Little Lion
My name is Timba and I’m a little lion. I live in a zoo in Switzerland.
This is my mom and my dad. My dad is sleeping. He gets to sleep a lot.
This is my sister. She hit me on my nose — ouch!
I like to play with my dad, but I think he lets me win.
I like to lay on the ground and chew on stuff like this stick.
I’m just learning how to climb trees.

I’m not so good at it yet ...
I get hungry after playing all day.
I like to eat dinner with my family.
My mom gives me a bath after dinner. I hate it when I have to get a bath!
The Mustard Seed Books project uses an open-source, Wikipedia-type strategy, leveraging public expertise to create and refine a set of high-quality books that support early reading development. All of the books and pictures are covered by the Creative Commons License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) and are free to print, distribute, and modify for personal or educational use. The books are available at www.mustardseedbooks.org. New titles appear on a regular basis. If you have any ideas for books or would like to leave us any feedback, contact rick@mustardseedbooks.org.

Photos for these books come primarily from Flickr (www.flickr.com) and the Morgue File (www.morguefile.com). Both sites are great resources for high-quality publicly accessible photos and for aspiring photographers looking to share their work. All photographs are covered by the Creative Commons License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/).

Text credits: Rick Chan Frey
Photo credits: All pictures from “Tambako the Jaguar” on Flickr.
Our aim with this series of books is to weave together two significant goals in the design of early reading materials—that the books are both instructional and engaging. Books designed to develop reading skills often end up feeling like work to read, while books designed to be interesting are often too difficult for beginning readers.

These books for beginning readers support phonics-based classroom instruction by including a high concentration of phonetically regular words, as well as the most commonly used sight words. However, the books are written using pictures and stories that make sense and promote both language and conceptual development. The books encourage questions, conversations and thoughtful engagement, aiming towards the new common core standards. Our intent is to produce books that kids want to read, think about, talk about and read again.