is followed by six lines.
- poet:** A writer of poems—*you!*

Can you find these words below? Circle them with your pencil.

R	H	Y	M	E	H	B	D	M	M
H	A	B	S	T	A	N	Z	A	E
L	E	C	L	B	K	L	E	B	T
D	P	O	E	M	Q	O	V	P	E
A	I	U	N	C	F	W	A	K	R
P	B	P	A	X	V	C	L	I	O
O	F	L	I	M	E	R	I	C	K
E	A	E	V	B	R	B	C	A	M
T	W	T	M	J	S	R	P	G	E
Z	S	O	N	N	E	T	T	S	Q
F	P	C	Q	M	H	T	Y	H	R

- POEM
- LIMERICK
- RHYME
- RHYTHM
- METER
- VERSE
- COUPLET
- STANZA
- SONNET
- POET

WORD FINDER

How many words can you make from the letters in the following sentence?

CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH WITH SHEL SILVERSTEIN.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

COMPLETE THE RHYME

Complete the rhyme and know your states. Here's a poem called "Flag." Let's see if you can fill in the blanks with words that rhyme with the underlined words. After you've tried as hard as you can, look at page 24 of *Where the Sidewalk Ends* to see how Shel rhymed the lines.

FLAG

One star is for Alaska . . .

One star is for _ _ _ _ _ . . . (8 letters)

One star is for North Dakota . . .

One star is for _ _ _ _ _ . . . (9 letters)

There are lots of other stars,

But I forgot which ones they _ _ _ . (3 letters)

SOUNDS LIKE...

Homophones are words that sound alike but are different in meaning and spelling. Here are some examples:

"Little Hoarse"	(<i>Falling Up</i> , p. 29)	hoarse	horse
"Anteater"	(<i>A Light in the Attic</i> , p. 61)	anteater	aunt eater
"Wild Boar"	(<i>Where the Sidewalk Ends</i> , p. 68)	shore	sure

Can you think of any more? Can you use them in a sentence?

Homonyms are words that are usually spelled the same but have different meanings. Here are some examples:

- "Turkey?" (*Falling Up*, p. 34) **drumstick** (turkey leg) **drumstick** (music)
"Safe?" (*Falling Up*, p. 25) **safe** (to cross the street) **safe** (falling from building)
"Overdues" (*A Light in the Attic*, p. 65) **fine** (something you pay) **fine** (feeling)
"Traffic Light" (*Where the Sidewalk Ends*, p. 121) **light** (brightness) **light** (weight)

Can you think of any more? Can you use them in a sentence?

PERSONAL POETRY PUZZLE

The words below are from the poem "One Inch Tall" (*Where the Sidewalk Ends*, p. 55).

1. Using scissors, cut along the dotted lines to separate all the words below. Choose as many words as you like to create your own poem.
2. Arrange them on a piece of paper to compose the lines of your poem. Try different combinations until you find the most interesting ones, for example, phrases that make you laugh the most or phrases that rhyme the best.
3. Tape or glue in place.
4. Compare your poem with your friends' poems. See how they used the same words in different ways.
5. After you have completed your poem, read Shel's poem to see how he used the words.

if	ride	a	you	worm	pool
teardrop	pool	were	school	to	the
only	today	old	make	was	treat
a	my	sweet	these	sunny	blue
magic	cold	me	his	hello	our
here	the	love	dance	you	some
from	eat	so	rain	I	mine
carry	said	took	green	this	drank
boat	delicious	beans	balloon	look	sour
yellow	ed	s	her	funny	true
they	near	does	try	are	sound
have	whisper	before	go	sleep	soon
friend	in	tonight	dream	moon	right

