

Celebrate National Poetry Month  
with

Shel Silverstein

Event Activity Suggestions

Dear Friend:

We are so happy to help you celebrate Poetry Month with the works of Shel Silverstein, the national bestselling author-artist of many beloved books of prose and poetry.

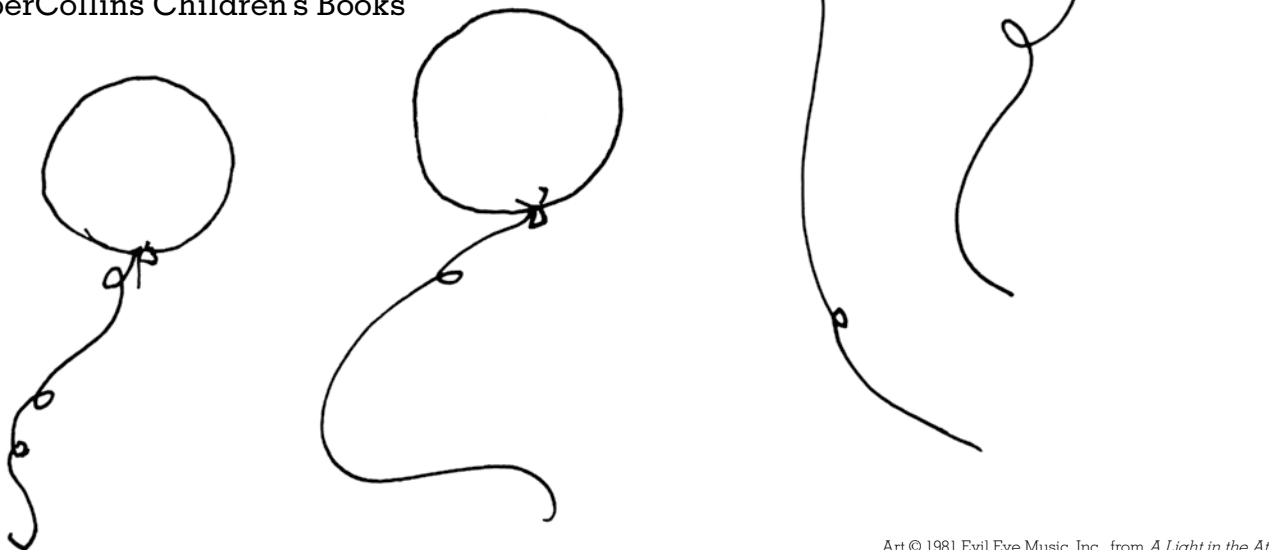
This event kit contains everything you'll need to host a fun and successful Shel Silverstein celebration of your own. In recognition of the popular poetry collection *A Light in the Attic*, which just celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are including a very special "Eight Balloons" coloring activity booklet for you to share with your guests. In addition, a brand-new animated version of the "Eight Balloons" poem will be available exclusively online at [www.shelsilverstein.com](http://www.shelsilverstein.com) beginning in April. Be sure to visit this unique website to learn more about the world of Shel Silverstein before your event.

We would like to know what you think of this event kit and if you have any suggestions for future Shel Silverstein materials. Please share your feedback by sending an email to [eventkits@harpercollins.com](mailto:eventkits@harpercollins.com).

**Event kit materials include:**

- Reproducible invitations and name tags for your event
- Reproducible in-store event suggestions and activities with answer page
- Giveaways
  - Reversible door hanger
  - "Eight Balloons" coloring activity booklet
- "Celebrate with Shel Silverstein" poster
- Audio CD sampler

Sincerely,  
HarperCollins Children's Books

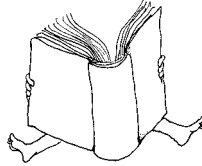


Art © 1981 Evil Eye Music, Inc., from *A Light in the Attic*

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First name

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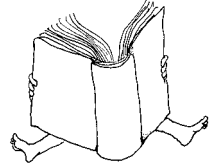
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Favorite book title



