

Shelebrate

Poetry Month 2009



HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

www.shelsilverstein.com

Shelebrate Poetry Month 2009

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



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

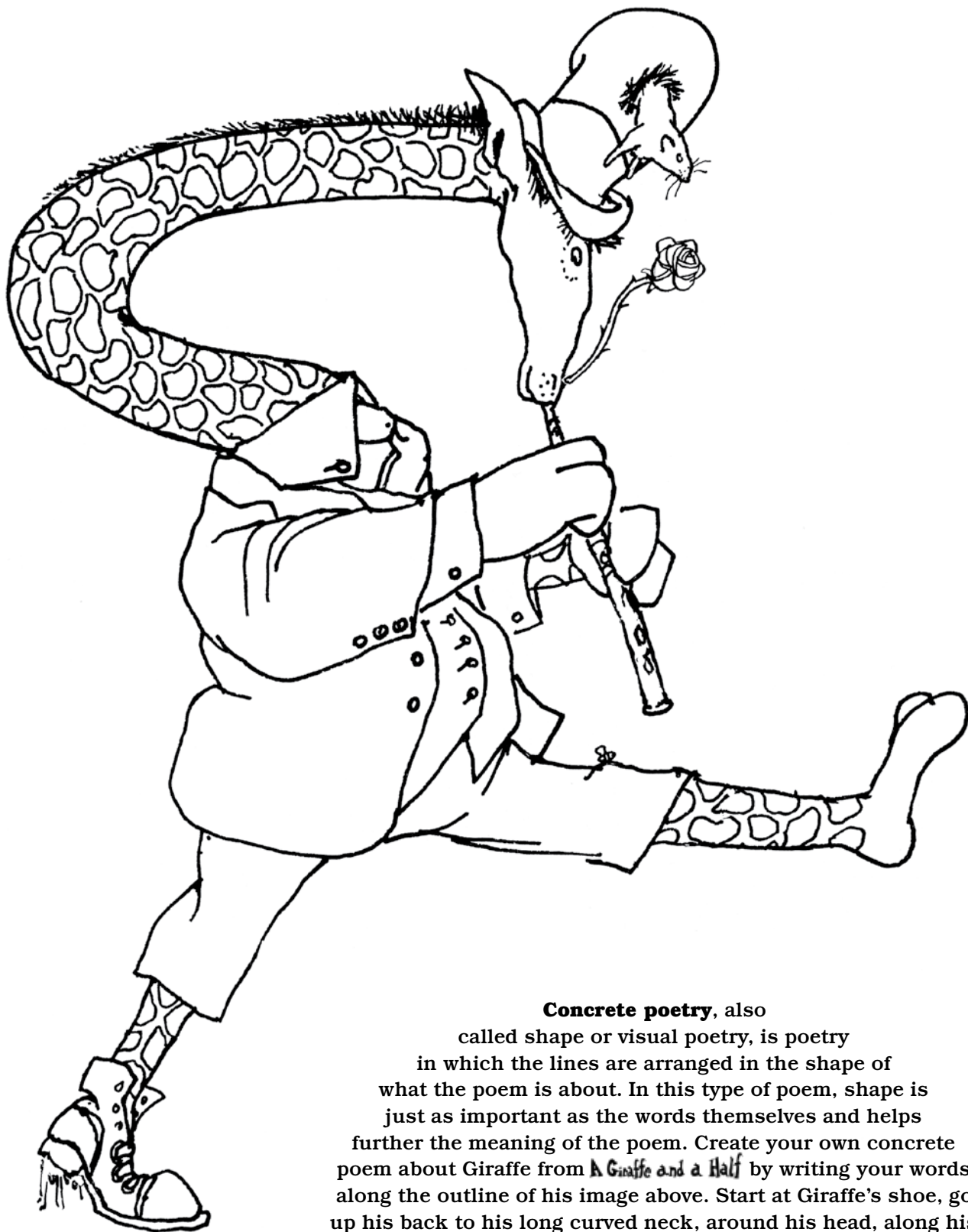
Create Your Own Poem

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 *A Giraffe and a Half* to see how Shel Silverstein used these words in his poem.



