

# Shel Silverstein

# Celebrate

## Poetry Month 2012



Shel Silverstein™  
Activity Kit

# Poetry Month 2012 Event Kit

Dear Reader,

April is National Poetry Month, and what better way to *Shelebrate* than with Shel Silverstein?

*Every Thing On It*, Shel Silverstein's first posthumous poetry collection in the style of *A Light in the Attic*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, and *Falling Up*, was published last year.

Critics and readers alike have raved about these touching and delightful new poems and drawings.

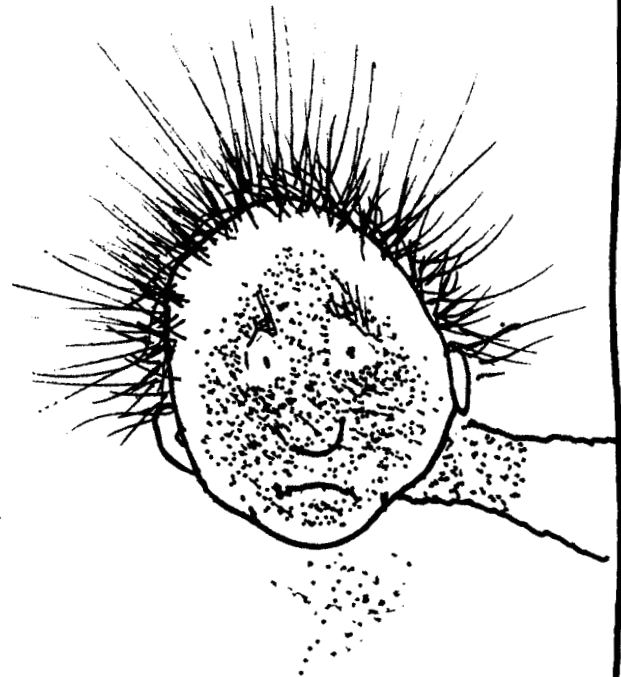
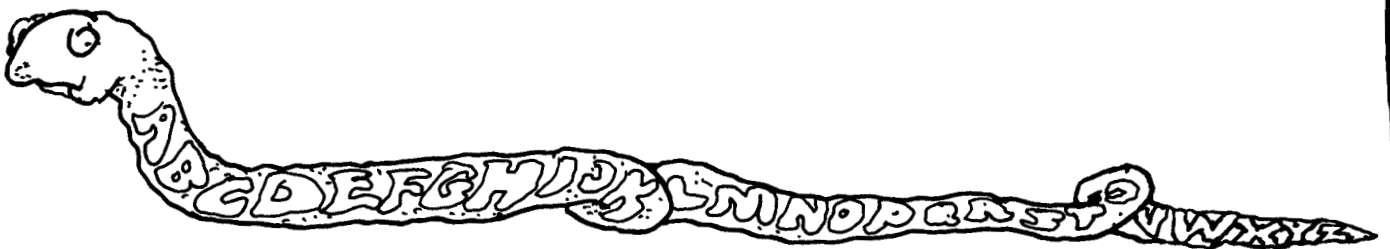
Now we've created a host of activities that draw upon both *Every Thing On It* and Shel's past classics. Perfect for use in a classroom, library, or bookstore, or at home, this kit will bring children and adults together in a shared love for the works of the brilliant Shel Silverstein.

SO COME ON IN AND

EXPLORE THE FUN OF POETRY!


HAPPY READING!

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Marketing Department



Reproducible Name Tags

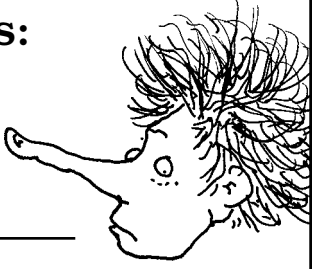
Hello, my name is:




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Hello, my name is:




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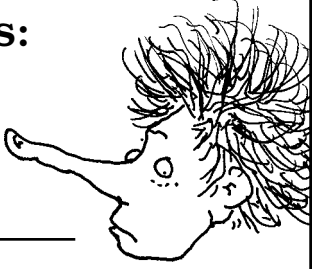
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# Bookplates

It's easy to write your name in a book so other people know it's yours, but sometimes it's fun to add a personal touch. Ask an adult to help you cut out these bookplates. Write your name on the line and tape the bookplate inside the front cover of a book that you own. Now everyone knows the book belongs to you!