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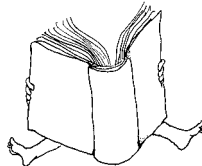
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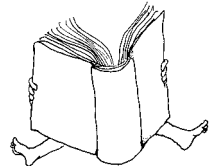
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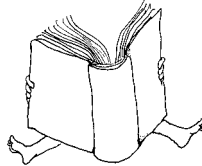
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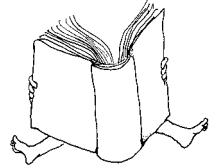
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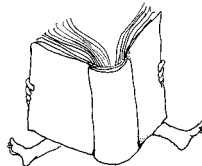
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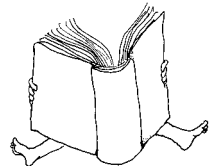
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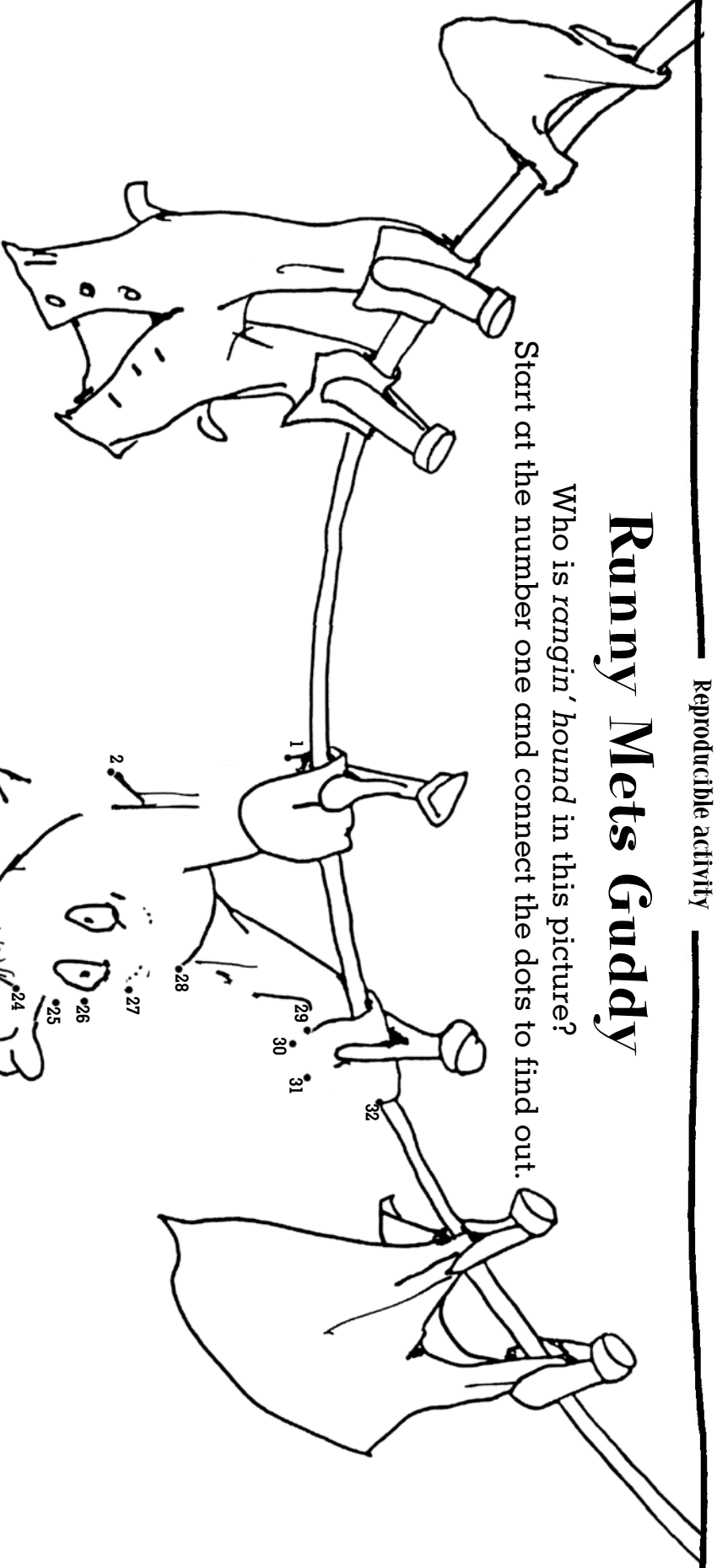
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Favorite book title



# Runny Mets Guddy

Who is rangin' hound in this picture?

