



THE JUNGLE BOOK

NAMES IN THE JUNGLE BOOK

	Head Figures	Animal	Cub Pack Role
	Akela	The Head Wolf	Cub Leader
	Baloo	The Bear	Assistant Cub Leader
	Bagheera	The Black Panther	Assistant Cub Leader
	Raksha	The Mother Wolf	Assistant Cub Leader
	Black Plume	Black Six	Sixer
	Brown Tip	Green Six	Sixer
	Grey Brother	Blue Six	Sixer
	Red Fang	Red Six	Sixer
	Sahi	The Porcupine	Pack Scribe
	Tawny Fur	Tawny six	Sixer
	White Claw	White Six	Sixer

TENDER PAW





Pack Assistants

	Ahdeek	The Reindeer	Team games
	Apukwa	The Bulrush	Weaving
	Blue Smoke	The Fire	Signaling
	Chil	The Kite	Singing
	Crimson Arrow	The Arrow	Throwing and catching
	Dahinda	The Bullfrog	Leapfrog, cartwheels, etc.
	Golden Quill	The Pen	Artist
	Hathi	The Elephant	Regular Attendance
	Hawkeye	The Owl	Observation
	Hiawatha	The Ojibway Indian	All-round athletics
	Jacala	The Crocodile	Acting
	Kaa	The Python	Tree Climbing
	Karela	The Bitter Vine	Knotting
	Keego	The Fish	Swimming





Keneu

The Great War Eagle

Running

Kim

Little Friend of All

Ko

The Crow

Noisiest Cub

Kotick

The Seal

Wrestling

Limmerskin

The Wren

Message Carrying

Little Beaver

The Beaver

Lair Building

Mang

The Bat

Obedience

Mor

The Peacock

Tidiness and Cleanliness

Mowgli

The Man Cub

Friend to Animals

Nag

The Cobra

First Aid

Oonai

The Wolf

Reciting

Pukeena

The Grasshopper

High Jump

Rama

The Water Buffalo

Good Hearing

Rann

The Eagle

Good Eye sight

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

The Mongoose

Cheeriness





Scarlet Feather

The Feather

Fire Lighting

Sea Catch

The Seal

Diving



Shada

The Pelican

Perseverance



Shaw-Shaw

The Swallow

Skipping



Singum

The Lion

Book-carrying



Sona

The Himalayan Bear

Good Manners



Suggeema

The Mosquito

Smallest Cub



Tabaqui

The Jackal

Resourceful



Tall Pine

The Pine Tree

Tallest Cub



Won-Tolla

The Rabbit

Hopping





1. MOWGLI FINDS HIS BROTHERS

It was seven o'clock in the evening when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, and spread out his paws one after the other to get rid of the sleepy feeling in their tips. Mother Wolf lay with her big grey nose dropped across her four tumbling, squealing cubs as the moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived. "Ah" said Father Wolf, "It is time to hunt again."

As he was about to set off, the jackal, Tabaqui arrived. Now Tabaqui was not liked by the wolves. He was mean, made mischief by telling tales and stole scraps of food. He asked in his whining voice for food. "I have no food" said Father Wolf, "I was about to go hunting". "But a little bone will do for me" whined Tabaqui and he took a bone with a little bit of meat from a pile of rubbish and sat in the corner chewing at it. "Thanks for this good meal," he said and added, "I have news for you. Shere Khan is back in this part of the jungle".

Shere Khan was a big tiger. He had a lame foot and so generally hunted easy game. Father Wolf was annoyed. "But we have an agreement that he will not hunt in our area because there is not enough food for all of us." "Nevertheless," whined Tabaqui, "he is here".

Just then they all heard the roar of the hunting tiger. "The fool" said Father Wolf. "All will hear him and the prey will run away". Then they heard the tiger howl. "He has run into trouble!" said Mother Wolf. Father Wolf went out to investigate and saw that the tiger had run into a wood-cutter's campfire and had burned his paw.

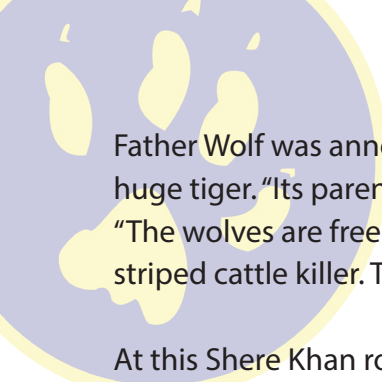
When Father Wolf returned, Mother Wolf said that she heard something going up the hill towards the cave. The bushes rustled and Father Wolf got ready to attack in case whatever approached was dangerous. Then just as he was about to attack, out from the forest crawled a little baby boy! Father Wolf tried to halt his attack and as a result went straight upwards instead of forwards and made Mother Wolf laugh!

