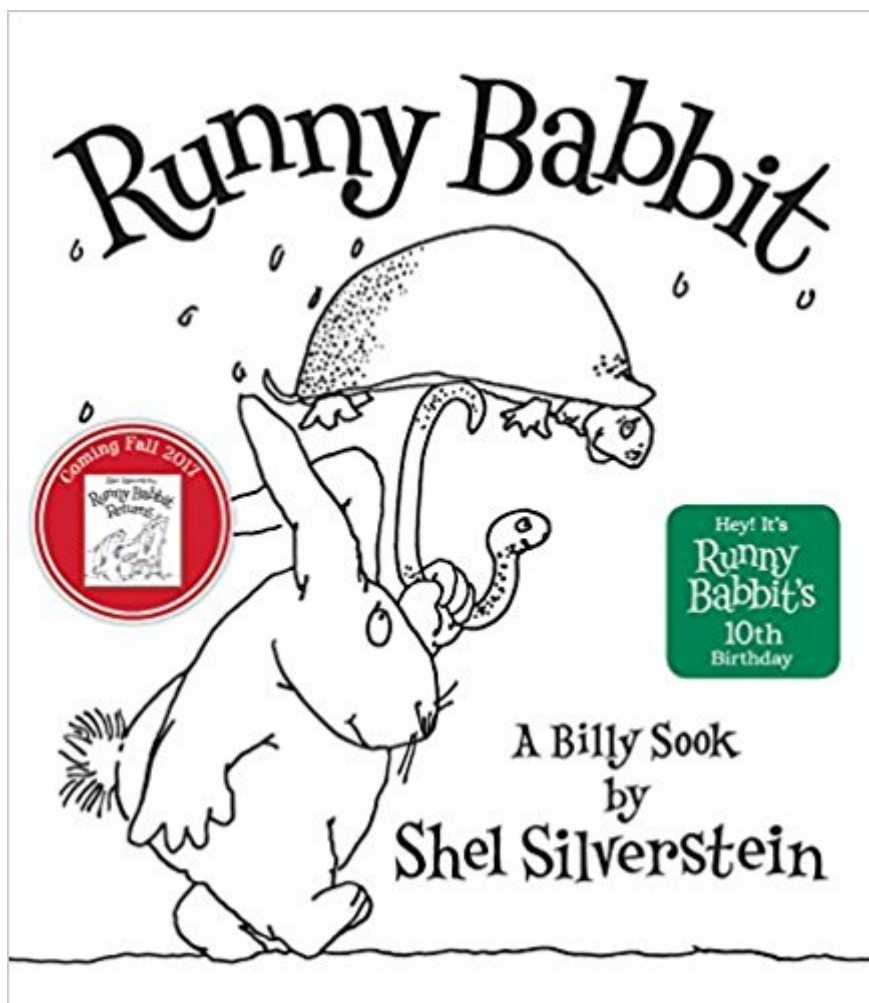


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# Runny Babbit: A Billy Sook



## Synopsis

From the legendary creator of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, *Falling Up*, and *The Giving Tree* comes an unforgettable new character in children's literature: Runny Babbit. Runny Babbit is Shel Silverstein's hilarious and New York Times-bestselling book of spoonerisms—words or phrases with letters or syllables swapped: bunny rabbit becomes Runny Babbit. Welcome to the world of Runny Babbit and his friends Toe Jurtle, Skertie Gunk, Rirty Dat, Hungry Hog, Snerry Jake, and many others who speak a topsy-turvy language all their own. So if you say, "Let's bead a rook That's billy as can se," You're talkin' Runny Babbit talk, Just like mim and he. And don't miss *Runny Babbit Returns*, the new book from Shel Silverstein!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; First Edition edition (January 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060256532

ISBN-13: 978-0060256531

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 195 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,408 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in *Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous* #39 in *Books > Children's Books > Humor > General* #81 in *Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States*