From the personal library of

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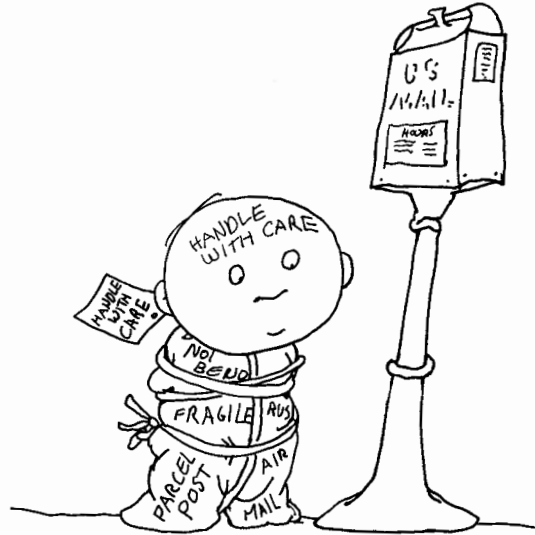


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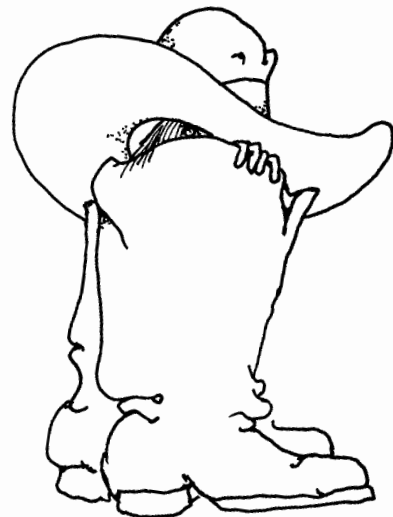


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# Shel-doku

Using only the letters S, H, E, and L, can you figure out which letter should go where so that each letter appears only once in every row, column, and box of four squares?

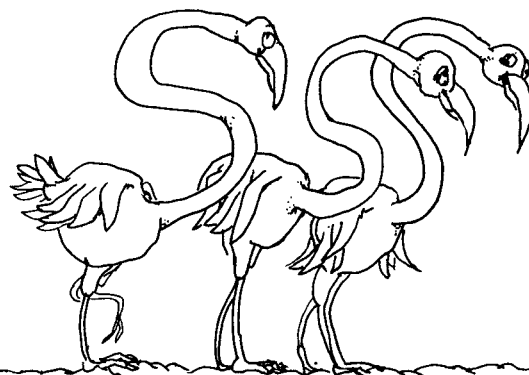
S	L		E
H		L	
E			L
L	S		H

	H	L	E
		H	S
E			H
H	S	E	

			E
H	E		L
E	H	L	S
S			

S		L	E
		H	S
H	E	S	
L		E	

HEL SILVERSTEIN



# Read Along and Write Your Own

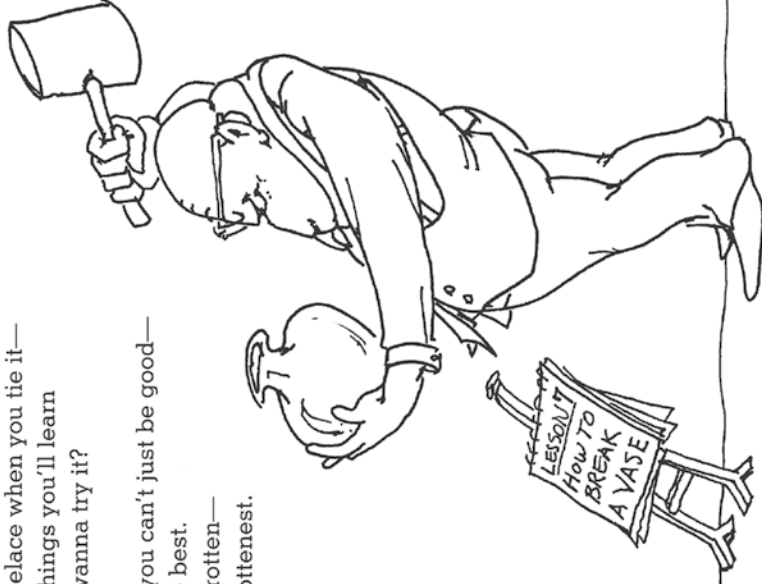
Yikes! Nasty School sounds quite nasty, indeed! Take time to read this poem aloud and enjoy every devilish delight. Can you come up with any other things that might be taught at Nasty School? Try to write another four lines that could be added right into the poem. And don't forget that each pair of lines should rhyme!

