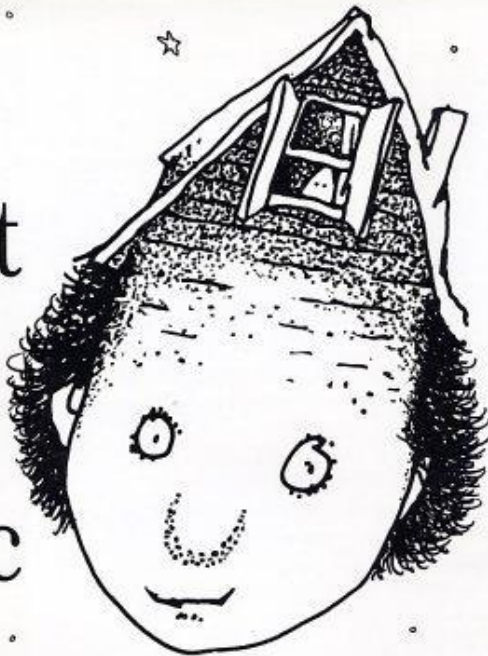


A Light in the Attic



poems and drawings by
Shel Silverstein

A Light in the Attic

Shel Silverstein

A LIGHT IN THE ATTIC

There's a light on in the attic

Though the house is dark and shuttered,

I can see a flickerin' flutter,

And I know what it's about.

There's a light on in the attic.

I can see it from the outside,

And I know you're on the inside . . . lookin' out.

7

HOW MANY, HOW MUCH

How many slams in an old screen door?

Depends how loud you shut it.

How many slices in a bread?

Depends how thin you cut it.

How much good inside a day?

Depends how good you live 'em.

How much love inside a friend?

Depends how much you give 'em.

[illustration: across the foot of pages 8 and 9 is a long row of all different

kinds of houses: large

and small, apartment houses and

single-family homes,

thin and wide houses.]

[8]

MOON-CATCHIN' NET

I've made me a moon-catchin' net,

And I'm goin' huntin' tonight,

I'll run along swingin' it over my head,

And grab for that big ball of light.

So tomorrow just look at the sky,
And if there's no moon you can bet
I've found what I sought and I finally caught
The moon in my moon-catchin' net.
But if the moon's still shinin' there,
Look close underneath and you'll get
A clear look at me in the sky swingin' free
With a star in my moon-catchin' net.

[illustration: in addition to the row of houses at the bottom,
there is a picture of

a child swinging at the bottom of a long-handled net that has
caught a star.]

[9]

HAMMOCK

Grandma sent the hammock,
The good Lord sent the breeze.
I'm here to do the swinging--

Now, who's gonna move the trees?

13

[Illustration on pages 10 and 11: A child (on page 10 at the bottom of the poem)

is holding one end of a hammock. On page 11, the other end is attached to one branch of a large tree.]

11

HOW NOT TO HAVE

TO DRY THE DISHES

If you have to dry the dishes

(Such an awful, boring chore)

If you have to dry the dishes

('Stead of going to the store)

If you have to dry the dishes

And you drop one on the floor--

Maybe they won't let you

Dry the dishes anymore.

[illustration: a girl with a lot of black fuzzy hair is holding a very large plate under her nose and a dish towel in one hand. A broken plate lies on the floor next to her]

12

STOP THIEF!

Policeman, policeman,

Help me please.

Someone went and stole my knees.

I'd chase him down but I suspect

My feet and legs just won't connect.

[illustration: a large man with spaces between thighs and boots-- no knees.]

16

Mrs. McTwitter the baby-sitter,

I think she's a little bit crazy.

She thinks a baby-sitter's supposed

To sit upon the baby.

[illustration:

A

large woman with a big puffy hairdo and glasses sitting.
Small feet

are sticking out from under her.

]

14

PRAYER OF THE SELFISH CHILD

Now I lay me down to sleep,

I pray the Lord my soul to keep,

And if I die before I wake,

I pray the Lord my toys to break.

So none of the other kids can use 'em. . . .

Amen.

[Illustration: A child is kneeling by his bed praying, his toys behind him.]

15

WHAT DID?

What did the carrot say to the wheat?

" 'Lettuce' rest, I'm feeling 'beet.' "

What did the paper say to the pen?

"I feel quite all 'write,' my friend."

What did the teapot say to the chalk?

Nothing, you silly . . . teapots can't talk!

[illustration: A teapot with long legs and feet in men's shoes faces a tall piece of chalk with shorter legs and women's shoes.]

18

[illustration: A large carrot with arms and legs, hands and feet, holding a piece

of wheat is facing a large fountain pen, which is writing I
FEEL ALL WRITE

on a piece of paper.]

17

SHAKING

Geraldine now, stop shaking that cow

For heaven's sake, for your sake and the cow's sake.

That's the dumbest way I've seen

To make a milk shake.

29

[illustration: a small girl is shaking a very large cow]

19

SIGNALS

When the light is green you go.

When the light is red you stop.

But what do you do

When the light turns blue

With orange and lavender spots?

[illustration: a tall traffic light bending slightly.]

20

PICTURE PUZZLE PIECE

One picture puzzle piece

Lyin' on the sidewalk,

One picture puzzle piece

Soakin' in the rain.

It might be a button of blue

On the coat of the woman

Who lived in a shoe.

It might be a magical bean,

Or a fold in the red

Velvet robe of a queen.

It might be the one little bite

Of the apple her stepmother

Gave to Snow White.

It might be the veil of a bride

Or a bottle with some evil genie inside.

It might be a small tuft of hair