Giraffe	Cute	Trunk	Give
Junk	Fruit	Chose	Lake
Saggin'	Bike	Half	Hair
You	Laundry	Skunk	Flea
Dragon	Suit	Shrank	Mail
Hard	Have	Rose	Knee
Dressed	And	Bee	Looked
Flute	Stung	Chair	Wagon
Put	Gave	Played	Comb
Found	Cake	Stretched	Sat
Whale	Climb	Lived	Tail
Jump	Bought	Silly	Glue
Grew	Ran	To	Away
Nose	If	With	Fell
Bear	A	Stepped	Bird
Pole	In	Rode	Old
Mole	Girl	Hole	Gave
Would	Eating	His	Snake
On	Shoe	Hat	Spike
Rat	Hike	The	Flew

Shape Poetry



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



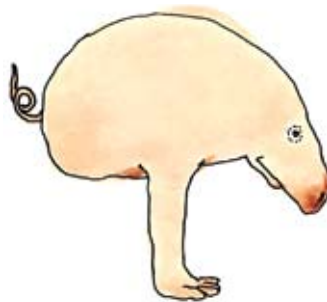
“Consider his feelings—
Don’t ask him to dance.”

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

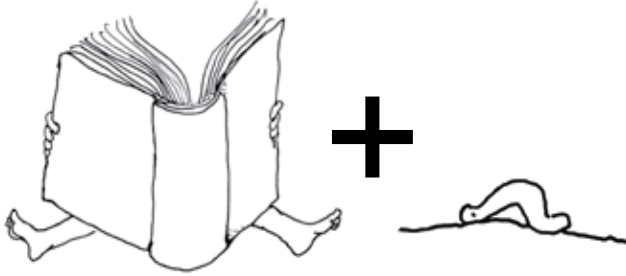


“I’ll get awful, awful sick
If I give your head a lick.”

What Is a Rebus?

