

LIFE IN THE JUNGLE



Now you must be happy to skip ten or eleven years, and only imagine the wonderful life that Mowgli led among the wolves. He grew up with the cubs. But they, of course, were grown wolves while he was still a child. And Father Wolf taught him the meaning of things in the jungle. Every sound in the grass, every breath of the warm night air, every note of the owls above his head, every scratch of a bat's claws and every splash of every little fish jumping in a pool meant just as much to him as office work means to a business man.

When he was not learning he sat in the sun and slept, and ate and went to sleep again. When he felt dirty or hot he swam in the forest pools; and when he wanted honey (Baloo taught him that honey and nuts were just as good to eat as raw meat) he climbed up for it.

Bagheera taught him how to climb: the panther lay out on a branch and called, "Come along, Little Brother." At first Mowgli hung onto the branch like an insect, but then he learned to jump through the branches almost as boldly as the grey ape.

Glossary

- **ape:** large monkey
- **bat:** 
- **led:** (v. to lead) had

- **note:** sound
- **owls:** 
- **raw:** not cooked
- **skip:** go forward





He took his place at the Council Rock, too, when the pack met. He discovered that if he stared[•] at any wolf, the wolf soon dropped his eyes[•]. So Mowgli stared at the other wolves for fun. At other times he pulled long thorns[•] out of his friends' paws. Because wolves suffer terribly from thorns in their fur and paws.

Glossary

- **dropped his eyes:** (here) looked down
- **stared:** looked into someone's eyes without moving
- **pulled long thorns:** see picture above

FRIENDS

What games do you play with your friends?

How do you help your friends?

How do your friends help you?

He went down the hillside into the cultivated lands[•] by night, and looked very curiously[•] at the villagers in their huts. But he didn't trust[•] men because Bagheera showed him a square box with a drop gate[•] so well hidden in the jungle that he nearly walked into it. Bagheera told him that it was a trap. More than anything else he loved to go with Bagheera into the dark warm heart of the forest. In the forest Mowgli and Bagheera slept all day and at night Mowgli saw how Bagheera killed animals. Bagheera killed right and left[•] when he felt hungry. Mowgli learned to kill everything too, with one exception. As soon as he was old enough to understand things, Bagheera told him that he must never kill cattle. He explained that Mowgli was part of the pack thanks to the gift of a bull.

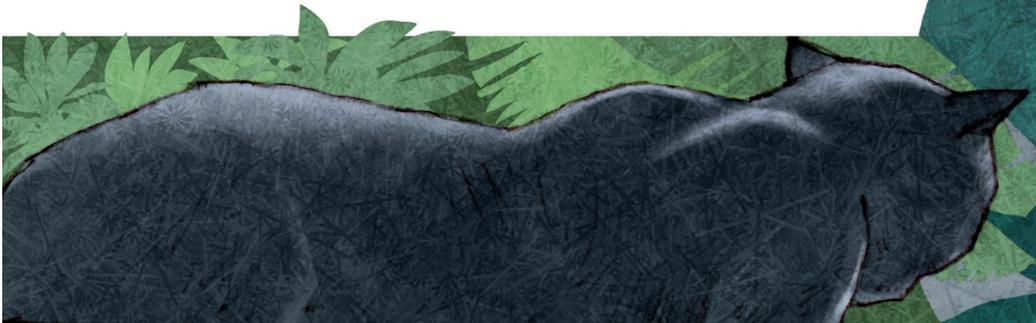
“All the jungle is yours,” said Bagheera, “and you can kill everything that you are strong enough to kill. But you must never eat or kill any cattle. That is the Law of the Jungle.” Mowgli obeyed[•] faithfully[•].

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- **cultivated lands:** where man grows plants
 - **curiously:** with interest
 - **drop gate:** gate/door that closes after an animal enters the box
 - **faithfully:** (here) completely
 - **obeyed:** followed an order; did what he was told
 - **right and left:** (here) everything
 - **trust:** when you trust someone you believe they are honest

And he grew stronger and stronger like all boys who are growing up and who have nothing in the world to think of except things to eat.

Mother Wolf told him once or twice[•] that Shere Khan was not a creature to be trusted[•], and that one day he must kill Shere Khan. But Mowgli forgot her advice[•] because he was only a boy. A boy who couldn't talk any human language and a boy who thought he was a wolf.

Shere Khan was always crossing his path[•] in the jungle. As Akela grew older and weaker Shere Khan became great friends with the younger wolves of the pack. The young wolves followed Shere Khan to get scraps[•]. Shere Khan flattered[•] them. He asked them why such good young hunters were happy to have a dying wolf and a man cub as their leaders. "They tell me," Shere Khan said, "that at Council you are afraid to look him in the eyes." And the young wolves growled and bristled[•] with shame[•] and anger.



Glossary

- **advice:** when you give advice you say what you think someone must do
- **bristled:** when an animal's hair stands up
- **crossing his path:** meeting him
- **flattered:** said nice things to
- **scraps:** small pieces of food
- **shame:** when you think something you are doing is wrong or embarrassing
- **to be trusted:** that you can trust
- **twice:** two times

THE YOUNG WOLVES

Imagine you are one of the young wolves.

