

Family  
and  
Friends 5

# The Jungle Book



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## Activities

### Before reading

This story is about Mowgli, a baby who grows up in the jungle with a Wolf-Pack. As Mowgli grows up, he has many adventures with his animal friends. But he also has an enemy – Shere Khan, the tiger. Shere Khan has wanted to kill Mowgli since he was a baby and is waiting for the right moment to attack . . .

#### 1 What do you think will happen in the story? Tick the boxes.

- 1 When Mowgli grows up, some of the wolves want to kill him.
- 2 Mowgli leaves the jungle and goes to live in a village.
- 3 He goes to school and learns to read and write.
- 4 Shere Khan the tiger goes away and forgets about Mowgli.
- 5 Mowgli kills Shere Khan.
- 6 Shere Khan kills Mowgli.

Yes No

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## CHAPTER 1 **Mowgli's brothers**

**O**ne very warm evening in the Seeonee hills in Southern India, Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest. Next to him lay Mother Wolf, with their four cubs beside her.

'It's time to look for food,' said Father Wolf, and he stood up to leave the cave.

'Good luck,' said a voice. It was the jackal, Tabaqui, who eats everything and anything, even old clothes from the villages. The wolves of India do not like him, because he runs around making trouble and telling bad stories about them.

'Shere Khan, the tiger, is coming to look for food here,' said Tabaqui.

'He can't,' cried Father Wolf. 'By the Law of the Jungle he must tell us first, *before* he comes here to hunt.'

'Shere Khan has a bad leg, so he can only kill cows. In the village near him the people are angry. That is why he is coming here – to start hunting in a new place. Listen, you can hear him now,' said Tabaqui.

'He is a stupid animal,' said Father Wolf, and he listened to the angry noise of a tiger who has not eaten. 'No one will find anything to eat in the jungle now.'

**wolf** (*plural wolves*) a big grey animal like a dog that lives in the wild

**wake up** (*past woke up*) to stop sleeping

**cub** a young animal

**jackal** a wild animal like a dog that is smaller than a wolf

**law** something that tells you what you must and must not do

**jungle** a thick forest in hot, wet countries

**hunt** (*v*) to chase and kill animals for food

**stupid** not clever





‘But Shere Khan is hunting man, not animal, tonight,’ said Tabaqui.

The Law of the Jungle says that animals must not hunt man, because if they kill a man, other men will come with guns. Then everybody in the jungle is in danger.

Father and Mother Wolf listened to Shere Khan in the jungle not far away. Then, suddenly, they heard a noise much nearer to them.

‘It’s a man. A man’s cub. Look!’ said Father Wolf.

And there in front of them stood a baby who could just walk. He looked up at Father Wolf and laughed.

‘Is that a man’s cub?’ asked Mother Wolf. ‘I have never seen one. Bring it here.’

The baby, small and with no clothes, pushed its way between the cubs to get near to Mother Wolf. ‘Look,’ she said, ‘he is taking his meal with the others.’

‘I have heard that this has happened before,’ said Father Wolf, ‘but I have never seen it until now. Look at him. He is not scared.’

Suddenly, it was dark, and Shere Khan was pushing his big head in through the mouth of the cave.

‘We are happy that you visit us, Shere Khan,’ said Father Wolf, but his eyes were angry. ‘What do you want?’

‘I am hunting a man’s cub,’ said Shere Khan. ‘Its father and mother have run away. Give it to me.’

Father Wolf knew that Shere Khan could not get inside the cave because he was too big.

‘The man’s cub belongs to us,’ he said. ‘The Pack – the other wolves and I – will decide. If we want to kill him, we will kill him, not you.’

‘The man’s cub belongs to me! It is I, Shere Khan, who speaks!’ And Shere Khan’s roar filled the cave with noise.

‘No!’ came the angry voice of Mother Wolf. ‘The man’s cub belongs to me! We will not kill him. He will live, to run with the other wolves, to be my son. Now go away, eater of cubs! Go!’

Shere Khan went. He knew that he could not fight Mother Wolf in the cave. ‘But I will have this man-cub one day, you thieves!’ he shouted from the jungle.