"Man!" he snapped. "It's a man cub!" "Bring it here", said Mother Wolf. Now wolves have a mouth full of strong teeth but if they want they can be very gentle and so Father Wolf picked up slowly the man cub and brought him over to Mother Wolf without any ill effects at all. When Mother Wolf saw the baby close she was entranced! "How little! How naked! How bold" she said. The baby was pushing his way among the cubs to get near to her warm hide and he began to feed as the other cubs were doing. "There could not be another wolf who could boast of having a man cub among her children!"

Father Wolf was not quite so enthusiastic and said that he had never heard of such a thing. "He has no hair at all", he said, "and I could kill him with a touch of my foot but he is not afraid".

Just then the moonlight was blocked out of the mouth of the cave. Shere Khan was there, his head sticking into the entrance. He could get no further because he was so big.





Father Wolf was annoyed again. "What do you want", he demanded. "My prey came here", said the huge tiger. "Its parents ran away and the man cub came in here. Give it to me!" Father Wolf replied "The wolves are free people and only obey orders from the head of the pack and not from any striped cattle killer. The cub is ours."

At this Shere Khan roared and the sound echoed in the cave. Mother Wolf jumped to her feet and said "It is I, Raksha, who speaks. The man cub is mine. He shall not be killed. He shall live to hunt with the Pack. Now go!"

Shere Khan might have been able to defeat Father Wolf, but he could not stand against both Father and Mother Wolf so he backed away, and as he went growled, "We will see what the Pack says about keeping a man cub". When he had finally gone away grumbling, Father Wolf said to Raksha, "Shere Khan speaks the truth, the cub must be shown to the Pack. Are you sure you want to keep him?"

Mother Wolf immediately told Father Wolf that she wanted to keep the little cub. She gave him milk to drink and called him her little frog because he had no fur, just like a frog. Now the word for frog is Mowgli and that is how Mowgli got his name.

2. MOWGLI JOIN THE PACK

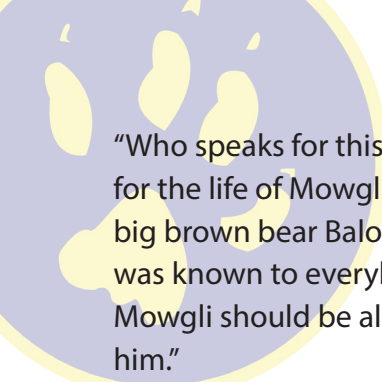
After Mowgli had been with the wolf family for a little while and the younger wolf cubs could run a little, it was time for the young wolves to be shown to the Pack. This was essential because if a wolf did not recognise another wolf as a member of its own pack he would attack and kill the intruder. So Father and Mother Wolf took along their family to the Pack Council for the recognition ceremony.

All the wolves in the pack assembled at the Council Rock. The leader of the pack was Akela. He was leader because he was the strongest and by far the cleverest of the wolves. He lay full length on a boulder and the rest of the pack took their places in a large circle below him.

The wolf mothers pushed their cubs into the centre of the circle so that the older wolves would recognise them. Akela called out, "You all know the Law. Look well O Wolves!" The mothers also called out, "Look well!" They certainly did not want their cubs to be unknown to the wolves until a later date and so killed. Finally, Father Wolf pushed Mowgli into the centre of the ring.

There was a roar from outside the circle. Shere Khan had arrived. "The man cub is mine. Give him to me. Why should you recognise a man cub?" Akela didn't even twitch his ears. He simply repeated "Look well O Wolves. What have we to do with orders from anyone but ourselves?" But not all the wolves agreed with Akela and some growled their disapproval, and one of them said that they should not recognise a man cub as one of the pack. Now the Law said that a cub must be recognised by his father and mother of course, and by at least two other members of the pack before he could be welcomed as a full member of the pack.





“Who speaks for this Cub?” called Akela. No answer came. Raksha the mother wolf got ready to fight for the life of Mowgli. But then there came another call from outside the circle. This time it was the big brown bear Baloo. Baloo was the teacher of the cubs. He taught them the Laws of the jungle and was known to everybody in the circle. Baloo said he would speak for the man cub. He asked that Mowgli should be allowed to run with the pack and be recognised. He added, “I myself will teach him.”

