**Short Poems for Practicing Diction**

**EARLY BIRD (*Where the Sidewalk Ends*) by Shel Silverstein**

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.

**THE ACROBATS *(Where the Sidewalk Ends)* by Shel Silverstein**  
I’ll swing  
By my ankles,  
She’ll cling  
To your knees  
As you hang  
By your nose  
From a high-up  
Trapeze.  
But just one thing, please,  
Don’t sneeze.

**PUT SOMETHING IN (*A Light in the Attic*) by Shel Silverstein**

Draw a crazy picture,

Write a nutty poem,

Sing a mumble-gumble song,

Whistle through your comb.

Do a loony-goony dance

‘Cross the kitchen floor,

Put something silly in the world

That ain’t been there before.