‘Do you really want to keep him, Mother?’ said Father Wolf.

‘Keep him?’ said Mother Wolf. ‘Yes. He came here by night, alone and hungry, but he was not scared. Yes, I will keep him. And I will call him Mowgli, the frog.’

‘But what will the other wolves of the Pack say?’

By the Law of the Jungle all wolf-cubs must come to the Pack when they can walk. The wolves look at the cubs carefully. Then the cubs are free to run anywhere because all the adult wolves know them and will not attack them.

\* \* \*

When the four wolf-cubs could run a little, Father Wolf took them and Mowgli and Mother Wolf to the Meeting Rock. Here, the hundred wolves of the Wolf-Pack met every month when the moon was full.

**belong to**

**someone** to be someone’s thing

**decide**

to think about something and then do it

**roar** (n, v)

a long deep sound, made by animals like tigers

**thief** (plural

**thieves)** a person or animal that takes things without asking

**keep**

to have something that belongs to you

**alone**

with nobody

**attack**

to try to hurt or kill someone

The leader of the Pack was Akela, a great grey wolf. Each new wolf-cub came to stand in front of him and Akela said, 'Look well, O Wolves. Look well!'

At the end, Father Wolf pushed Mowgli into the circle of wolves. Then from the trees outside the circle they heard the voice of Shere Khan.

'The man-cub belongs to me. Give him to me!'

Akela did not move but said only, 'Look well! Who speaks for this man-cub? Two voices, who are not his father and mother, must speak for him.'

There is only one other animal who can come to these wolf-meetings – Baloo, the sleepy brown bear. His job is to teach the Law of the Jungle to the wolf-cubs.

'I speak for the man-cub,' said Baloo's deep voice. 'Let him run with the Pack. I will teach him.'

'We need another voice to speak for him,' said Akela.

Quietly, another animal jumped down into the circle. It was Bagheera the panther, black as the night, clever, strong, and dangerous.

'O Akela, will you let me speak?' said Bagheera softly. 'The Law of the Jungle says we can buy the life of a cub. It is bad to kill a man-cub. He cannot hurt you. Let him live with you, and I will give you a fat cow, newly killed, which lies in the jungle not far away.'

The voices of the wolves replied, 'Let him live.' They were always hungry and they wanted to get the dead cow. Soon they went away, and there were only Akela, Bagheera, Baloo and Mowgli's wolf family left. They could hear the angry roars of Shere Khan in the night.

'It is good,' said Akela. 'Men are clever. Perhaps this man-cub will help us when he is older. Take him away,' he said to Father Wolf, 'and teach him well.'

**leader** the person or animal that tells others what to do

**bear** a large heavy wild animal with thick fur and sharp teeth and claws

**jump** to move suddenly from one place to another place

**panther** a big, black wild cat

**clever** thinking well and quickly



And so, because of Baloo's good word and the present of a cow, Mowgli now belonged to the Seeonee Wolf-Pack.

\* \* \*

The story of Mowgli's life with the wolves fills many books, but we must jump ten or eleven years now. Father Wolf, Baloo and Bagheera taught Mowgli well, and he learnt everything about the jungle. He understood every sound in the trees, every song of the birds, every splash in the water. He learnt to climb trees like a monkey, to swim in the rivers like a fish, and to hunt for his food as cleverly as any animal in the jungle.

**understand** (*past understood*) to know well

**sound** noise

**song** when someone or something sings

**splash** the noise when something goes into water fast

## Activities

### 1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- The jungle is in Southern India.
- Mowgli is a wolf-cub.
- Mother Wolf wants to keep the baby.
- The baby is scared of Mother Wolf.
- Mowgli dies when he is still a baby.
- A bear and a panther are his teachers.
- Shere Khan the tiger is Mowgli's friend.
- Mowgli grows up with his wolf family.