That was fine. Mother and Father Wolf and now Baloo spoke for Mowgli. Akela said “We still need yet another to speak for the man cub.” A black shadow dropped into the circle. It was Bagheera, the black panther, inky black all over, strong and very cunning, brave and reckless. He said, “I know I have no rights in the pack, but I am willing to speak for the man cub. The life of the cub may be bought at a price, and the Law does not say who may pay that price. Am I right?” All the wolves agreed that was correct.


“Well then,” said Bagheera, “I have just killed a bull – a big, fat, strong one. I will give that meat as the price for the life of Mowgli.” After a little bit of talk the wolves eventually agreed that Mowgli should be saved. Shere Khan roared in the distance, because he still felt that he should have had Mowgli for his supper. But Bagheera said “Roar well Shere Khan for the time will come when this little cub will grow and be strong and clever and will outwit you.” Akela agreed and thought that Mowgli would be a help to the pack when he was a little older. “Take him away” he said to Father Wolf, “and train him as befits a member of the pack.” And that is how Mowgli was entered into the Seeonee Wolf Pack for the price of a bull and on Baloo’s good word.

3. KAA'S HUNTING

Now Mowgli had been accepted by the Seeonee Pack and it was Baloo’s job to teach him the laws of the jungle. Baloo was delighted with Mowgli, though he did not often tell him so, because generally the young wolves he taught only learned the things they had to know to be successful wolves, but Mowgli had to learn a lot more. One day Bagheera came along to see how Mowgli was getting on. Bagheera was very fond of Mowgli and was sometimes upset when he saw how strict Baloo was. But Baloo explained that if Mowgli did not know how to behave in the jungle he would very quickly end up as somebody’s dinner!

Mowgli learned how to hiss to the snakes and talk their language. He could buzz so that the bees in the treetops would not sting him if he happened to be near their nests and wanted a little honey. He had to learn the special calls of the different hunting animals and also made up his own call which was to ask permission to hunt in another animal’s territory. He could understand the replies of various beasts who would tell him to hunt for food, but never for pleasure. Because of the kindness of Hathi the elephant, who took him down to the river, he knew how to warn the water snakes that he was about to jump into their pools so that they would not attack him. Most animals do not like to be disturbed and if they are annoyed or frightened, will protect themselves by attacking. He also knew about the various bird whistles, hoots and caws.





Mowgli sat on Bagheera's back and bounced up and down. "Well", said Bagheera. "Now I see that you are friends with all, even though you do not have a tribe of your own." "But I do!" laughed Mowgli, "They are my friends who live in the tree tops and throw branches and dirt at Baloo!"

"Whoof!" – Baloo's big paw scooped Mowgli off Bagheera's back! He was angry. "You have been talking with the Bandar-log, the monkey people". Mowgli looked at Bagheera to see if he was cross too – and he was.

"When Baloo was cross with me one day," he said, "I went away for a while and the grey apes came down from the tree and had pity on me."

"The pity of the monkey people!" snorted Baloo, "And then?"

"Then they gave me nuts and fruit to eat, and told me I was their blood brother and should be their leader one day."

"They have no leader", retorted Bagheera. "They lie, they have always lied."

"Listen man cub," said the big bear, "the monkeys have no law, they are outcasts and they have no memory. They boast, chatter and pretend that they are great people, but the falling of a nut from a tree turns their minds to laughter and all is forgotten. Have you ever heard me speak of the Bandar-log until today? The Jungle people put them out of their minds. They are evil, dirty, shameless and all they want is to be noticed. But when we ignore them they throw dirt on our heads. The Monkey people are forbidden to the jungle people, remember!"

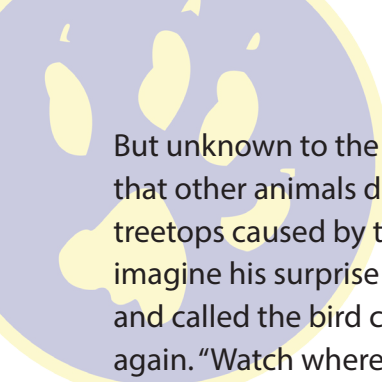
At that moment a shower of twigs and dirt came down from the trees and Baloo and Bagheera moved away taking Mowgli with them. The monkeys didn't mind. They just carried on playing in the treetops, looking for someone else to tease, preferably somebody who was sick or maimed and unable to retaliate.

