



# Falling Up



*poems and drawings by*

**Shel Silverstein**



## Falling Up

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[Drawing: line of rooftops along the bottom of the page, and just over the

poem, a floating person with one shoe off.]

I tripped on my shoelace

And I fell up --

Up to the roof tops,

Up over the town,

Up past the tree tops,

Up over the mountains,

Up where the colors

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Blend into the sounds.

But it got me so dizzy

When I looked around,

I got sick to my stomach

And I threw down.

## PLUGGING IN

Peg plugged in her 'lectric toothbrush,

Mitch plugged in his steel guitar,

Rick plugged in his CD player,

Liz plugged in her VCR.

Mom plugged in her 'lectric blanket,

Pop plugged in the TV fights,

I plugged in my blower-dryer --

Hey! Who turned out all the lights?

## COMPLAININ' JACK

[Drawing: Open box with a spring-neck coming out and laying on the ground

(with a duck head poking out behind it) ending in a very human face; facing

a child standing with hands behind her back.]

This morning my old jack-in-the-box

Popped out -- and wouldn't get back-in-the-box.

He cried, "Hey, there's a tack-in-the-box,

And it's cutting me through and through.

"There also is a crack-in-the-box,

And I never find a snack-in-the-box,

And sometimes I hear a quack-in-the-box,

'Cause a duck lives in here too."

Complain, complain is all he did --

I finally had to close the lid.

SUN HAT

[Drawing: illustrates poem]

Oh, what a sweet child is Hannah Hyde,

Oh, how thoughtful, oh, how nice,

To buy a hat with a brim so wide,

It gives shade to the frogs

And the worms and the mice.

SNOWBALL

I made myself a snowball  
As perfect as could be.  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet

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And let it sleep with me.  
I made it some pajamas  
And a pillow for its head.  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first -- it wet the bed.

SCALE

[Drawing: pot-bellied male, wearing only pants, stands on scale, looking

down at his belly]

If I could only see the scale,  
I'm sure that it would state  
That I've lost ounces ... maybe pounds  
Or even tons of weight.

"You'd better eat some pancakes --

You're skinny as a rail."

I'm sure that's what the scale would say ...

If I could see the scale.

### LITTLE PIG'S TREAT

[Drawing: piglet sitting on big pig's head, pointing at a sign that reads

"CANDY: Come in and people out."]

Said the pig to his pop,

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"There's the candy shop.

Oh, please let's go inside.

And I promise I won't

Make a kid of myself

If you give me a people-back ride."

### UNFAIR

They don't allow pets in this apartment.

That's not decent, that's not fair.

They don't allow pets in this apartment.

They don't listen, they don't care.

I told them he's quiet and never does bark,

I told them he'd do all his stuff in the park,

I told them he's cuddly and friendly, and yet --

They won't allow pets.

[Drawing: angry looking little girl pulling on a string which, on the

facing page, is attached to a LARGE (at least twice as tall as the girl)

vaguely feline face and paw.]

WASTEBASKET BROTHER

[Drawing: inverted wastebasket with legs sticking out from under]

Someone put their baby brother

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Under this basket --

The question is exactly why,

But I'm not going to ask it.

But someone, I ain't sayin' who,  
Has got a guilty face,  
Ashamed for lettin' such a lovely brother  
Go to waste.

## CRYSTAL BALL

[Drawing: fortune teller with crystal ball and customer]

Come see your life in my crystal glass --  
Twenty-five cents is all you pay.

Let me look into your past --

Here's what you had for lunch today:

Tuna salad and mashed potatoes,

Green pea soup and apple juice,

Collard greens and stewed tomatoes,

Chocolate milk and lemon mousse.

You admit I've told it all?

Well, I know it, I confess,

Not by looking in my ball,

But just by looking at your dress.

## ADVICE

William Tell, William Tell,

Take your arrow, grip it well,

There's the apple -- aim for the middle --

Oh well ... you just missed by a \*little\*.

[Drawing: head with apple on top and arrow through the forehead and out the

back]

## NOPE

[Drawing: person with hair standing on end, looking through microscope at

slice of fruit.]

I put a piece of cantaloupe

Underneath the microscope.

I saw a million strange things sleepin',

I saw a zillion weird things creepin',

I saw some green things twist and bend --

I won't eat cantaloupe again.

NO THANK YOU

[Drawing: woman buried in a pile of cats; on the facing page  
a hand

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outstretched with a kitten on it.]

No I do not want a kitten,

No cute, cuddly kitty-poo,

No more long hair in my cornflakes,

No more midnight meowing mews.

No more scratchin, snarlin, spitters,

No more sofas clawed to shreds,

No more smell of kitty litter,

No more mousies in my bed.

No I will not take that kitten --

I've had lice and I've had fleas,

I've been scratched and sprayed and bitten,