

# RUNNY BABBIT RETURNS

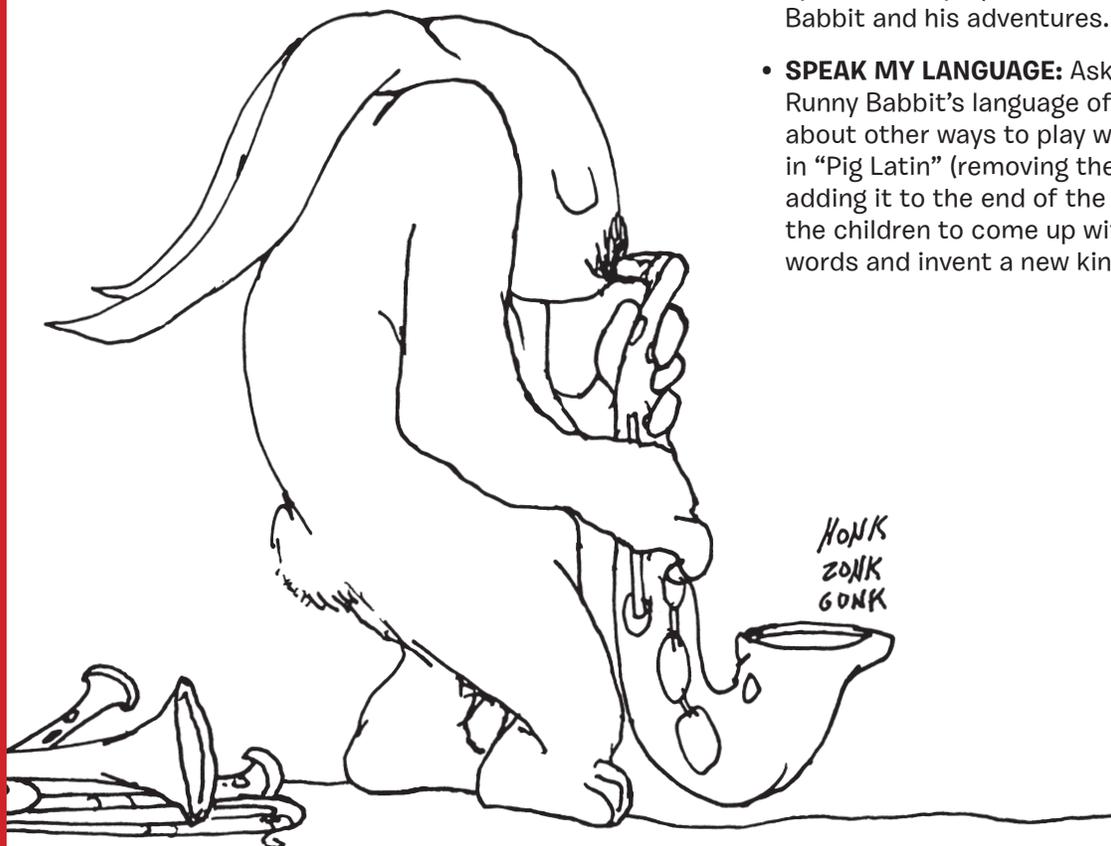
BY SHEL SILVERSTEIN

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Runny Babbit, the lovable star of Shel Silverstein's poetry book, is back. In this collection of forty-one never-before-published spoonerism poems and drawings from the Silverstein archives, Runny and other woodland characters speak a topsy-turvy language all their own.

## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **CAN WE TALK?:** Pair the children and challenge them to have a conversation in Runny Babbit's language of spoonerisms. This is sure to create lots of laughter!
- **COMIC RELIEF:** Have children choose two of the characters from this riotous collection. Then they should make a comic strip depicting an incident with or conversation between the two characters.
- **MAKE THINGS RIGHT:** Have the children choose a poem from the book and rewrite it so it's no longer a spoonerism. Then have them find a partner and read the poem aloud both ways, first in Runny Babbit language, and then in correct English.
- **THE ADVENTURES OF RUNNY BABBIT:** After reading these poems aloud to the children, ask them to make up their own pilly soem (or silly poem) about Runny Babbit and his adventures.
- **SPEAK MY LANGUAGE:** Ask the children to explain how Runny Babbit's language of spoonerisms works. Talk about other ways to play with words, such as speaking in "Pig Latin" (removing the first letter of a word and adding it to the end of the word with "ay"). Challenge the children to come up with another way to play with words and invent a new kind of language.

