

# Shel Silverstein Quotes

*Life Lesson, Boys, Tree, Thinking, White, Mean, Night, Life, War, Littles, Blue,  
Flower, Play, Men, Writing, Laughing, Pieces, Fighting, Hands, Dream*

I asked the Zebra, are you black with white stripes? Or white with black stripes? And the zebra asked me, Are you good with bad habits? Or are you bad with good habits?

~Shel Silverstein

When the light turns green, you go. When the light turns red, you stop. But what do you do when the light turns blue with orange and lavender spots?

~Shel Silverstein

Anything can happen, child. Anything can be.

~Shel Silverstein

Thanksgiving dinner's sad and thankless. Christmas dinner's dark and blue. When you stop and try to see it From the turkey's point of view.

~Shel Silverstein

There are no happy endings. Endings are the saddest part, So just give me a happy middle And a very happy start.

~Shel Silverstein

Never explain what you do. It speaks for itself. You only muddle it by talking about it.

~Shel Silverstein

What did the carrot say to the wheat? Lettuce rest, I'm feeling beet.

~Shel Silverstein

Tell me I'm clever, Tell me I'm kind, Tell me I'm talented, Tell me I'm cute, Tell me I'm sensitive, Graceful and wise, Tell me I'm perfect - But tell me the truth.

~Shel Silverstein

And all the colors I am inside have not been invented yet.

~Shel Silverstein

But all the magic I have known I've had to make myself.

~Shel Silverstein

I can be someone's and still be my own.

~Shel Silverstein

Do a loony-goony dance 'Cross the kitchen floor, Put something silly in the world That ain't been there before.

~Shel Silverstein

Anything is possible. Anything can be.

~Shel Silverstein

It's all the same to the clam.

~Shel Silverstein

I believe that if you don't want to do anything, then sit there and don't do it, but don't expect people to hand you a corn beef sandwich and wash your socks for you and unzip your fly for you.

~Shel Silverstein

There is a place where the sidewalk ends.

~Shel Silverstein

If you want to find out what a writer or a cartoonist really feels, look at his work. That's enough.

~Shel Silverstein

Don't know where he's going but sees where he's been.

~Shel Silverstein

If there is a book you want to read but isn't written yet, write it.

~Shel Silverstein

I was always prepared for success but that means that I have to be prepared for failure, too.

~Shel Silverstein

I know a way to stay friends forever, There's really nothing to it, I tell you what to do, And you do it.

~Shel Silverstein

She had blue skin, And so did he. He kept it hid And so did she. They searched for blue Their whole life through, Then passed right by- And never knew.

~Shel Silverstein

Talked my head off Worked my tail off Cried my eyes out Walked my feet off Sang my heart out So you see, There's really not much left of me.

~Shel Silverstein

Although I cannot see your face As you flip these poems awhile, Somewhere from some far-off place I hear you laughing--and I smile.

~Shel Silverstein

If you're a bird, be an early bird. But if you're a worm, sleep late.

~Shel Silverstein

This bridge will take you halfway there - the last few steps you will have to take yourself.

~Shel Silverstein

Early bird Oh, if you're a bird, be an early bird And catch the worm for your breakfast plate. If you're a bird, be an early bird” But if you're a worm, sleep late.

~Shel Silverstein

Once i spoke the language of the flowers, Once i undrestand each word  
the caterpillar said, Once i smiled in secret at the gossip of the starlings.

~Shel Silverstein

If you're nasty, I won't fight. If you're rough, well that's just you. If you're  
mean, that's alright too. Whatever you are is all okay. I don't like you  
anyway.

~Shel Silverstein

Once there was a tree, and she loved a little boy.

~Shel Silverstein

Don't be dependent on anyone else. I want to go everywhere, look at,  
and listen to everything. You can go crazy with some of the wonderful  
stuff there is in life.

~Shel Silverstein

The baby bat Screamed out in fright, 'Turn on the dark, I'm afraid of the  
light.

~Shel Silverstein

Underneath my outside face There's a face that none can see. A little  
less smiley, A little less sure, But a whole lot more like me.

~Shel Silverstein

Just 'cause somethin' ain't been done Don't mean it can't be did.

~Shel Silverstein

All The Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas Layin' In The Sun, Talkin' 'Bout The  
Things They Woulda-Coulda-Shoulda Done... But All Those  
Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas All Ran Away And Hid From One Little Did.

~Shel Silverstein

How much good inside a day? Depends how good you live 'em.

~Shel Silverstein

I myself do not believe in explaining anything.

~Shel Silverstein

I am writing these poems from inside a lion.

~Shel Silverstein

ALICE She drank from a bottle called DRINK ME And she grew so tall,  
She ate from a plate called TASTE ME And down she shrank so small.  
And so she changed, while other folks Never tried nothin' at all.