Start at the number one and connect the dots to find out.



# Word Finder

How many new words can you make out of the name  
**SHEL SILVERSTEIN?**

Here are a few examples to get you started: *her, hill, see, sit, rest, live . . .*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

# Word Play

For an even greater challenge, try to create a complete sentence using as many of the words you found above in the Word Finder activity. For example, "I sit in the river": all these words can be found by combining some of the letters in Shel Silverstein's name.

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# Runny Babbit Talk

*Runny Babbit* is filled with the magical language of **spoonerisms**, words or phrases with letters or syllables swapped. Can you change the everyday words listed below into "Runny Babbit" talk? Here's an example to get you started: "silly hat" in everyday speech would translate into "hilly sat" in Runny Babbit talk.

pink lemonade \_\_\_\_\_

roller coaster \_\_\_\_\_

soda pop \_\_\_\_\_

chicken soup \_\_\_\_\_

tea party \_\_\_\_\_

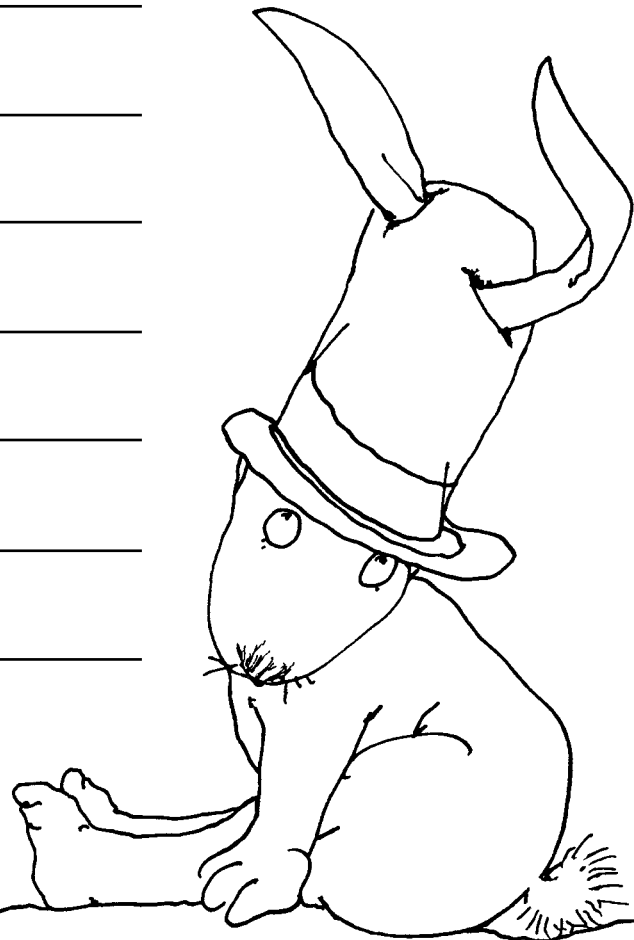
colored pencil \_\_\_\_\_

tennis shoe \_\_\_\_\_

lunch box \_\_\_\_\_

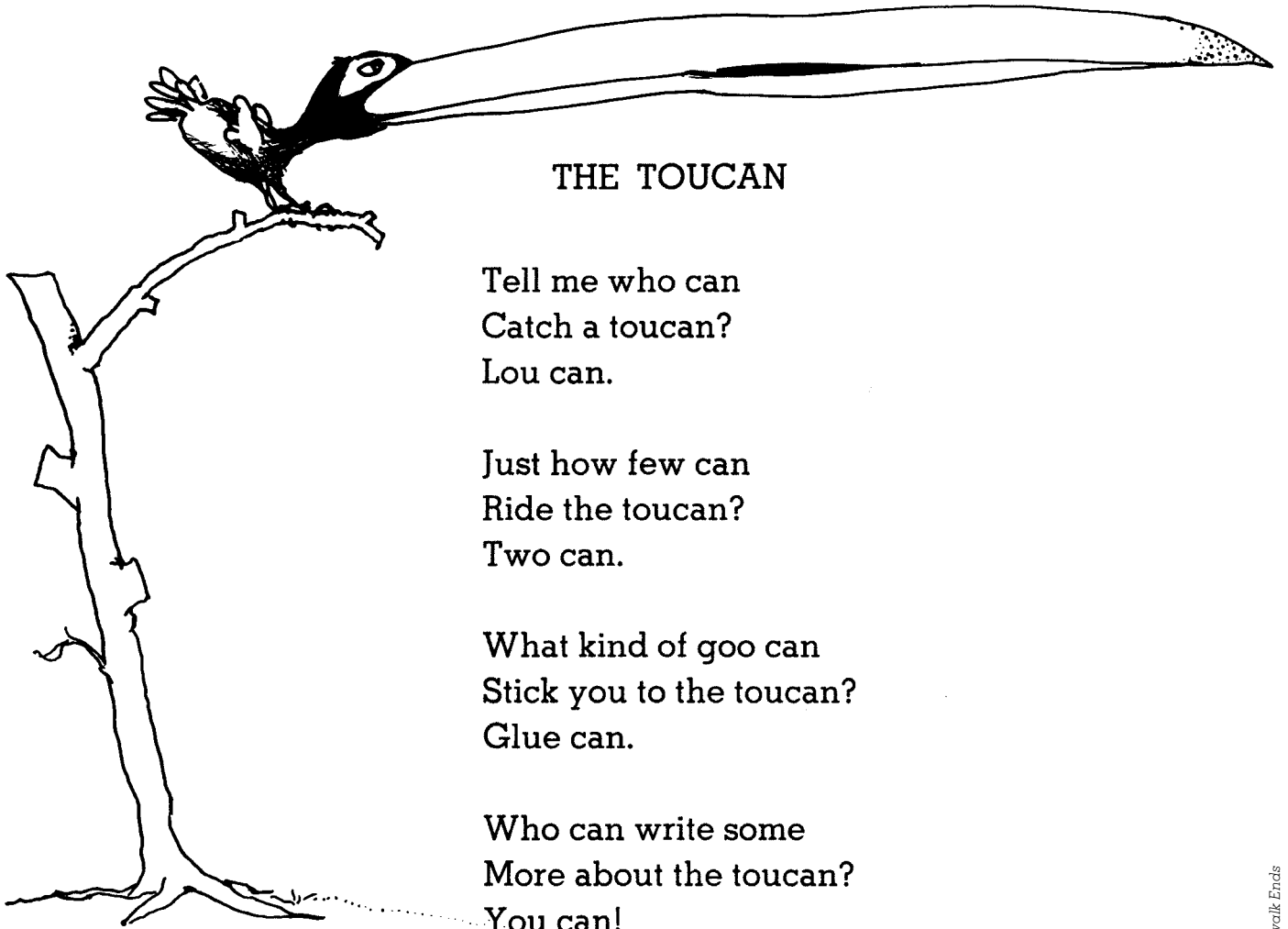
library book \_\_\_\_\_

music teacher \_\_\_\_\_



# You Can!

Read this poem from *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (page 92) and try to write another verse as the poem suggests at the end. First think of a question about the toucan and then choose a word that rhymes with Lou, two, glue, or you!



## THE TOUCAN

Tell me who can  
Catch a toucan?  
Lou can.

Just how few can  
Ride the toucan?  
Two can.

What kind of goo can  
Stick you to the toucan?  
Glue can.

Who can write some  
More about the toucan?  
You can!

**Example: How many can  
Eat the toucan?  
Few can.**

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# What's in a Name?