CUTTIN' KATE

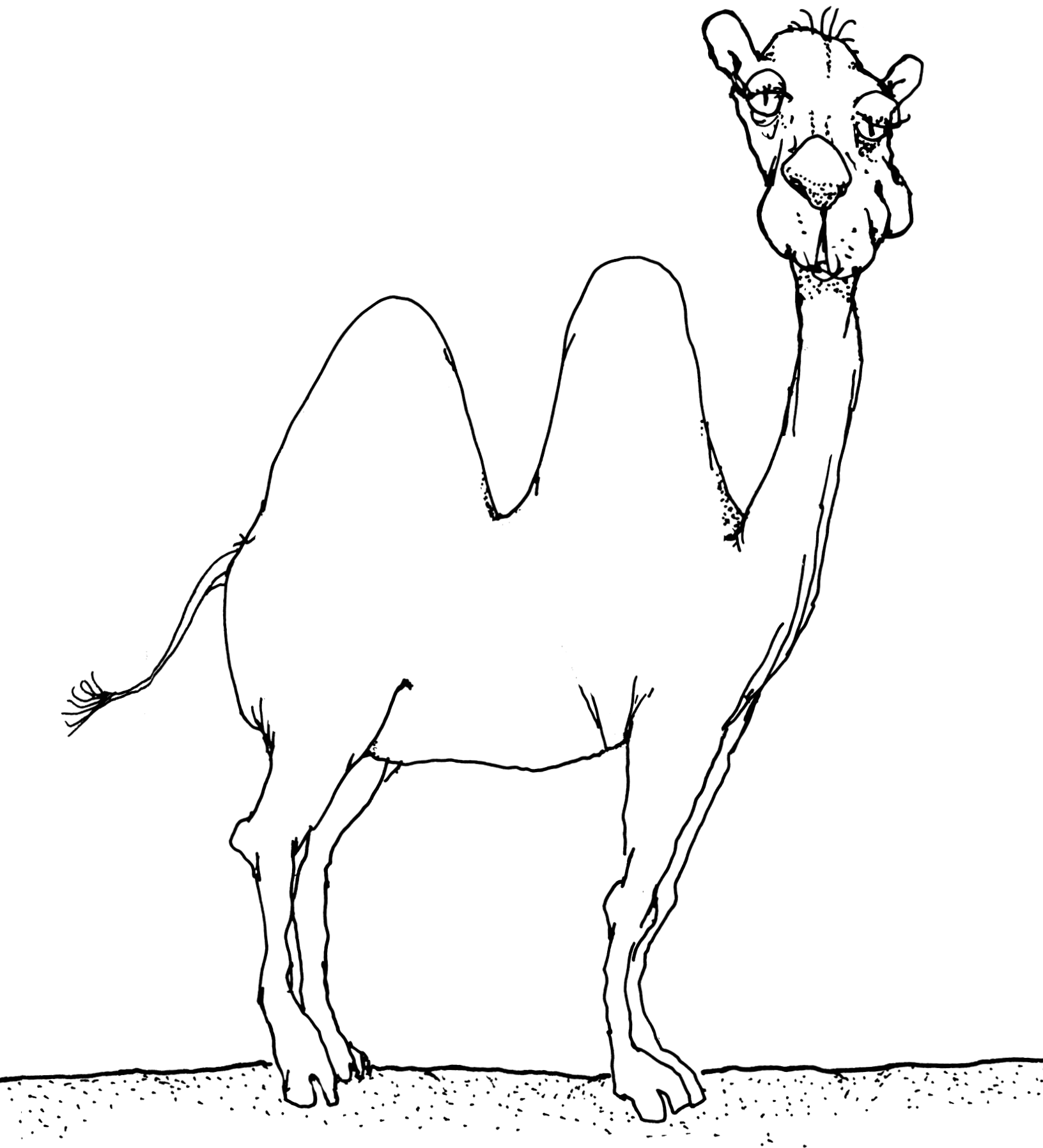
by Shel Silverstein

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, everyone stands up, joins hands, circles around *Cuttin' Kate* and shouts, "You just wait until we catch you, *Cuttin' Kate*!" You can use the scissors cut-out at the end of the *Cuttin' Kate* booklet or just pretend.

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*!"

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 a 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' 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*.



Write a poem within the shape of the camel. You might write about where the camel lives, what it eats, or any special characteristics it has.