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



Rebus #2

Wish

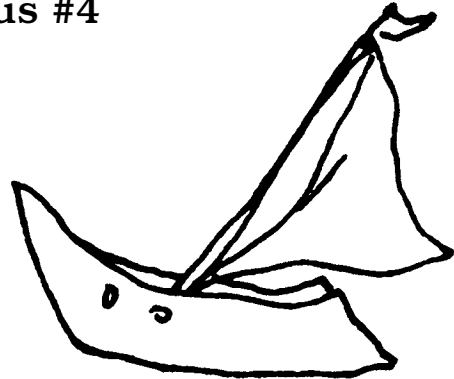


Rebus #3



Cream

Rebus #4



ccccccc

Rebus #5

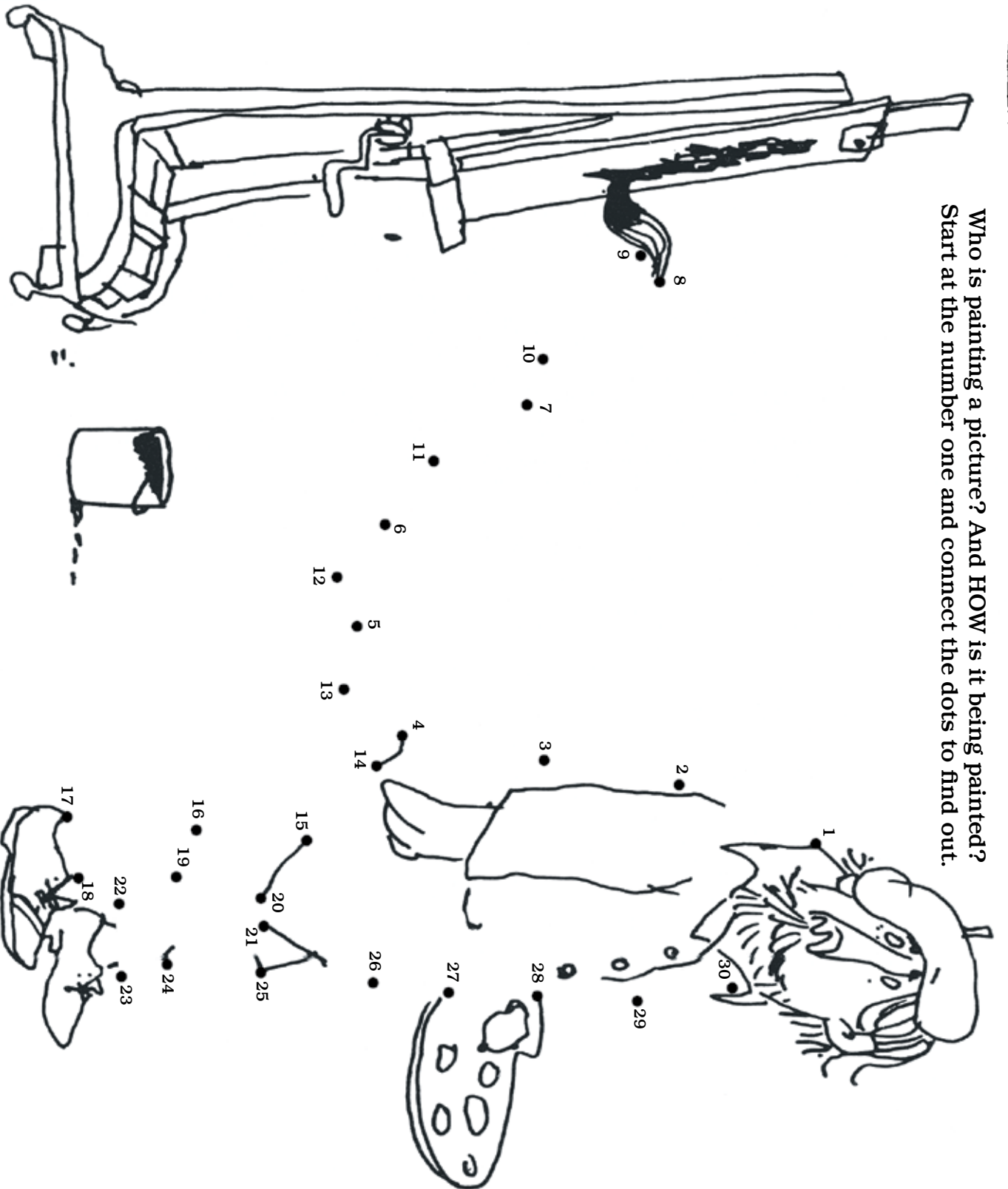


birthday

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

Connect the Dots

Who is painting a picture? And HOW is it being painted?
Start at the number one and connect the dots to find out.



Solve the Cryptogram

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 *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

,
 $\overline{14} \overline{2} \overline{20} \overline{19} \overline{1} \overline{3} \overline{5} \overline{26} \overline{1} \overline{13} \overline{3} \overline{11} \overline{2} \overline{20} \overline{19} \overline{3}$,

, ,
 $\overline{14} \overline{2} \overline{13} \overline{8} \overline{1} \overline{3} \overline{16} \overline{1} \overline{8} \overline{14} \overline{14} \overline{11} \overline{2} \overline{25} \overline{2} \overline{23} \overline{11} \overline{2} \overline{23} \overline{19} \overline{3}$,

,
 $\overline{8} \overline{11}$, $\overline{14} \overline{11} \overline{2} \overline{25} \overline{2} \overline{13} \overline{26} \overline{13} \overline{23} \overline{11} \overline{2} \overline{17} \overline{8}$?

,
 $\overline{13} \overline{8} \overline{2} \overline{23} \overline{19} \overline{1} \overline{9} \overline{8} \overline{1} \overline{2} \overline{16} \overline{1} \overline{8} \overline{14}$?