## NASTY SCHOOL

Oh have you heard of nasty school?  
They teach nasty things and they have nasty rules.  
They only take nasties and rowdies and fools,  
So come, let's take a walk through nasty school.  
You get to nasty school through a secret gate.  
The first rule is you must be late.  
Your hands and face must be all caked with dirt.  
There must be lots of grease and gravy spots upon your shirt.  
In class, instead of listening, you just talk,  
And make those awful squeaks upon the blackboard with your chalk.  
You must make sure your shoes are wet and muddy,  
And as for homework, you must guarantee you haven't studied.  
You must put gum on everybody's seat,  
And when there is a test you have to promise that you'll cheat.  
Instead of teachers teaching you to make things,  
The bad schoolteachers teach you how to break things:  
They teach you how to smash a windowpane  
And how to let a brand-new bike get rusty in the rain,  
How to smash a vase to smithereens,  
How to tear the pages out of someone's magazine,  
How to hold your breath and spit and scream,  
How to put mustard into someone's chocolate-chip ice cream,  
How to bang a fender full of dents,  
How to leave your footprint in a square of wet cement,  
How to pinch and punch and slam a door,  
How to splash water till you flood the bathroom floor,  
How to do some muddy belly flops,  
How to ruin your teeth with sugar pops,

How to turn a dress into a rag,  
How to tear the bottom of a soggy garbage bag,  
How to bend your father's fishing hook,  
How to drip hot meatloaf gravy on your science book,  
How to fill a bathtub up with glue,  
How to bounce upon a bed until the springs pop through,  
How to fall out of an apple tree,  
How to scratch your toe and miss the toilet when you pee,  
How to spread a coat of honey on a volleyball,  
How to write your name in toothpaste on the bathroom wall,  
How to snap a shoelace when you tie it—  
These are all the things you'll learn  
In nasty school—wanna try it?

For some schools you can't just be good—  
You have to be the best.  
Here you can't be rotten—  
You must be the rottenest.



How to \_\_\_\_\_

How to \_\_\_\_\_

How to \_\_\_\_\_

How to \_\_\_\_\_

# Scrambled Egg

Here's the poem "Not an Egg," but it looks like some of the words have been scrambled up! Unscramble the letters so the poem is complete.