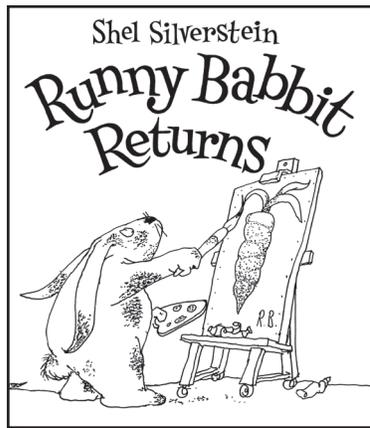


**HARPER**

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# Runny Babbit Returns

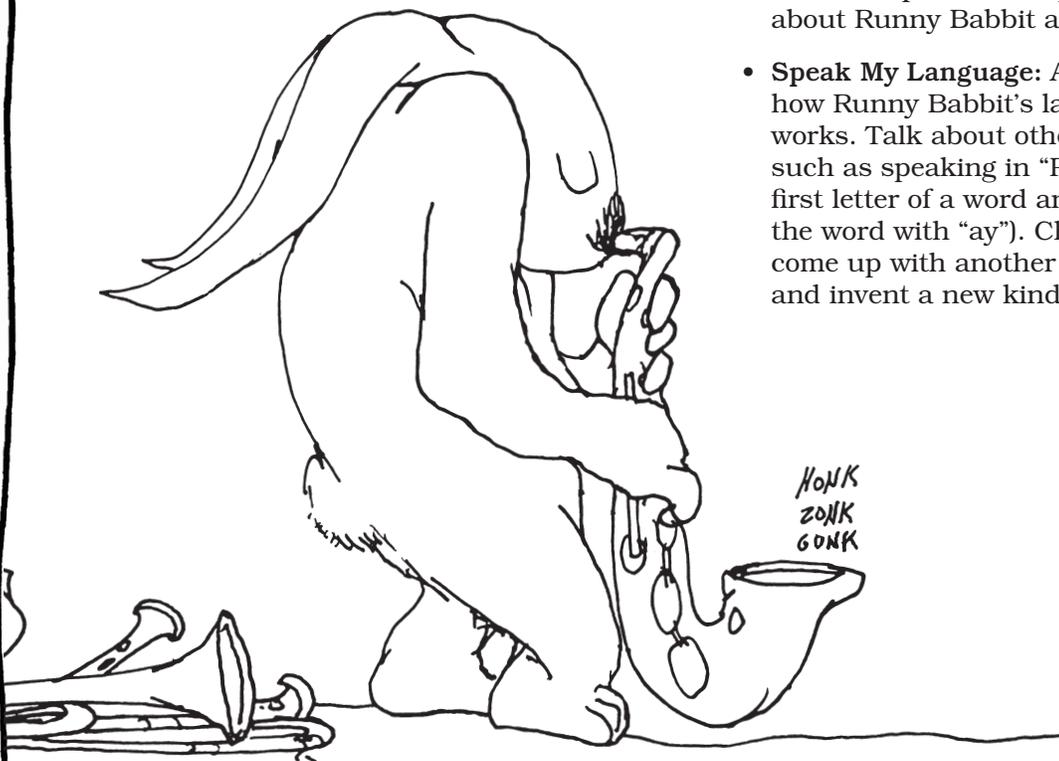
by Shel Silverstein

## About the Book

Runny Babbit, the lovable star of Shel Silverstein's poetry book, is back. In this collection of 41 never-before-published spoonerism poems and drawings from the Silverstein archives, Runny and other woodland characters speak a topsy-turvy language all their own.