,
 $\overline{24} \overline{2} \overline{3} \overline{23} \overline{19} \overline{23} \overline{16} \overline{3} \overline{11} \overline{26} \overline{23} \overline{14} \overline{19} \overline{24} \overline{16} \overline{26} \overline{1} \overline{17} \overline{11} \overline{19} \overline{3}$.



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.

Noun

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Plural Noun

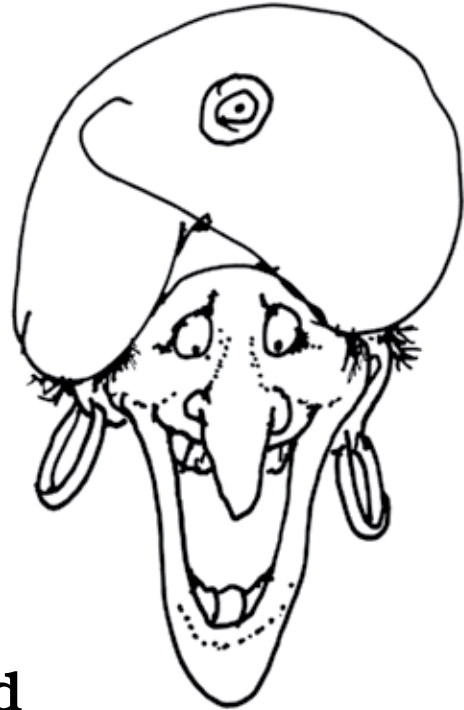
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Adjective

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Verb

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Hypnotized

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

Runny Babbit Decoder Game

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.

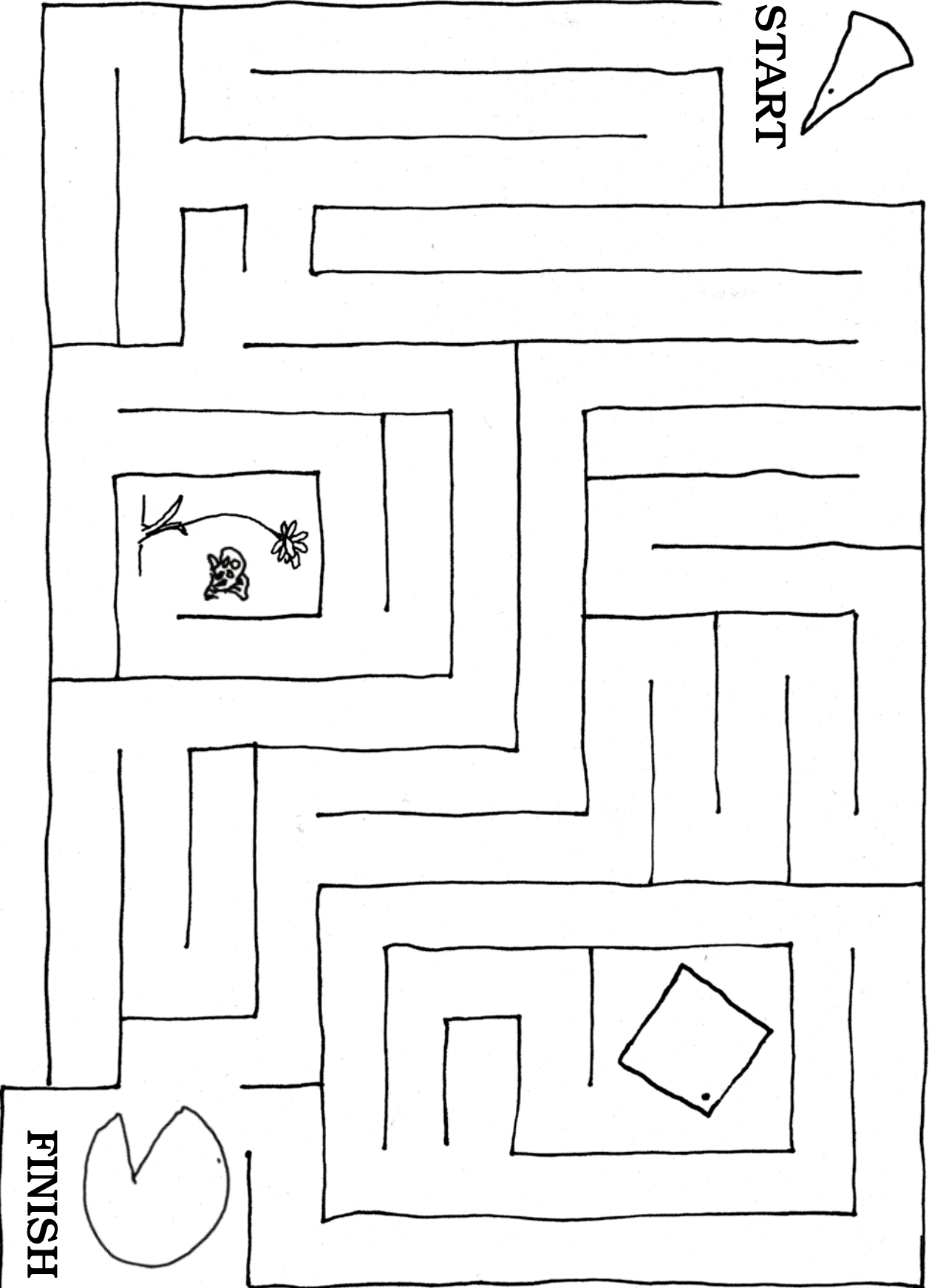
 <p>Runny Babbit</p>	 <p>mour yajesty</p>	 <p>kittle litten</p>	 <p>tash wub</p>
 <p>hop tat</p>	 <p>babble buth</p>	 <p>mancy feal</p>	 <p>droud lum</p>
 <p>boetry pook</p>	 <p>frest biends</p>	 <p>chigh hair</p>	 <p>hig bug</p>
 <p>chocking rair</p>	 <p>rangin' hound</p>	 <p>pessy mig</p>	 <p>rike bide</p>