An **acrostic poem** uses letters from a name or a word to begin each line in a poem. All the lines in the poem must relate to or describe the topic word. Your poem can be about your name, the name of a friend, a famous person, or even a favorite animal, hobby, or sport. Think of words that best describe your name or topic and practice writing your poem below. For an ever greater challenge, try to make the lines of your acrostic poem rhyme.

*For example:*

**JILL**

**J**ill is very funny  
**I** like when she tells jokes  
**L**oveable and smart  
**L**aughter fills her house



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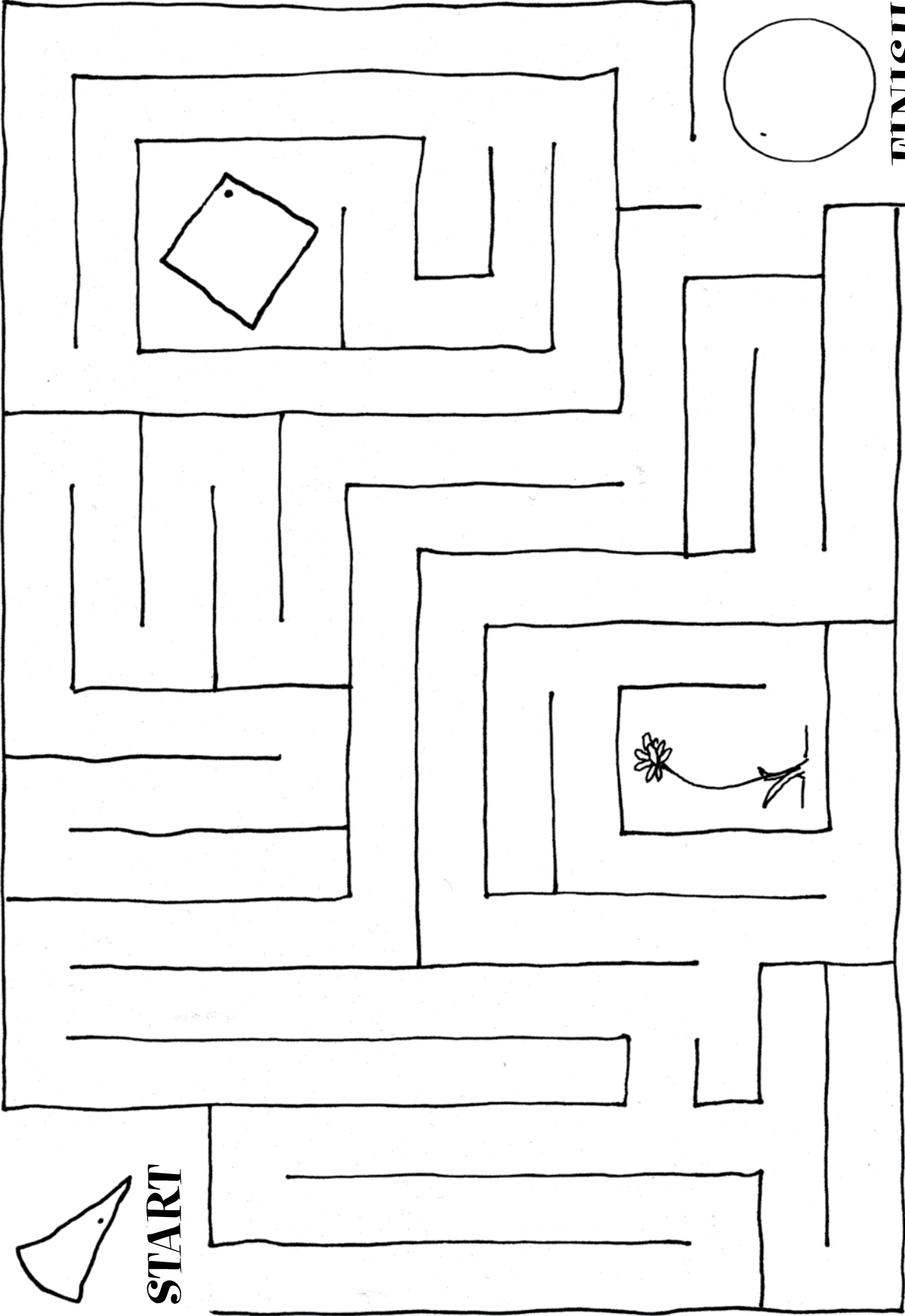
Reproducible activity

# MISSING PIECE MAZE

Can you help the Missing Piece meet the Big O?