## NOT AN EGG

With \_\_\_\_\_ blue and comb of red,  
T H R E A F E S

With claws that scrape and \_\_\_\_\_,  
C A T S R C H

The Rhymey Bird sits on my head

And \_\_\_\_\_ for it to hatch.  
T S A W I

"It's not an egg," I \_\_\_\_\_, but she  
R C Y

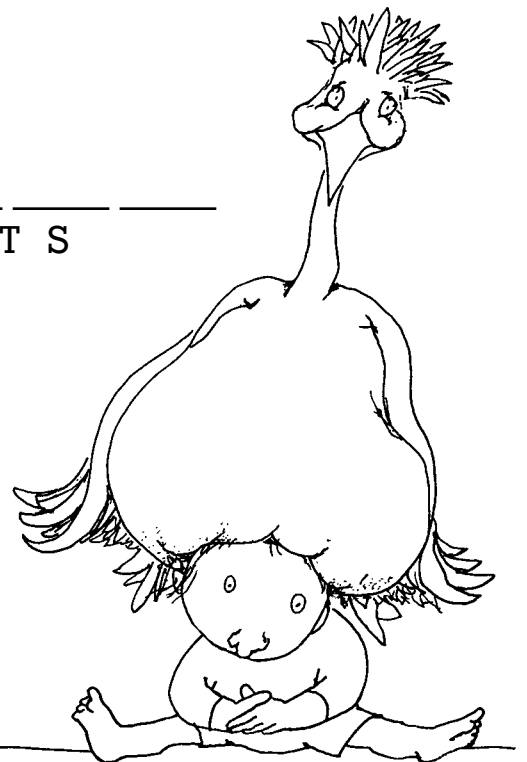
Sets waitin' for the day

When it will *crack*, and with a \_\_\_\_\_  
O H U T S

A baby \_\_\_\_\_ will tumble out  
M O P E

And shake its feathers all about

And flap . . . and fly \_\_\_\_\_.  
Y A W A



# Connect the Dots

In "Cinderella," the prince isn't quite sure he'll go after the girl once he finds what she has left behind. Connect the dots to see why!

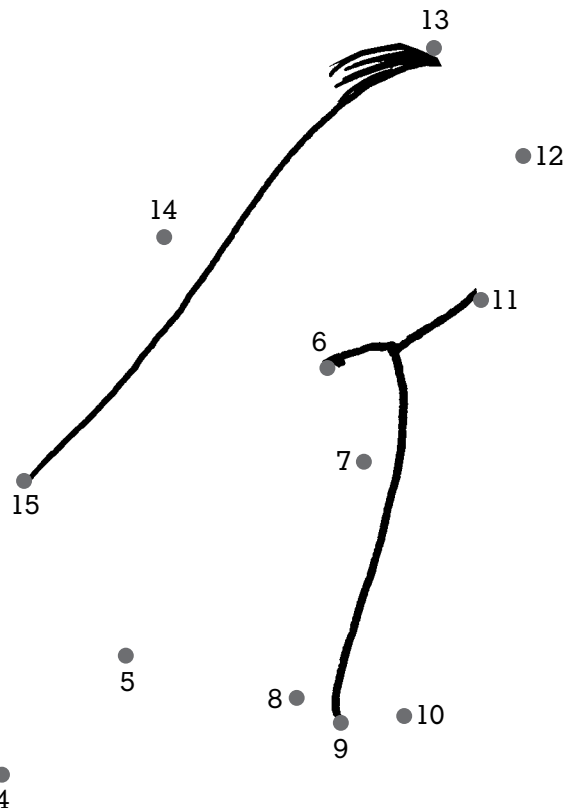


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# Matching Game

In "Rude Rudy Reese," "He never said Thank you / And never said Please."  
In Shel Silverstein's four books of poems, you may have encountered some other characters with less-than-ideal manners. Can you connect the character described in each poem to the corresponding illustration?



1. Pamela Purse yelled, "*Ladies first,*"  
Pushing in front of the ice cream line.  
Pamela Purse yelled, "*Ladies first,*"  
Grabbing the ketchup at dinnertime.



2. The spoiled brat broke a bike with her bat,  
The spoiled brat told the policeman to scat,  
The spoiled brat said her sister was fat,  
And sat on her birthday cake 'til it was flat.



3. 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.



4. Complain, complain is all he did—  
I finally had to close the lid.

# Drawing

In "Writesingtelldraw," the narrator asks you to writesingtelldraw something for him . . . so now it's your turn to be an artist like Shel! Come up with an illustration for this Shel Silverstein poem. Think about what baby monster Fred might look like.

## FRIGHTENED

"There are *kids* underneath my bed,"  
Cried little baby monster Fred.  
Momma monster smiled. "Oh, Fred,  
There's no such thing as kids," she said.

# Coloring Activity

Shel Silverstein's black-and-white drawings are simple but so much fun!  
They jump off the page and come to life without any fancy colors . . .  
but sometimes it's fun to imagine what crazy colors might be used!  
So go on—color in the Giraffe and a Half with all the colors you can think of!