Missing Piece Maze

Can you help the Missing Piece meet the Big O?



START



FINISH

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

SLITHERGADEE



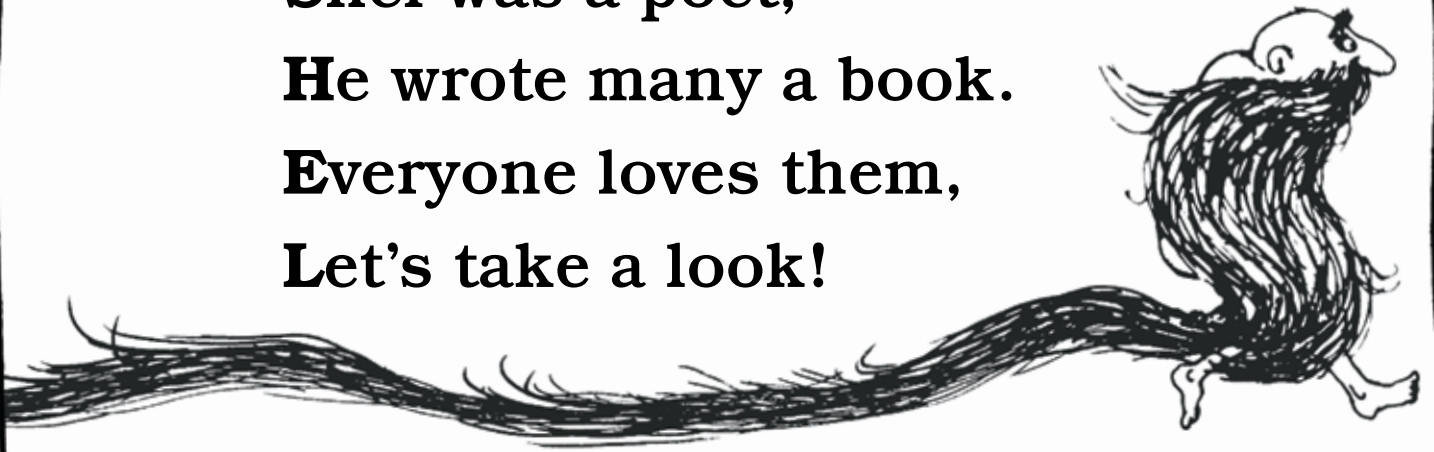
What's in a Name?