**START**



**FINISH**

[www.shelsilverstein.com](http://www.shelsilverstein.com)

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# Rhyme Time

Fill in the blanks with words that rhyme with the underlined words directly above each line. Only the first few couplets of the poem are written below. Read *Falling Up* (pages 26–27) to see if the noise ever ends!

## NOISE DAY

Let's have one day for girls and boyses

When you can make the grandest                                                                  . (6 letters)

Screech, scream, holler, and yell—

Buzz a buzzer, clang a                                            , (4 letters)

Sneeze—hiccup—whistle—shout,

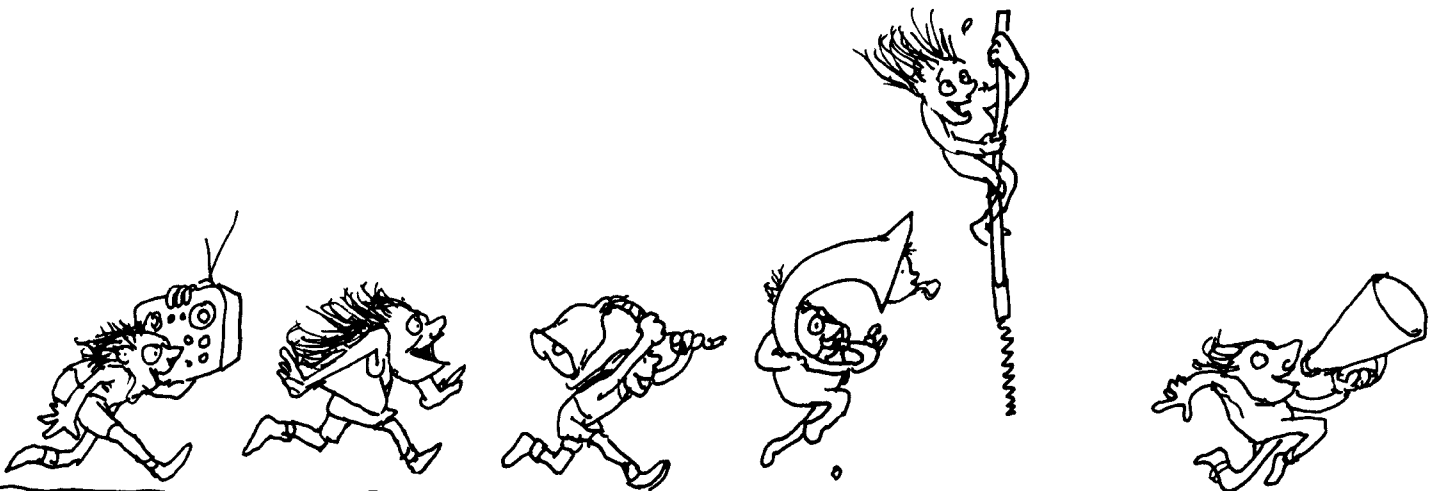
Laugh until your lungs wear                                 , (3 letters)

Toot a whistle, kick a can,

Bang a spoon against a                                 , (3 letters)

