



## Light in the Attic

(Afterschool Program, Ages 7-13)

### Description of Program:

Look who's turning 30! Time to break out the rhymes and have some fun with this classic collection of rib-tickling poetry.

### Books:

*A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein  
Plus other Shel Silverstein titles for display.

### Activities or Games:

#### Perform a Poem

Choose a selection of poems and write stage directions. Read the poems and have the children perform the actions.

Example:

#### A Light in the Attic

##### Read

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'r on the inside . . . lookin' out.

##### Action

*Turn on light bulb*  
*Place hands over face and scrunch down*  
*Slightly wave hands*  
*Stand up straight and point to head*  
*Turn on light bulb*

*Put hands up to face like peering through  
a window.*

#### Group Poem Mosaic

This is sort of like magnetic poetry, only it's done on a wall or bulletin board. Using Word type out a bunch of different words and make them at least 72 point font. Print them and then cut out the words. Let the participants take turns picking through the words and putting them up on the wall to create a group poem.

#### Rhyme Game

Supplies: Index cards with rhyming words printed on them, minute timer

Objective: Rhyme as many words as possible with word printed on card. Each word equals a point scored for the team.

To Play: Divide the group up into two teams. Have the teams line up in two lines. Flip a coin to see which team goes first. Show card to the first person in the line, once they say their word, they move to the back of the line and the next person gives an answer. The round is over when a team member repeats a word or fails to come up with a new rhyme. At that point, the opposite team can try and come up with a new word that has not been used to steal the other teams points from the round.

Scoring: Each rhyming word is worth one point.

# Light in the Attic

(Afterschool Program, Ages 7-13)

## What's Happening Here?

Supplies: Interesting photographs, Paper, Pencils

Have the children get poetically inspired by looking at photography or art. Supply them with a bunch of different images and ask them to pick one they find interesting. Then have them write a poem about the image to share with the group.

## MadLib

Make your own MadLib using a poem from *A Light in the Attic*. To do this as a group activity, first build a word bank from the different parts of speech: noun, plural noun, adjective, and verb. (You may want to quickly review the parts of speech.) Once you have a list, fill in the blanks with the kids. Have fun reading the poem out loud.

## Example: How Many, How Much

How many \_\_\_\_\_ in an \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(verb plural) (adjective) (noun)

Depends how \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
(adjective) (verb)

How many slices in a \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(noun)

Depends how \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
(adjective) (verb)

How much \_\_\_\_\_ inside a day?  
(adjective)

Depends how \_\_\_\_\_ you live 'em.  
(adjective)

How much \_\_\_\_\_ inside a \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(noun) (noun)

Depends how much you give' em.



## Craft Ideas

### Illustrate Your Own Poem

Write your own poem and then illustrate it just like Shel Silverstein did.

### Magnetic Poetry

Supplies: Laser print magnetic paper

Create your own magnetic poetry by typing out words you really love, print them onto magnetic paper, and then cut them apart. Once they are all apart you can start using your refrigerator as you paper.

Note: Be sure to double space between lines, to leave room to cut out each word.