



Transcript for *Little Tigers* by Jo Weaver (Peachtree Publishing Company Inc.)

Introduction (approximately 0:00 – 3:28)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited that you all have joined me for Story Book Science. Today, we will be reading *Little Tigers* by Jo Weaver. And before we start reading, I do want to wait for some folks to join us.

So while we wait, I thought we could talk about the animals we're going to be reading about. So this book is called *Little Tigers*. So we're going to be talking about tigers. Now tigers, I think are really cool, because there are six subspecies of tigers. So what that means is that they're all tigers, but they're separated by geography. So they can't interact with each other because there are geographic barriers in the way. So these six subspecies of tigers, they all live on the continent of Asia. And they live in pretty diverse habitats depending on where you find them. So some tigers will live in flooded mangrove forests. Some tigers live in the taiga. So they live in these really diverse habitats.

Now it got me thinking about cats like tigers in this Family Felidae because I don't live near wild tigers. I live in Kansas, so there aren't any wild tigers near where I live. But there are cats in the Family Felidae that I see quite a lot. Domestic cats are also a part of Family Felidae. So if you have a pet cat, you have also seen a member of Family Felidae too.

Alright! So it looks like we have some people here with us. So let's go ahead and get started!

So first and foremost, we need to go over our guidelines for Story Book Science. The first thing that I want to say is that if you have a question or a comment, you should feel free to write those and share those. But I do ask that you use kind and considerate words. And that's true too, if you respond to any questions or comments. We want to make sure we use kind and considerate words. We want to make sure that people feel welcome in this space because even though we're not at the museum, we still want to follow those museum guidelines so that everyone feels welcome.

Now, as I mentioned before, for today's Story Book Science, we are going to be reading *Little Tigers*. It's by Jo Weaver, and it's published by Peachtree Publishing. We'll be reading it with permission from Peachtree Publishing. So thank you to them. One of the reasons I really love this story is because it reminds me of the importance of finding a place that you can call home that you feel safe and comfortable in. And so we'll read about that as we read the book.

The last thing that I want to say is that if you need a partial transcript of this reading, it will be made available a little later today on the museum's website. And there is a link to the website in the video description. So let's go ahead and get started!

Little Tigers.

Reading from *Little Tigers* (approximately 3:29 – 9:36)

Little Tigers includes copyrighted materials, and we do not have permission to include the written text of the book in this transcript.

Conclusion (approximately 9:37 – 18:00)

That is the end of *Little Tigers*. I really like that story, and I think it bears repeating the importance of finding a place where you can call home, where you can feel safe and comfortable, where you can sleep in peace, and feel safe from harm. And that is what Mother Tiger and her cubs found. And I think that's something that all living things deserve.

Now in this story, we read about Mother Tiger and Sera and Puli, and they were looking for a place to sleep where they felt safe and warm and dry. And it got me thinking about tigers in the wild. Where do they look to live? And tigers, they need to find a place, no matter what type of forest it is because we talked a little earlier about how they live in very diverse habitats. They need to be able to find a place where there's food. And tigers are carnivores. So tigers need to find a place where there is meat for them to eat like a deer or wild pig.

Now tigers are carnivores, and like other members in Family Felidae, they eat meat. And I wanted to look at the teeth of a cat in order to better understand how their teeth are adapted to eat meat. Now I don't have a specimen of a tiger. But I do have a museum specimen of a domestic cat. So we're going to look at the skull of a cat to better understand its teeth.

So here is a cat skull, and here is the side view. When we look at it from the front, you'll notice there are two teeth. And those teeth are called the canines. And the canines are long and sharp and narrow. So they have these canines. And then if we look at the side, there are these teeth right here. And these are the molars. We can also think of them as cheek teeth because they're the teeth that are right behind the cheeks. We also have cheek teeth too. We just can't see them because they're behind our cheek!

Now when we look at the molars of a cat, and I'll bring this a little closer, what you'll notice is that they're very sharp. So they're wide, but they're still very, very sharp. And that's something that you tend to see in cats because having these long, sharp, and narrow canines, as well as these sharp molars, those teeth are adapted for their diet.

So those teeth aid them in eating meat because they can help rip and shred the meat that they eat. So these teeth are something that you tend to see in cats.

Now, as I stated before, I don't have a museum specimen of a tiger. But I can tell you that the canines of a tiger, so those long, sharp, and narrow teeth we saw at the front of the domestic cat skull, they are one to two inches long for a tiger. Now my thumb from the top to where it attaches to my hand, that's about two inches. So if we compare that to the canines of the cat, and I'll bring them close together, you can see that there is a huge difference in the size of a cat like a pet cat's canines and a tiger's canines. So even though all cats from tigers to domestic cats have these long, sharp, and, narrow teeth, the size can differ.

Now tigers have some other things in common with our domestic cats. And one of those is how they walk. So tigers and domestic cats and other cats in the Family Felidae, they are digitigrade. And so what that means is they walk on their digits, or they walk on their toes. So when they walk, their heel does not come down onto the ground. They're always on their toes!

Another thing that tigers have in common with domestic cats is that they make noises. They vocalize! Now it differs a little bit how they vocalize. So tigers, at least when I think of tigers, I think of a roar! And tigers do roar. They roar when they want to show aggression. So if they're hunting or they're defending their territory, or the place where they live, a tiger will roar!

Now domestic cats, they also sometimes make aggressive noises. And I've heard them before when feeding a pet cat. So that's something that tigers have in common with pet cats. But I don't want to focus on those aggressive noises. I want to talk about the noises cats make when they're being friendly. Now when I think of domestic cats, I think of how domestic cats purr. Have you ever heard a domestic cat purr? Maybe you have a pet cat that enjoyed being scratched on its head and it purred in a very friendly way.

Now tigers, they don't purr, but they make a friendly noise when they're happy or they want to show that they're being friendly and that noise is called a chuffle. Turns out tigers and other big cats, they're not able to purr! But to show friendliness, they chuffle

So I thought that was really interesting to think about, things that tigers and domestic cats have in common. And I'm so glad that I got to share those with you!

Now tigers, like I said, they are a member of Family Felidae. And so are all other cats, including our domestic pet cats. So I hope that you learned a little something with me about how all of those cats in that family have these characteristics in common. And just as a reminder, we talked about teeth shape, we talked about how they walk. They walk digitigrade. And we also talked about their friendly vocalizations.

Now I do want to let you know, this is the end of this Story Book Science. But I will be here next week for another Story Book Science. And we're going to be reading a book called *Titanosaur: Discovering the World's Largest Dinosaur*. Now this book is a big deal because this is the biggest dinosaur known. And I'm so excited to read it because this book is written by the scientists, the paleontologists, who led the dig to uncover titanosaur. So it's written by Dr. José Luis Carballido and Dr. Diego Pol, and it's illustrated by Florencia Gigena.

Now I will let you know that this book, like I said, it's a big deal. I do want to give you a little insight though. When we talk about titanosaur, we're talking about a dinosaur that was discovered in a place called Argentina. So Argentina is in South America, and this is the country of Argentina. And titanosaur was discovered in a place called Patagonia, which is in the southern part of the country. So I want you to keep that in mind when you join me next week for Story Book Science where we read *Titanosaur*. I'll see you then, here on Facebook Live at 10am! Bye!