Age Range: 1 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

Taken in dall smoses, this self-proclaimed "billy sook" is a fun-filled new (posthumously published) offering from children's poet Shel Silverstein, creator of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, and other favorites. Completed prior to the poet's death in 1999, *Runny Babbit* was a work in progress for more than 20 years, and is populated by the likes of Runny Babbit, Toe Jurtle, Ploppy Sig, Polly Dorkupine, and Pilly Belican (who owns the Sharber Bop), all denizens of the green woods where letter-flipping runs rampant. In this madcap world, pea soup is sea poup, Capture the Flag is Fapture the Clag, and snow boots are bow snoots. Each poem incorporates the same kind of switcheroo wordplay found in "Runny's Hew Nobby:" Runny Babbit knearned to lit,/ And made a

swat and heater,/ And now he sadly will admit/ He bight have done it metter." (Here, in one of many winningly simple line drawings, R. B. sits knitting one very long sleeve, which is labeled as such.) Children who have some fluency in reading will enjoy this bonsensical nook the most. (Ages 7 to 12)  
--Karin Snelson

Grade 2-8 - Forty-two of Shel Silversteins poems from his best-selling book (HarperCollins, 2005), published posthumously, are performed by Dennis Locorriere. The poems are spoonerisms - the initial sounds of two words are transposed, so Bunny Rabbit become Runny Babbit. The poems beg to be read aloud and Locorriere, who has performed Silversteins poems in the past, has the perfect speed, pitch, and voice range to deliver these silly poems. The wordplay and rhymes will tickle listeners funny bones. Kids may even be inspired to write their own spoonerisms after listening to this delightful CD. Schools will find this useful as a perfect example of this unusual form of poetry. Children and adults will be entertained by this humorous collection. A gem.  
Marilyn Hersh, Hillside Elementary School, Farmington Hills, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Some parts of this book are read every nite to my grandson's satisfaction. The boy doesn't really understand how swapping letters changes things - all that is so far beyond him. However, the sound of the unfamiliar words charms him into squeals of laughter every single time his parents read it to him. This will be a winner even if your youngster doesn't understand the relationship between "Runny Babbit" and "Bunny Rabbit".

Loved it!! An amazing little book that is great fun to try to read outloud, be it with adults or kids. Short delightful poems in "gibberish" that we all can understand. Very funny and clever. No other book like it. Buy it!!

If you can remember "Hee Haw" television and remember when they read about Rindercella and her stugly ep sisters, then you'll enjoy seeing this type of fun in print. After watching the television program when I was a young mother and auntie to nephews and niece, there were times when story reading became a time for ME to have a bit more fun with the books that I had read so many, many times. At that time, the kids did NOT like me to read their favorite stories in the odd fashion but I got a kick out of it. I found Runny Babbit was available while looking for Shel Silverstein books for my

granddaughters. The copy I got was a used library copy so the price was right and I bought it for them. I reviewed the book before giving it to them and I hope it will bring them some fun story time off and on in the years to come. Runny Babbit takes a little getting used to until your mind engages in the fun and stops trying to work so hard. Makes you laugh. In the Silverstein tradition, it is short prose and not a continuing story throughout the book. Personally, I think it is just as much fun to take a story we are all familiar with, like Cinderella and her ugly step sisters and read it the 'wrong' way and have a few laughs too.

This is the third time I bought this book. The grand-kids have made this one of their favorites!! It is so fun to read to them and as their reading skills are honed for them to read to their siblings! Great book.

Just what I was expecting.

Love the writer

I do a lot of read aloud to my Amish neighbors (kids and adults seem to love this). This is a clever book that engages the listener's mind. I read it as written, then wait for the kids to translate (Runny Babbit = Bunny Rabbit; brister and sother = sister and brother). The short story/poems are just perfect for an evening of family fun but like whipped cream, you can overdose. I suggest picking 5 or 6 and then close the book while there is still anticipation and the cleverness hasn't worn off so you can come back and dazzle them again.

Every Christmas I give my nieces and nephews a great book. So glad I found out about this one! Three of my five siblings called to tell me that their Christmas morning came to an abrupt halt when their children opened my gift to them--so engrossing and fun is this book. Since then, several of my nieces and nephews have picked up Runny Babbit talk and are delightedly confusing grandparents and other adults who are not "in the know."As usual, Silverstein's poetry and illustrations are imaginative and charming. In my opinion, the poetry is perhaps not as enthralling as some selections in his other books, but still quite fun. If you're going to read it aloud (which I highly recommend) to the little ones, you may need a bit of practice first--after a few minutes, however, you'll pick it up easily.

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