In 1972, the federally funded Southwest Regional Laboratory for Educational Development & Research and Ginn and Company published The Sam Books of early readers as part of a Beginning Reading Program. Because it was federally funded, federal law required the program be placed in the public domain in 1977.

**Review Words**
- bell, but, has
- Decodable
- said - Special Word (Lesson 13)

**Plot Summary**
A friendly fun fish plays a silly prank on Mat while he is on the beach. Mat runs after him, but the fish gets away. Sam and Mit do not believe Mat when he tells them about the fun fish. When they do see him, Sam and Mit play a game with him. The fun fish get away by jumping in the water.

**Story Questions** (Comprehension)
1. p 3: Who is taking Mat’s bell?
2. p 6: Who is Mat telling about the fish?
3. p 9: Do Sam and Mit believe that Mat saw a fun fish?
4. pp 11-12: When do Sam and Mit believe Mat?
5. p 13: Does Mat get his bell back?

Each new word throughout the program is repeated at least five times in the book in which it first appears and five more times in the next ten books.
Mat has a bell.  
The fun fish sees it.

“Mat has the bell,  
but I need it.  
Will he see me?”
Mat sees him.
The fun fish runs with the bell.

But the fun fish fell.
“The bell! The bell! said Mat.
“A fish has it!”

“Mit! Sam!” said Mat.
“A fish has the bell!”
“We did not see a fish, but we see the bell.”

“But I did see a fish. He was wet. See the mud?”
“He did not see a fish,”
Sam and Mit said.

“But it was a fish!
It was a fun fish!”
“Mit! Sam! See him!” said Mat.

Sam has the fun fish.
The fun fish ran,
but the bell fell.

“He was not a bad fish,”
said Mat.
“He was a fun fish.”