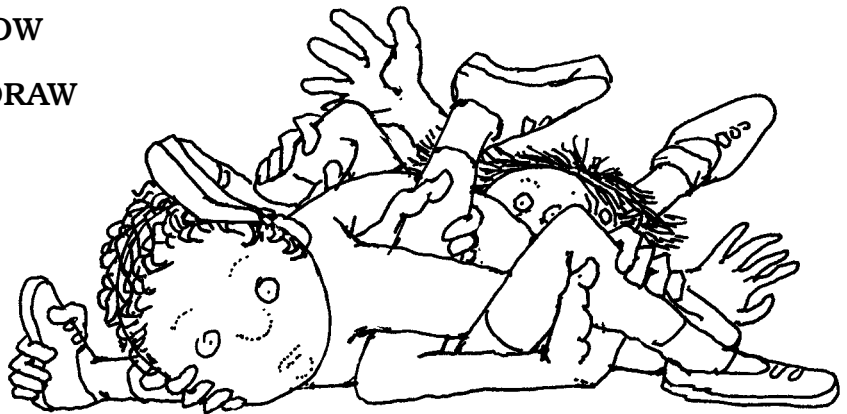


# Pathfinder

Trace a path through the list of five poems from *Every Thing On It* without ever picking up your pen. You can move up, down, left, or right, but you'll never use a letter again once you've already traced through it. The first one has been done for you!

E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I
H	T	T	I	N	O	G	N
E	M	O	R	F	S	R	A
L	N	L	D	W	O	H	E
O	O	L	R	A	U	C	Y
V	W	E	T	G	N	I	S
E	W	R	I	T	E	S	T
T	O	B	U	T	C	A	N

EVERY THING ON IT  
 THE LOVETOBUTCANTS  
 YEARS FROM NOW  
 WRITESINGTELLDRAW  
 OUCH



# Cross Out and Find Out!

Cross out the letters that appear more than once—  
the ones that remain will spell out the title of the poem below!

X	N	G	F	H	D
C	H	Q	M	D	E
S	K	L	W	X	F
J	M	S	L	O	V
C	Q	B	V	K	G



Just two hours workin' in the candy store  
And I don't like candy anymore.

# ANSWERS

Did you have fun? Well, here are the answers to our activities!

## SHEL-DOKU

S	L	H	E
H	E	L	S
E	H	S	L
L	S	E	H

S	H	L	E
L	E	H	S
E	L	S	H
H	S	E	L

L	S	H	E
H	E	S	L
E	H	L	S
S	L	E	H

S	H	L	E
E	L	H	S
H	E	S	L
L	S	E	H

## SCRAMBLED EGG

FEATHERS

SCRATCH

WAITS

CRY

SHOUT

POEM

AWAY

## CONNECT THE DOTS



# ANSWERS

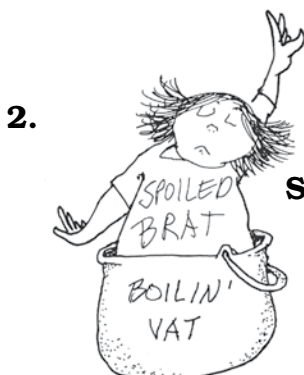
## MATCHING GAME



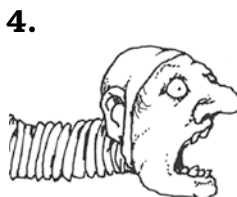
**Ladies First**



**Prayer of the Selfish Child**



**Spoiled Brat**



**Complainin' Jack**

## PATHFINDER

E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I
H	T	T	I	N	O	G	N
E	M	O	R	F	S	R	A
L	N	L	D	W	O	H	E
O	O	L	R	A	U	C	Y
V	W	E	T	G	N	I	S
E	W	R	I	T	E	S	T
T	O	B	U	T	C	A	N

