

From Africa ... to Wembley



By John Utaka


GOAL!

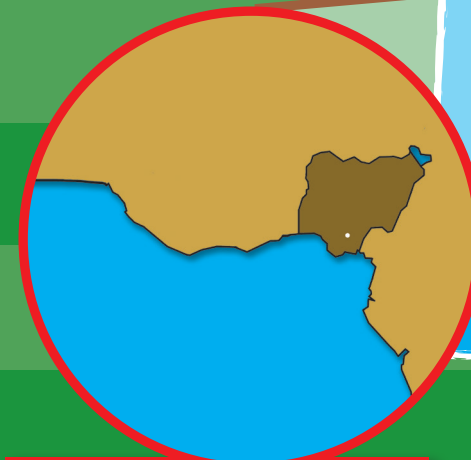
My name is John Utaka.
I am a striker and I play
for Portsmouth F.C.



I play football in England, but I was not
born here. I was born in Nigeria, in Africa.

2

This is Africa ...



... and this is my
country. Nigeria.



This is the city of Enugu. I was born there.

3

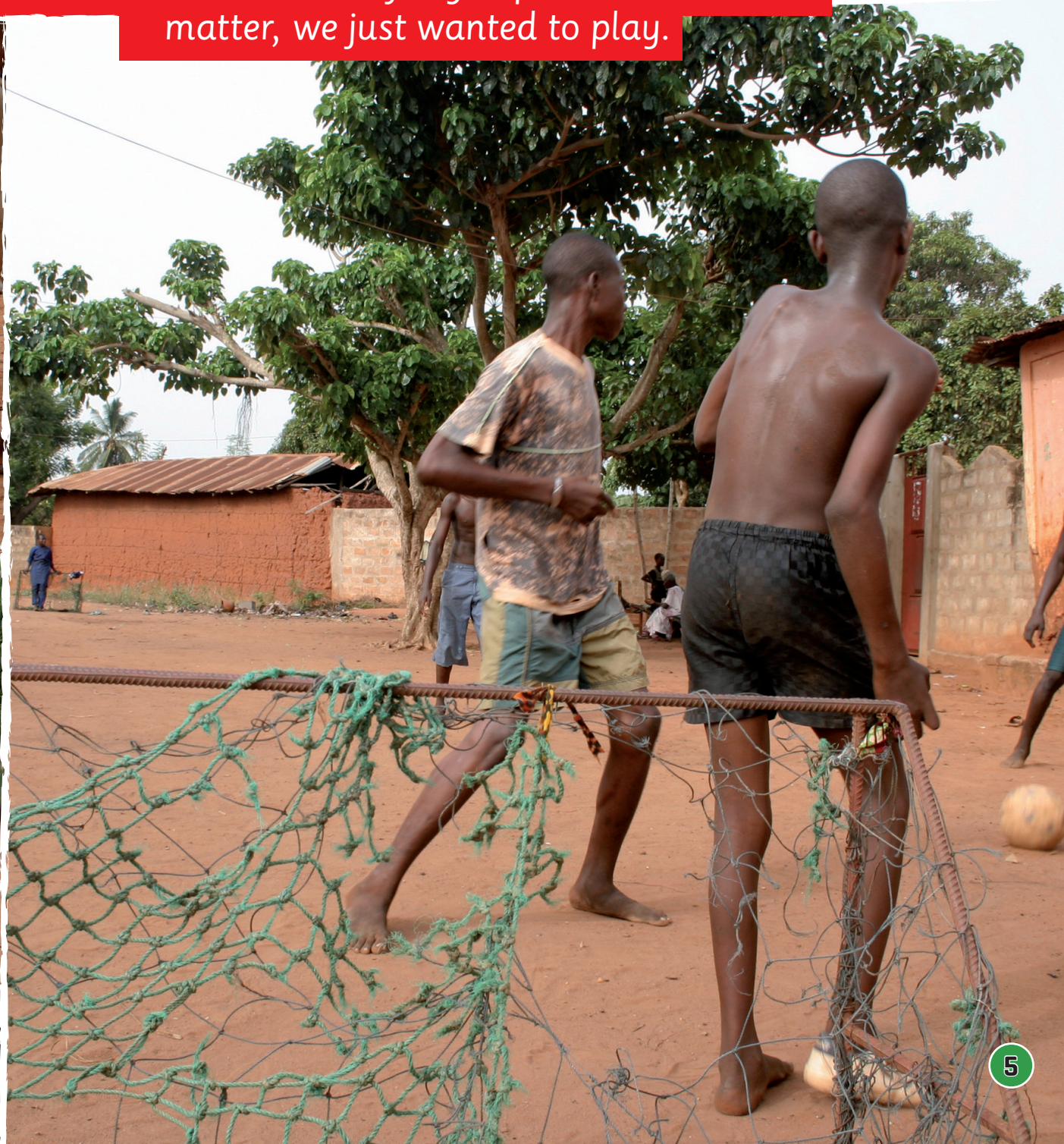
When I was a boy in Africa, we did not have much. It was hard.

Nobody had shoes, or football boots. And we had rocks for goalposts. But it didn't matter, we just wanted to play.

But we were kids and we played football all the time.



4 We had no football pitches, or goals, or kit. All the kids played in the street.



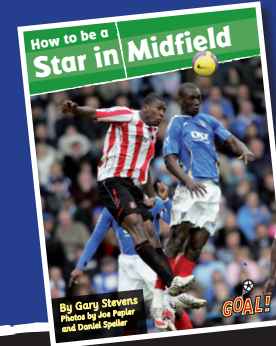
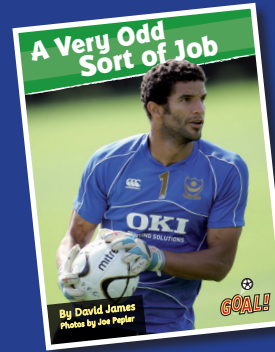
5

My career so far has been great. But I had to work hard. Winning the F.A. Cup with Portsmouth has been the best thing so far. Now I just want to win more cups and get better as a player.



That's not a lot to ask, is it?

Have you seen these?



From Africa to Wembley
by John Utaka

Published by Ransom Publishing Ltd.
Radley House, 8 St. Cross Road, Winchester, Hants.
SO23 9HX, UK
www.ransom.co.uk

ISBN 978 184167 865 8
From Africa to Wembley (6 books)
ISBN 978 184167 933 4
First published in 2008
Reprinted 2010, 2012
Copyright © 2008 Ransom Publishing Ltd.

This book is copyright and reproduction of the whole or part without the publisher's written permission is prohibited.

Photos by Joe Pepler, Peeter Viisimaa and Adrian Beesley.
All photographs copyright © 2008 Portsmouth Football Club, Peeter Viisimaa or Adrian Beesley.

Thanks to everyone at Portsmouth F.C. who gave invaluable help in developing this series.

A CIP catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library.

The moral rights of the author have been asserted.



Need to talk?
Call ChildLine free, any time.

If you're deaf, or find it hard to hear or talk, textphone 0800 400 222.
Or go to www.ransom.co.uk/forme

ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC. In Scotland the ChildLine service is delivered by CHILDREN 1ST on behalf of the NSPCC. NSPCC registered charity number 216401 and SCO37717, CHILDREN 1ST Scottish registered charity number SCO16092.