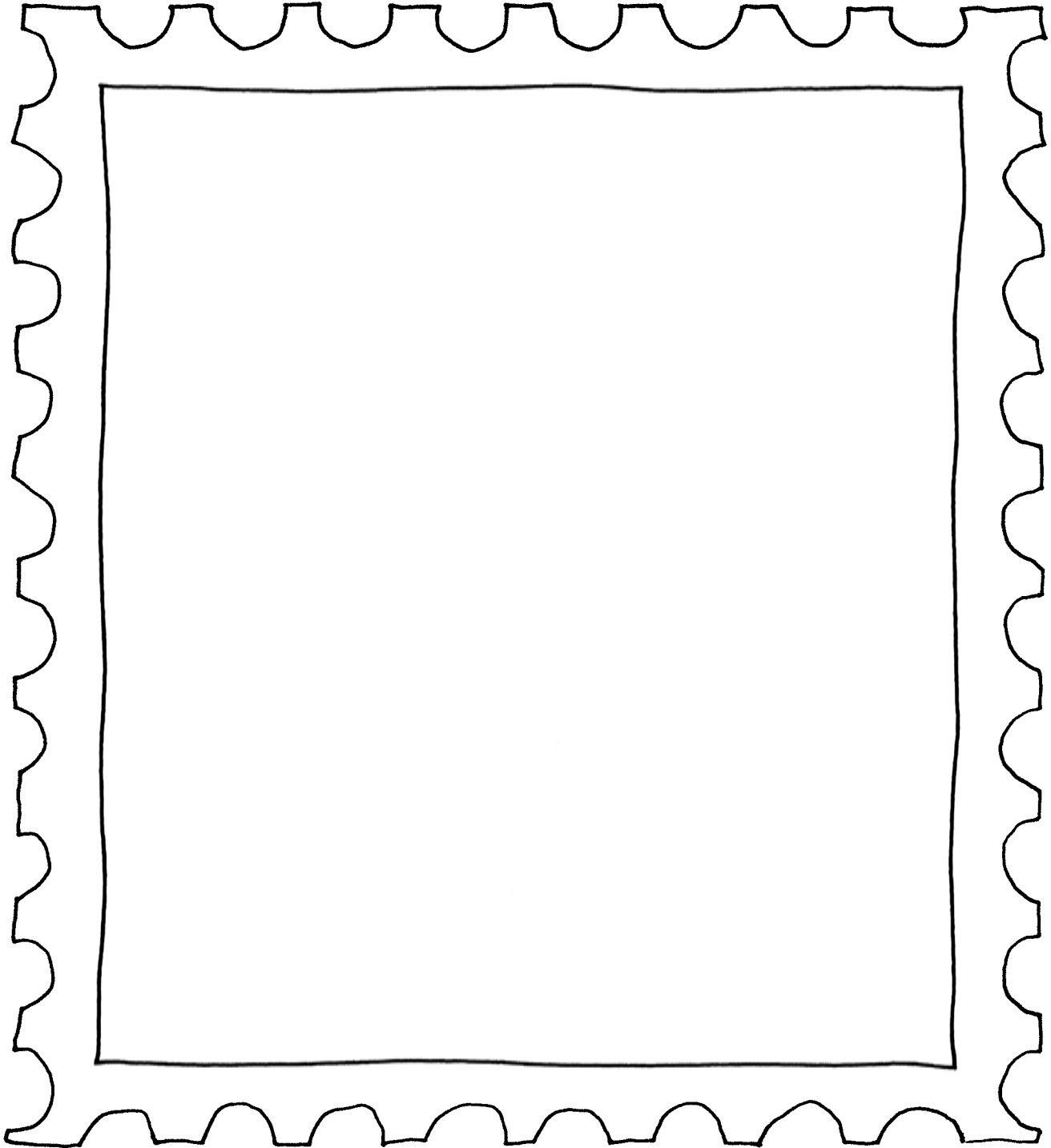
Sing, yodel, bellow, hum,

Blow a horn, beat a                                                                  . (4 letters)



# Create a Stamp

Using your imagination, design your own postage stamp in honor of Shel Silverstein and National Poetry Month. You can draw a picture, include your favorite poem, or even write a paragraph about this famous poet. Have fun!



# Instructions and Answers for Event Coordinator

**Event supplies:** Photocopies of activities; pencils, crayons, markers or other drawing materials; a CD player; and copies of the following poetry books by Shel Silverstein: *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, *Falling Up*, *The Missing Piece*, *The Missing Piece Meets the Big O*, *Runny Babbit*, and *The Giving Tree*.