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:

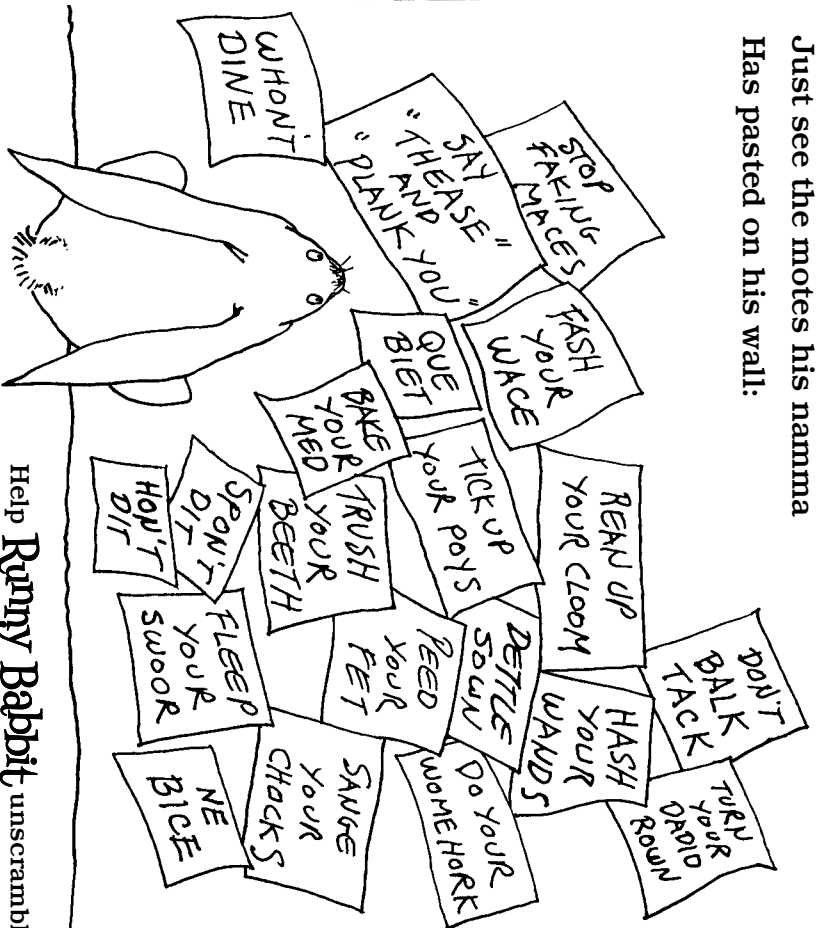
SHEL

Shel was a poet,
He wrote many a book.
Everyone loves them,
Let's take a look!



Runny's Riddle Reminders

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.

- Circle "WASH YOUR FACE."
- Color in the square that says "CHANGE YOUR SOCKS."
- Put a triangle above "DON'T CHEW WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL."
- Draw a heart around "FEED YOUR PET."
- Put a star under "BE NICE."



- Draw a line from "DON'T EAT WITH YOUR FINGERS" to "BRUSH YOUR TEETH."
- Put your shoe size next to "WIPE YOUR FEET."
- Draw a rectangle around "ELBOWS."
- Draw a smiley face next to "STOP MAKING FACES."
- Underline "PLEASE" and "THANK YOU."