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  


### 2 Who said this? Write the names.

Father Wolf   Shere Khan   Baloo   ~~Tabaqui~~   Bagheera   Mother Wolf

- 'Shere Khan, the tiger, is coming to look for food here.' Tabaqui
- 'The man's cub belongs to us.' \_\_\_\_\_
- 'I will have this man-cub one day, you thieves!' \_\_\_\_\_
- 'I will call him Mowgli, the frog.' \_\_\_\_\_
- 'Let him run with the Pack. I will teach him.' \_\_\_\_\_
- 'It is bad to kill a man-cub.' \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Find the words from the letters in brackets. Complete the sentences.

- Father Wolf and Mother Wolf have four cubs. (cbus)
- Shere Khan has come to the jungle to \_\_\_\_\_. (htnu)
- Akela is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Wolf-Pack. (aledre)
- Bagheera the panther is \_\_\_\_\_ and strong. (evrelc)
- When Shere Khan is angry he \_\_\_\_\_ loudly. (orasr)



**4 Match the pictures with the names.**
~~Shere Khan~~

Baloo

Akela

Bagheera


Shere Khan

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5 These animals are in the next chapter. What are they? Circle.**

~~kite~~ / deer

elephant / python

monkey / lion

## CHAPTER 2 The Monkey-People

**B**aloo, the old brown bear, loved teaching Mowgli. He taught him how to speak to the different Jungle-People, and he taught him the important Master-Words. But Mowgli sometimes got bored with all the lessons. One day, when he was not listening, Baloo hit him, very softly, on the head, and Mowgli ran away angrily.

Bagheera, the black panther, was not happy about this. 'Remember how small he is,' he said to Baloo. 'How can his little head hold all your long words?'

'These words will keep him safe from the birds, from the Snake-People, and all the animals that hunt,' said Baloo. 'It is true that he is only small. But no one will hurt him, if he remembers all the Master-Words. Come, Mowgli!' he called into the trees. 'Come and say the words again.'

Mowgli climbed down from a tree and came to sit next to them. 'I will say the words to Bagheera, not you, fat old Baloo!' he said angrily.

'Very well,' said Baloo sadly. 'Say the words for the Hunting-People.'

'We are of one blood, you and I,' said Mowgli.

'Good. Now for the birds.'

Mowgli said the same words but with the sound of a bird.

'Now for the Snake-People,' said Baloo.

Mowgli then made the long 'ssss' sound, which was like no other noise, only the noise of a snake.

'Good,' said Baloo gently. 'One day you will thank me for my lessons. Now you will be safe in the jungle, because no snake, no bird, no animal will hurt you. You do not have to be scared of anyone.'

**master-word**  
a special or  
important word  
that everybody  
knows



‘And I will have my people and go with them high up in the trees,’ shouted Mowgli.

‘What did you say, Mowgli?’ asked Baloo, surprised. ‘Have you been with the *Bandar-log*, the Monkey-People?’

Mowgli could hear that Baloo was angry, and he saw too that Bagheera’s green eyes were cold and hard.

‘When Baloo hurt my head,’ said Mowgli, ‘I went away, and the grey monkeys came down from the trees and talked to me. They were kind to me and gave me nice things to eat. Then they took me up into the trees. They said that I was their brother, and they wanted me to be their leader one day. Why have you never told me about the Monkey-People? Bad old Baloo! They play all day and don’t do lessons, and I will play with them again.’

‘Listen, man-cub,’ said Baloo angrily. ‘I have taught you the Law for all the Jungle-People, but not for the Monkey-

**surprised** feeling that something very new is suddenly happening

**dirty** not clean

**forget** (*past forgot, forgotten*) not to know any more

**follow** to go after someone or something

**branch** part of a tree

**journey** when you go far

**crash** to fall noisily

People. They have no law. Their ways are not our ways. They are noisy and dirty, and they think that they are a great people, but then they forget everything. The rest of the Jungle-People do not talk to them, or even think about them. Remember what I tell you.'

Mowgli listened, and was sorry. But all this time the *Bandar-log* were up in the trees, listening and watching. They followed Mowgli and his friends through the jungle until it was time for the midday rest. Mowgli lay between his friends and went to sleep, saying, 'I will never talk to or play with the Monkey-People again.'