## Storytime Activities

- **Can We Talk?:** Pair the children and challenge them to have a conversation in Runny Babbit's language of spoonerisms. This is sure to create lots of laughter!
- **Comic Relief:** Have children choose two of the characters from this riotous collection. Then they should make a comic strip depicting an incident with or conversation between the two characters.
- **Make Things Right:** Have the children choose a poem from the book and rewrite it so it's no longer a spoonerism. Then have them find a partner and read the poem aloud both ways, first in Runny Babbit language, and then in correct English.
- **The Adventures of Runny Babbit:** After reading these poems aloud to the children, ask them to make up their own pilly soem (or silly poem) about Runny Babbit and his adventures.
- **Speak My Language:** Ask the children to explain how Runny Babbit's language of spoonerisms works. Talk about other ways to play with words, such as speaking in "Pig Latin" (removing the first letter of a word and adding it to the end of the word with "ay"). Challenge the children to come up with another way to play with words and invent a new kind of language.



# Tongue Twisted Tales

*Runny Babbit Returns* is full of spoonerisms! A **spoonerism** is a deliberate play on words in which corresponding letters are switched between two words in a phrase.

In “Ramma Mabbit’s Stedtime Bories,” we see that Runny grew up hearing the magical language of **spoonerisms** in the form of bedtime stories.

Take a look at the **spoonerized** stories below and decode them to learn which tales Ramma Mabbit was telling.

1. “Little Red Hiding Rood” \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Gransel and Hetel” \_\_\_\_\_
3. “Binderella” \_\_\_\_\_
4. “Dumpty Humpty” \_\_\_\_\_
5. “Loldigocks and the Bee Threars” \_\_\_\_\_
6. “Hapunzel” \_\_\_\_\_
7. “The Tittle Lailor” \_\_\_\_\_
8. “Ming Kidas” \_\_\_\_\_
9. “The Three Pittle Ligs” \_\_\_\_\_
10. “Three Mind Blice” \_\_\_\_\_

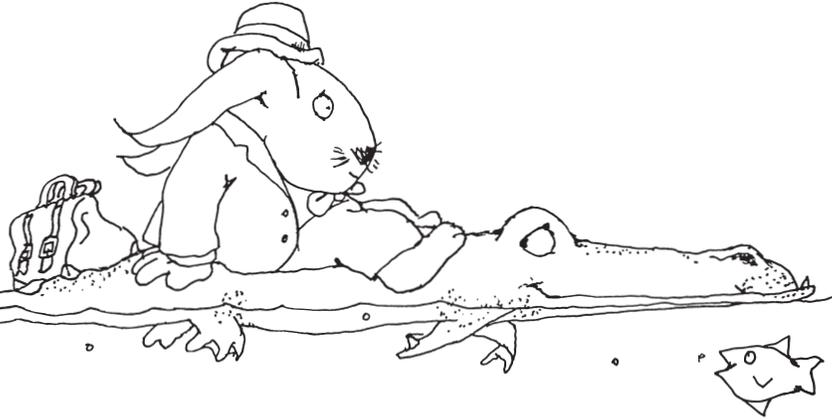


# Spoonerism Scramble

Runny Babbit speaks a topsy-turvy language of his own called **spoonerisms**, a deliberate play on words in which corresponding letters are switched between two words in a phrase, often with a funny outcome. Imagine if you spoke entirely in **spoonerisms**—what would you sound like?

Translate the everyday actions below into **spoonerisms** and then read them out loud for a hilariously good time.

(Hint: You don't need to translate words such as "a," "to," and "the.")



Read a book **Bead a rook** \_\_\_\_\_

Take a shower \_\_\_\_\_

Play soccer \_\_\_\_\_

Cook dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Eat a sandwich \_\_\_\_\_

Write a poem \_\_\_\_\_

Drink water \_\_\_\_\_

Wash the dishes \_\_\_\_\_

Talk to friends \_\_\_\_\_

Listen to music \_\_\_\_\_