Explain to a partner why you feel angry and ashamed.



Bagheera had eyes and ears everywhere. Once or twice he told Mowgli that Shere Khan wanted to kill him one day. Mowgli laughed and answered: “I have the pack and I have you and Baloo. I’ve got no reason to be afraid.”

It was one very warm day that a new idea came to Bagheera. He said to Mowgli when they were deep in the jungle, as the boy was lying with his head on Bagheera’s beautiful black skin: “Little Brother, how often do I tell you that Shere Khan is your enemy?”

“As many times as there are nuts on that palm,” said Mowgli, who, naturally, did not know how to count. “Why are you asking me? I am sleepy, Bagheera, and Shere Khan is all long tail and loud talk — like Mao, the Peacock.”



Glossary

• **enemy:** someone who wants to hurt you; opposite of friend

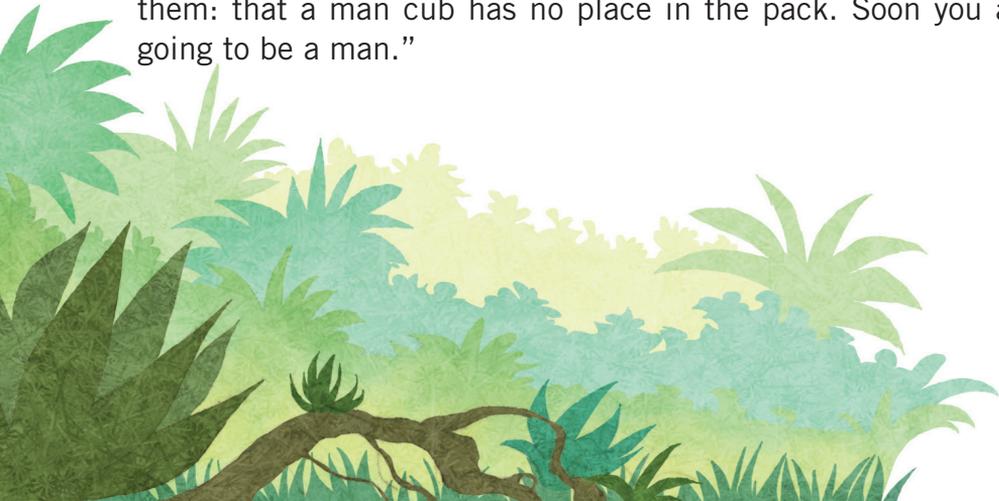
• **peacock:**



“But this is no time for sleeping. Baloo knows it; I know it; the pack know it; and even the foolish, foolish deer know it. Tabaqui told you, too.”

“Ha! ha!” said Mowgli. “Tabaqui came to me not long ago and said that I was a naked man cub and not fit to be with the pack. But I caught Tabaqui by the tail and hit him twice against a palm tree to teach him better manners.”

“That was foolish of you. Tabaqui is a trouble-maker but he wanted to give you important information. Open your eyes, Little Brother. Shere Khan is afraid to kill you in the jungle. But remember, Akela is very old. Soon another wolf is going to be the leader. Many of the wolves that accepted you into the pack at the first Council are old, too. And the young wolves believe what Shere Khan tells them: that a man cub has no place in the pack. Soon you are going to be a man.”



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- **deer:** 
 - **fit:** good enough
 - **foolish:** silly; stupid

- **manners:** how you behave (act, say, etc.)
- **trouble-maker:** person who creates problems

After Reading

Exit Test

11 1 Listen to the conversations and choose the correct picture to answer the question.

a) Who are Mother Wolf and Father Wolf talking about?

1



2



3



b) Who are Mother Wolf and Father Wolf talking about?

1



2



3



c) Who are Akela and Shere Khan talking about?

1



2



3



d) Who is everyone in the jungle afraid of?

1



2



3



e) Who is Mowgli talking to?

1



2



3



2 Circle the correct answer.

a) Who are the Gidur-log?

1 the villagers **2** the jackal people **3** the wolves

b) What did Shere Khan burn when he was hunting baby Mowgli?

1 his whiskers **2** his fur **3** his feet

c) Where was the Council Rock?

1 on top of a hill **2** by a lake **3** in a thicket

d) How did Mother Wolf feel when she took Mowgli to the Pack Meeting.

1 excited **2** nervous **3** angry

e) Who teaches the wolf cubs ‘The Law of the Jungle’?

1 Baloo **2** Bagheera **3** Akela

f) Bagheera’s voice was as soft as

1 a feather **2** butter **3** honey

g) What did Mowgli pull out of his friends’ paws?

1 fire **2** thorns **3** insects

h) Where was Bagheera born?

1 a cage **2** a forest **3** a cave

i) What are Shere Khan and the wolves are frightened of?

1 fire **2** jackals **3** cattle

j) What does Mowgli do for the first time when he decides to leave the jungle.

1 gets angry **2** cries **3** laughs