When he woke up, he was high in a tree and there were hands holding his legs and arms – hard, strong, little hands. Down below Baloo was shouting angrily, and Bagheera was climbing up the tree, but he was too heavy for the thin branches. The monkeys, shouting and laughing, carried Mowgli between them and started their journey along the monkey roads, which are high in the trees.

It was an exciting journey. The monkeys jumped from tree-top to tree-top, crashing through the leaves and



branches. At first Mowgli was scared of falling, but then he began to think. He must tell Baloo and Bagheera where he was. High up in the blue sky he saw Chil the kite. The big bird saw that the monkeys were carrying a man-cub. He flew down to look, and was surprised to hear the bird-call of the kites: 'We are of one blood, you and I!'

'Who are you?' called Chil.

'Mowgli, the man-cub!' came the reply. 'Watch where they take me, and tell Baloo and Bagheera.'

'I will,' called Chil, and he flew high above the trees and watched with his far-seeing eyes.

Monkeys can travel fast when they want to, and by now Baloo and Bagheera were a long way behind.

'We cannot follow the *Bandar-log* through the trees,' said Baloo, 'and we will never catch them. But they are scared of Kaa, the big python. He can climb as easily as the monkeys, and he eats them. Maybe he will help us.' And so Baloo and Bagheera went to look for Kaa the python.

They found him, lying in the sun – ten metres of brown-and-yellow snake, beautiful and dangerous.

'What news?' called Kaa when he saw them.

'We are looking for food,' said Baloo. He knew that you must not hurry Kaa. He is too big.

'Let me come with you,' said Kaa hungrily. 'I have not eaten for days.'

'We are following the *Bandar-log*,' said Baloo. 'Those noisy, dirty thieves have stolen our man-cub. And we love our man-cub very much, Kaa!'

'The *Bandar-log*,' said Bagheera cleverly, 'are very scared of you, Kaa. But they say bad things about you, and call you "old yellow fish", I hear.'

**kite** a bird with a curved beak that hunts small animals

**python** a very large snake

**steal (past stole, stolen)** to take something without asking

'Tss! Tss!' said Kaa. 'I will teach them not to call me bad names. Where did they take your man-cub? They will be tired of him quickly, and that is bad for him.'

'Up! Up! Look up, Baloo!'

Baloo looked up and saw Chil the kite, high in the sky.

'What is it?' called Baloo.

'I have seen Mowgli the man-cub with the *Bandar-log*. He knew the Master-Word. They have taken him to the monkey-city, the Lost City.'

Baloo and Bagheera knew of the monkey-city. Men used to live there once, but they left hundreds of years ago. Nobody went there now, only the *Bandar-log*.

'We must go at once,' said Bagheera. 'It is a long way.'

'I will come as fast as I can,' said Baloo, 'but you and Kaa can go faster. I will follow you.'

\* \* \*

The Lost City was very old. There were many beautiful buildings, but the walls were broken and full of holes, and there were tall trees in houses that were now open to the sky. The Monkey-People called the place their city, and ran around everywhere, in and out of the empty houses, up and down the fruit trees in the old gardens.

Now Mowgli was in their city, and the Monkey-People were very happy. 'This boy can help us,' they said. 'He can teach us how to make things, because men are clever with their hands.' But monkeys make many plans, and always forget them five minutes later.

When Mowgli arrived in the city, he was tired and hungry. 'Give me food,' he said, and twenty or thirty monkeys ran to get fruit. But they started fighting and forgot to take any fruit back to Mowgli.

Mowgli knew that he was in a bad place. 'Baloo was

leave (past left) to go away

fight (n, v) (past fought) to hit someone again and again



right,' he thought. 'The *Bandar-log* have no Law and their ways are not our ways. I must try to get away. Baloo will be angry with me, but that is better than life with the *Bandar-log*.'

But when Mowgli went to the walls of the city, the monkeys pulled him back. 'You are very happy here with us. We are great. We are wonderful. We all say so, and so it is true,' they shouted.

'Don't they ever sleep?' thought Mowgli. He looked up at the sky. 'There's a cloud coming over the moon. Maybe I can run away when it's dark. But I am tired.'

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