However, one of them had a bright idea. "Why don't we capture Mowgli?" he asked his comrades. The monkeys often watched Mowgli and knew that he was different to most of the folk of the jungle. He could make little huts and the monkeys thought that would be most useful to them. So they very silently followed Baloo and Bagheera until it was time for their midday nap. They watched as the bear and the panther lay down, and Mowgli set himself between them and all fell asleep.

Then without more ado, the next thing Mowgli knew was that he was held by tiny hands and swinging into the tree tops. Baloo awoke with a roar, and Bagheera climbed up into the trees as quickly as he could. The Bandar-log howled with triumph and called out, "Baloo has noticed us although he said he never would!"

Then they began their flight through the treetops along the paths only monkeys know about. They swung Mowgli about and jumped 6 meters at a bound, they went 30 meters above the ground and when Mowgli looked down he was dizzy. Sometimes he felt the branches below him crackle as if they were breaking and then he would find himself hanging in the air, while the monkey holding him was gripping a tree with his other hand. So they went on through the jungle.





But unknown to the monkeys Chil the kite was flying above, looking for food. Kites eat the food that other animals do not want. They have very good eyesight and Chil saw the commotion in the treetops caused by the passing of the Bandar-log. He swooped down to see what was happening and imagine his surprise when he saw Mowgli gripped by one of the monkeys. Just then Mowgli saw Chil and called the bird cry, "We be of one blood thou and I". Chil waited until Mowgli had a chance to talk again. "Watch where they are taking me. Tell Baloo of the Seeonee Pack and Bagheera of the Council Rock". "Who are you?" said Chil. "I am Mowgli – mark my tra-a-a-il" and so Mowgli was carried on.

Chil nodded and rose in the sky until he looked no bigger than a speck of dust and then he waited. He knew the monkeys would not go very far and he could see a very great distance.

Meanwhile Baloo and Bagheera were furious with rage and grief. Bagheera tried to climb trees to see where the monkeys had gone, and Baloo tried to follow on the ground, but of course they lost sight of the Bandar-log almost immediately. Then Bagheera called a halt. "We must make a plan", he said. "They may drop him if we follow too close." Baloo was frantic. "We must chase the Bandar-log", he cried. "They may have already dropped Mowgli! Oh, why didn't I warn him about the monkey tribe?"

Bagheera tried to calm Baloo down. "You have taught him well and he is sensible. He will not do anything silly."

Baloo then had an idea, "What a silly bear I am", he said "There is only one thing the Bandar-log fear and that is Kaa the Rock Snake. He can climb as well as they can. Let us go to Kaa".

"What can he do?" exclaimed Bagheera, "He is not of our tribe, he has no feet and has the most evil eyes."

"Yes", retorted Baloo, "But he is very old and very cunning and if we promise him many goats he will help us."


"He sleeps for a month after he has eaten, and what if he would prefer to kill his own goats?" asked Bagheera, who was still a little suspicious of the great snake.

"We must persuade him to help us, but if he is not willing then we will have to form our own plan," Baloo said.

They were lucky. Kaa had not eaten. Baloo and Bagheera found him stretching his huge coils and admiring his beautiful new coat, for he had recently shed his old skin. His 30-foot body was twisting into fantastic knots and curves as he soaked up the warm sunshine. Kaa was not a poisonous snake. His strength lay in his hug and when he lapped his huge coils around anybody there was no more to be said.

"Good hunting!" called out Baloo, as they approached. The snake replied in the time honoured tradition "Good hunting Baloo and to you also Bagheera. What are you doing here?"





Now Baloo knew that Kaa was not to be hurried and so he approached cautiously. "Give me permission to come to you", he said, "I don't want you to knock me over accidentally with your coils. You have grown very large."

Kaa was proud of his enormous body but explained that it was sometimes a nuisance to him because the topmost branches would not take his weight. He told them that a month before he had been heard by the monkeys as he slithered down from a tree and they had all escaped.

"Footless yellow earthworm!" said Bagheera under his breath, but Kaa heard him. "Have the Bandar-log ever called me that?" he exclaimed. "But yes", said Bagheera, "and other things that do not bear repeating." That made Kaa angry. "They even say," continued the black panther, "That you are getting too old to even kill a kid!"

That made Kaa very cross indeed. "I heard them today making a great noise in the treetops."

