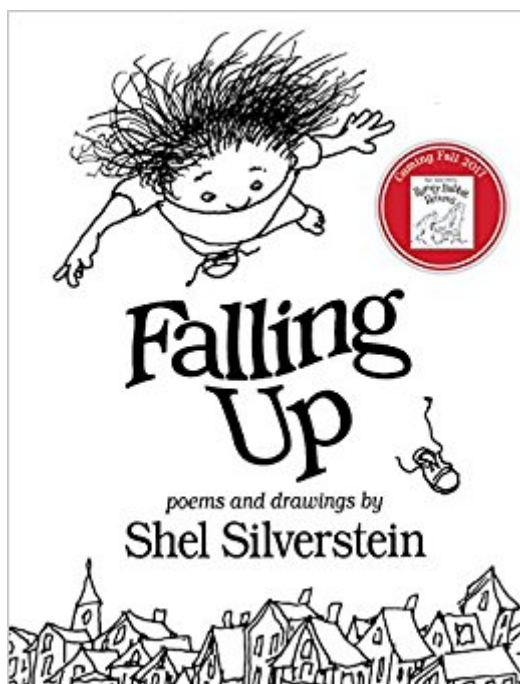


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# Falling Up



## Synopsis

From New York Times bestselling author Shel Silverstein, the classic creator of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, and *Every Thing On It*, comes a wondrous book of poems and drawings. Filled with unforgettable characters like Screamin' Millie; Allison Beals and her twenty-five eels; Danny O'Dare, the dancin' bear; the Human Balloon; and Headphone Harold, this collection by the celebrated Shel Silverstein will charm young readers and make them want to trip on their shoelaces and fall up too! So come, wander through the Nose Garden, ride the Little Hoarse, eat in the Strange Restaurant, and let the magic of Shel Silverstein open your eyes and tickle your mind. And don't miss *Runny Babbit Returns*, the new book from Shel Silverstein!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: NP (What's this?)

Hardcover: 171 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (January 24, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060248025

ISBN-13: 978-0060248024

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 7.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 407 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,902 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children's Books > Humor > Cartoons #5 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous #129 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

All the things that children loved about *A Light in the Attic* and *Where the Sidewalk Ends* can be found in abundance in this eclectic volume, Silverstein's first book of poetry in 20 years. By turns cheeky and clever and often darkly subversive, the poems are vintage Silverstein, presented in a black-and-white format that duplicates his earlier books. Like Roald Dahl, Silverstein's cartoons and poems are humorously seditious, often giving voice to a child's desire to be empowered or to retaliate for perceived injustice: one child character wields a "Remote-a-Dad" that will instantly control his father, and another dreams of his teachers becoming his students so that when they talk

or laugh in class, he can "pinch 'em 'til they [cry]." The poems focus on the unexpected—a piglet receives a "people-back ride" and Medusa's snake-hair argues about whether to be coifed in cornrows or bangs. Sometimes the art traffics in gross-out, as when William Tell gets an arrow through his forehead or a cartoon character sticks carrots in his sockets because he's heard that carrots are good for his eyes. Although some parents and teachers may cringe at such touches, Silverstein's anti-establishment humor percolates as he lampoons conventions (the stork not only brings babies but "comes and gets the older folks/ When it's their time to go"), or discards decorum (a small gardener zips up his pants after watering the plants "that way"). No matter that the author's rhythms and rhymes can be sloppy, or that his annoying insistence on leavin' off the endin' to his ING's seems artificially folksy, Silverstein's ability to see the world from, as he says, "a different angle" will undoubtedly earn this book a wide audience. All ages. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3 Up? Fifteen years after *A Light in the Attic* (1981) and 22 years after *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1974, both HarperCollins), Silverstein, whose poetry has achieved cultlike popularity, offers readers another collection. While bodily functions seem to be the source of humor in more poems than in the earlier titles, and while there are fewer wonderful images here, the child appeal is as strong as ever. Once again, Silverstein's pen-and-ink drawings are the perfect accompaniment to the poems, always extending and often explaining the words. The book abounds in energetic wordplay ("I saw an ol' gnome/Take a gknock at a gnat/Who was g nibbling the gnose of his gnu") and childlike silliness ("I only ate one drumstick/At the picnic dance this summer...But everybody's mad at me,/Especially the drummer"). Silverstein writes wonderful nonsense verse, but he has used rhyme and rhythm to greater effect in the past. There is much to love in *Falling Up*, but it has its ups and downs. ?Kathleen Whalin, Greenwich Country Day School, CT Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The binding on the book came unglued after just 3 months of light reading. Skimping on the materials - not cool!

My grandson loves Shel Silverstein books, and always a very interesting read for adults reading to the kids.

A favorite and shared in classroom, as I am a teacher.

My 8 year loves these poems. Great for bedtime reading.

Loved this book as a kid, so I bought it for my son! Great book.

A classic for young reader!!!

Fantastic.

grate

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