

**Family
and
Friends 5**

The Jungle Book

Rudyard Kipling

Text adaptation by Ralph Mowat

Illustrated by Francisca Marquez



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Activities

Before reading

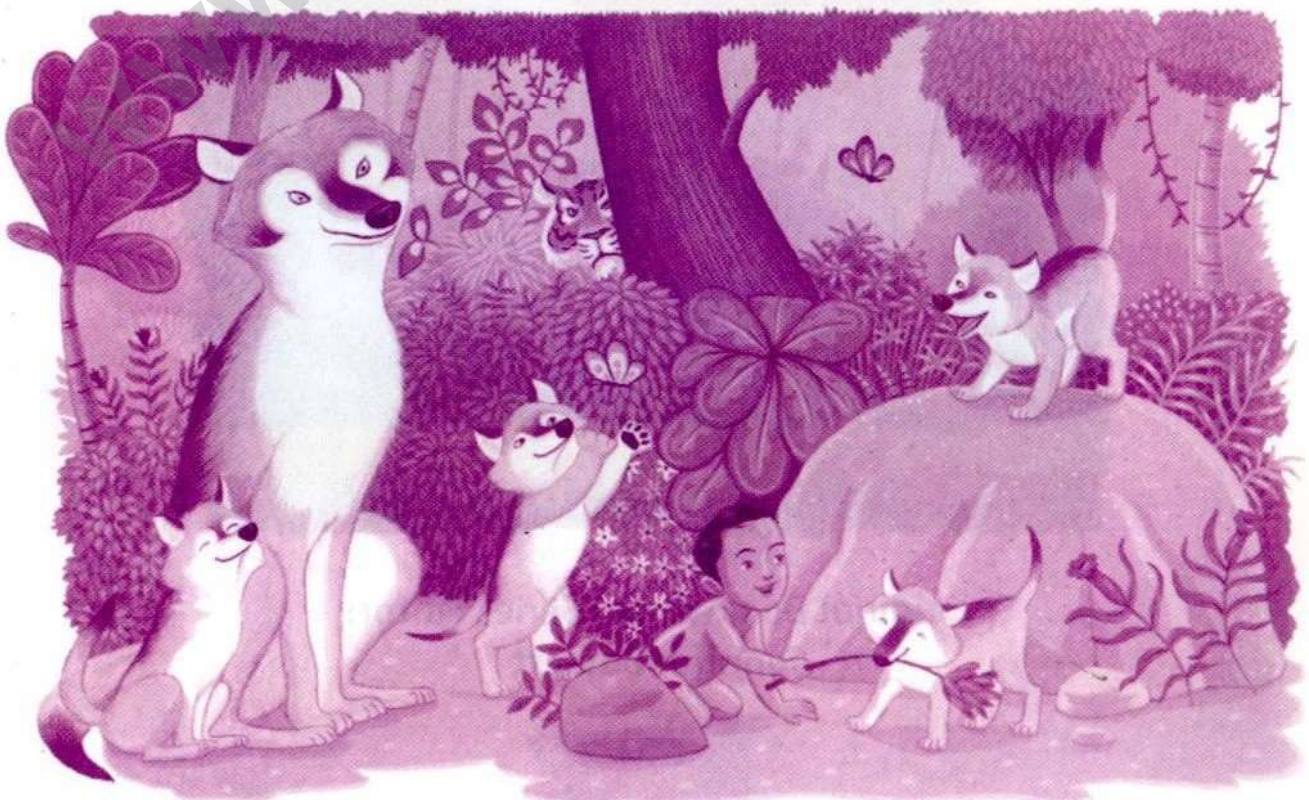
This story is about Mowgli, a baby who grows up in the jungle with a Wolf-Pack. As Mowgli grows up, he has many adventures with his animal friends. But he also has an enemy – Shere Khan, the tiger. Shere Khan has wanted to kill Mowgli since he was a baby and is waiting for the right moment to attack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

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**

One very warm evening in the Seonee 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