**Reproducible name tags:** Use Avery Self-Adhesive Labels #5163, photocopy/print out and fill in your guest's names and the title of their favorite book.

**Preparation:** Go through the activity booklet before your event and determine which activities suit your group for age level, complexity, and time availability. You may want to change the sequence of the activities or have children finish certain activities (such as "Create a Stamp") at home. Familiarize yourself with Shel Silverstein's poetry books for children and research any poetry terms with which you are unfamiliar (e.g., spoonerism, acrostic poem, etc.) as you'll likely want to provide a detailed explanation if asked.

**Begin your celebration:** Play the enclosed CD sampler, on which Shel Silverstein recites, sings, and shouts selections from his original albums for your guests to get an idea of Shel's work. Next, read the poem "Eight Balloons" from *A Light in the Attic* and pass out the enclosed Eight Balloons coloring activity booklet for kids to color or take home as a giveaway. **Remind your guests to visit the Shel Silverstein website: [www.shelsilverstein.com](http://www.shelsilverstein.com) to view a brand-new animation of the poem.**



## THE ACTIVITIES

**Word Finder/Word Play.** Write out all the answers that you can find and photocopy to distribute to the group after they have completed their answers. Here are some additional examples:

Word Finder: *he, hi, hill, hint, his, hive, in, is, it, list, listens, liver, nerve, nest, net, never, reel, rests, she, shell, shin, shine, silver, the, then, these, this, tin, verse, vile, and many more!*

Word Play: *He never listens. She rests in the shell. His liver is vile. Her shin is silver.*

**Runny Babbit Talk.** The first portion of this activity can be discussed orally. Make sure your group has a basic understanding of the ways in which spoonerisms are created before they begin the activity. The Runny Babbit Talk answers are: *link pemonade, coller roaster, poda sop, shicken coup, pea tarty, polored cencil, shennis toe, bunch lox, bibrary look, and tusic meacher.*

**You Can!** Write down your suggested rhyming verses and photocopy to distribute to the group after they have completed their own. Additional examples include:

*What will work to  
Clean the toucan?  
Shampoo can.*

*What color can  
Match the sky to the toucan?  
Blue can.*

### What's in a Name?

The first portion of this activity can be discussed orally. Make sure your group has a basic understanding of acrostic poems before they begin the activity. Additional examples include:

**Poodle**  
*Puffy and fluffy  
Oodles of fun  
Obedient  
Dives under the covers  
Likes to lick my face  
Excellent friend*

**Joe**

*Joe is a monkey  
Oranges are his favorite food  
Everyone loves to visit him at the zoo*

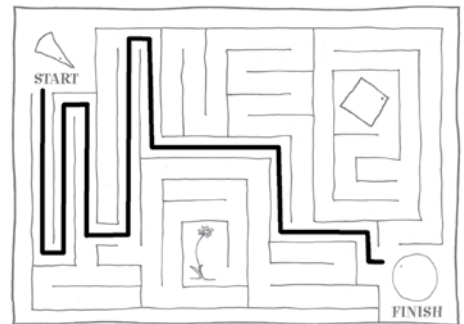
**Friends**

*Friends are  
Right there when you need them  
In a jam or in a bind  
Excellent and true  
Never argue  
Down to earth  
Special*

**Skating**

*Silly  
Kind of like gliding on water  
Always cold  
Take a hot chocolate break  
I love skating with my friends  
Not going to fall  
Got to go practice*

**Missing Piece Maze.** You can make an enlarged photocopy of this maze with the correct path and show it to the group after they have finished attempting to help the Missing Piece find the Big O at the end of the maze.



**Rhyme Time.** Read Shel Silverstein's "Noise Day" from *Falling Up* (pages 26-27) to familiarize yourself with the poem. The group may wish to substitute their own words to complete the rhymes, but the answers as Shel wrote them are: *noises, bell, out, pan, and drum.*

**Have fun and enjoy your event!**

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