~Shel Silverstein

It's amazing the difference A bit of sky can make.

~Shel Silverstein

... and she loved a boy very, very much-- even more than she loved herself.

~Shel Silverstein

Since my friend left me, I've got nothing to do but walking. I walk to forget. I walk, I escape, I get further. My friend will not come back, now I am a marathon man.

~Shel Silverstein

If the track is tough and the hill is rough, THINKING you can just ain't enough!

~Shel Silverstein

No teacher, preacher, parent, friend, or wise man can decide what's right for you.

~Shel Silverstein

I will not play at tug o' war, I'd rather play at hug o' war

~Shel Silverstein

If you are a dreamer come in

~Shel Silverstein

He wasted his wishes on wishing.

~Shel Silverstein

My beard grows down to my toes, I never wears no clothes, I wraps my hair  
Around my bare, And down the road I goes.

~Shel Silverstein

Listen to the voice that speaks inside

~Shel Silverstein

To me, freedom entitles you to do something, not to not do something.

~Shel Silverstein

Instead of tug o' war, let's play hug o' war.

~Shel Silverstein

Beware of being the roller / When there's nothing left to roll

~Shel Silverstein

So what if nobody came? I'll have all the ice cream and tea, And I'll  
laugh with myself, And I'll dance with myself, And I'll sing, "Happy  
Birthday to me!"

~Shel Silverstein

Rockabye Baby, in the treetop Dont you know a treetop is no safe place  
to rock? And who put you up there, and your cradle too? Baby, I think

someone down here has got it in for you!

~Shel Silverstein

And the tree was happy

~Shel Silverstein

When I am gone what will you do? Who will write and draw for you?  
Someone smarter--someone new? Someone better--maybe YOU!

~Shel Silverstein

This boat that we just built is just fine - And don't try to tell us it's not  
The sides and the back are divine - It's the bottom I guess we forgot

~Shel Silverstein

Oh I'm lookin' for my missin' piece I'm lookin' for my missin' piece  
Hi-dee-ho, here I go, Lookin' for my missin' piece

~Shel Silverstein

We can't hold handsâ€• Someone might see. Won't you please Hold  
toes with me?

~Shel Silverstein

And he didn't really know where he was going, but he did know he was  
going somewhere, because you really have to go somewhere, don't  
you?

~Shel Silverstein

I would hope that people, no matter what age, would find something to  
identify with in my books, pick one up and experience a personal sense  
of discovery. That's great. But for them, not for me.

~Shel Silverstein

We're all worth the same When we turn off the light.

~Shel Silverstein



Oh the thumb-sucker's thumb  
May look wrinkled and wet  
And withered, and white as the snow,  
But the taste of a thumb  
Is the sweetest taste yet  
(As only we thumb-sucker's know).

~Shel Silverstein

You'd better get your laugh while you're making your point,  
or you won't be doing it very long.

~Shel Silverstein

would you like to hear the night i bravely fought the- no? alright

~Shel Silverstein

I was hoping that perhaps I could roll with you..." "You cannot roll with me," said the Big O, "but perhaps you can roll by yourself.

~Shel Silverstein

Whatever you are is all okay. I don't like you anyway.

~Shel Silverstein

Sometimes I get so depressed 'Bout what I haven't done. -NEVER

~Shel Silverstein

If you're behind the times, they won't notice you. If you're right in tune with them, you're no better than they are, so they won't care much for you. Be just a little ahead of them.

~Shel Silverstein

So please get your rags  
And your polishing jars,  
Somebody has to go  
polish the stars.

~Shel Silverstein

Teddy said it was a hat,  
So I put it on. Now dad is saying,  
"where the heck's the toilet plunger gone?"

~Shel Silverstein

People are always giving you credit for really wanting to say more than you said.

~Shel Silverstein

Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest." And the boy did. And the tree was happy.

~Shel Silverstein

I made an airplane out of stone. . . I always did like staying home.

~Shel Silverstein

I've found my missin' piece So grease my knees and fleece my bees  
I've found my missin' piece!

~Shel Silverstein

Stand-up comics reflect less of a visual humor and more of a commentary.

~Shel Silverstein

G'bye, I'm going out to play!

~Shel Silverstein

everything isn't everything

~Shel Silverstein

Ricky was "L" but he's home with the flu, Lizzie, our "O," had some homework to do, Mitchell, "E" prob'ly got lost on the way, So I'm all of the love that could make it today.

~Shel Silverstein

And the boy loved the tree.....very much. And the tree was happy.

~Shel Silverstein

So I'm all of love that could make it today.

~Shel Silverstein

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