

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 SHEL 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

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