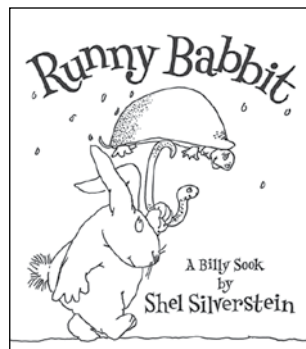
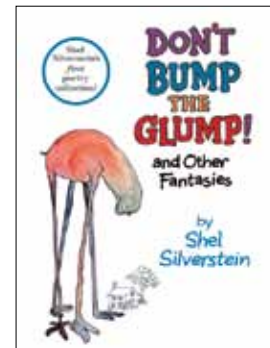
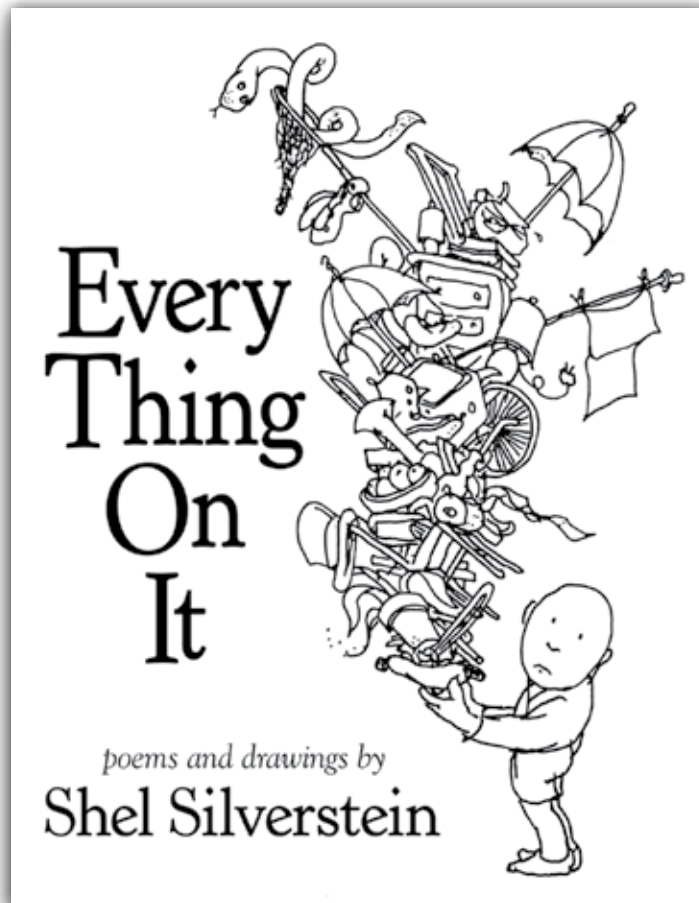
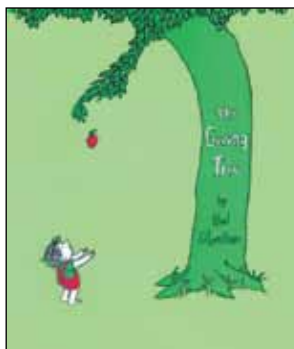
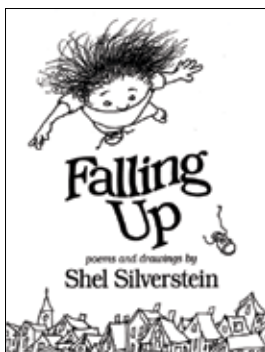
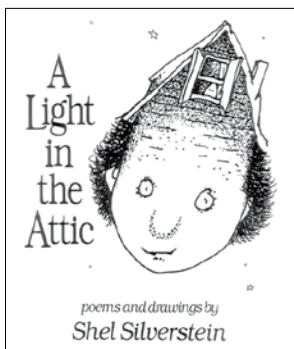
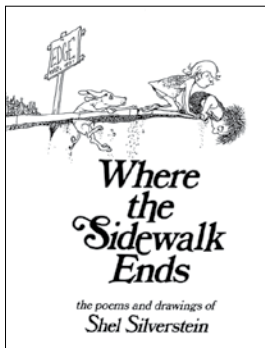
## CROSS OUT AND FIND OUT

X	N	G	F	H	D
C	H	G	M	D	E
S	K	L	W	X	F
J	M	S	L	O	V
C	G	B	V	K	G

**NEW JOB**

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*Shel Silverstein*™



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