"Yes," answered Baloo. "We are following them now."

Now Kaa knew that the residents of the jungle generally ignored the monkeys and was interested to know why Baloo and Bagheera had changed. "They have stolen the man cub," said Bagheera. "Perhaps you have heard of him?"

The snake replied that Ikki, the porcupine had told him of the new member of the Seeonee Pack, but that he had not believed him. After a lot of talk, Kaa was still not sure that he really wanted to help Bagheera and Baloo. But just then there was a cry from above. It was Chil the kite. It was near his bedtime, but he had looked all over the forest looking for Baloo and having eventually found him he wanted to pass on his news.

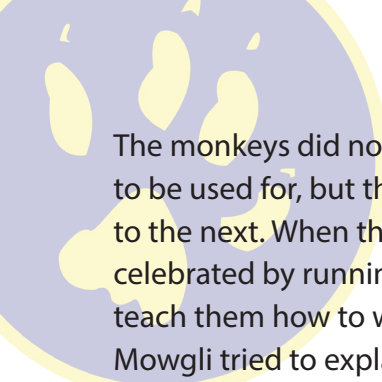
"The Bandar-logs have taken Mowgli" he said, "into the monkey city – the Cold Lairs. They may stay there a day, or ten nights, or an hour. I have asked the bats to watch tonight."

"Thank you, oh thank you" cried Bagheera. "I will put aside the head of my next kill for you." "It was nothing," called Chil. "He said 'we be one blood, you and I' and I could do nothing else but help him."

"Now," said Baloo, "We must go to the Cold Lairs." They immediately made plans to go to the monkey city, but it was agreed that as Baloo was so much slower than the other two, he would get there as fast as he could, but that Bagheera and Kaa would speed at their fastest pace. Although Bagheera had four feet and could run very quickly, Kaa could keep up with him. When they came to a stream Bagheera leapt across, while Kaa had to swim, but in the end they drew level.

In the Cold Lairs, the monkeys were not thinking of Mowgli's friends at all. They were very pleased with themselves in their thoughtless way. The Cold Lairs were the ruins of a very old city and most animals avoided the place. There was a large roofless palace and courtyards and houses falling down. There were also many small trees, bushes and other vegetation growing in between the paving stones of the streets and soon there would no longer be a city there at all, but just a pile of stones and it would be again part of the forest.





The monkeys did not understand why it had been built, or what the various rooms were supposed to be used for, but they played and ran about the ruins, forgetting what they had done from one day to the next. When they reached the Cold Lairs on the day they kidnapped Mowgli, the monkey tribe celebrated by running about playing games. Then they told each other that Mowgli was going to teach them how to weave sticks and vines to make a protection against the cold and wind. But when Mowgli tried to explain how to weave they lost interest immediately and began to pull each others' tails and to jump up and down.

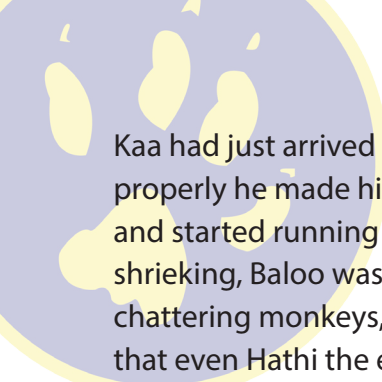
When Mowgli was hungry he demanded to be fed. The monkeys agreed and went off to get him some nuts and fruit, but on the way back they forgot what they had gone for and began playing and quarrelling amongst themselves and the food was lost. Mowgli was sore from the journey through the treetops and angry and now very hungry as well. He started roaming through the dead city giving the Stranger's hunting call, but had no answer and thought the rest of the world had forgotten all about him. As soon as he went near the walls of the city the monkeys pulled him back. The monkeys tried to persuade him that they were the most wise and clever of all the animals in the jungle, but that only made Mowgli laugh! As he watched and listened to the monkeys he noticed that the moon was being covered by a large cloud. "If only that cloud hides the moonlight, then I may be able to escape", he thought.

The same cloud was being watched by Bagheera and Kaa, who had arrived just outside the monkey city. They knew that although the Bandar-log were silly people, they could also be very dangerous for they did things without thinking about the consequences. Kaa suggested that he should slide down one of the outside walls and creep along the ground towards the place where Mowgli was held. Bagheera decided that he would enter the city from the opposite direction and approach the terrace where the monkeys were gathering to discuss what to do with Mowgli. They both wished that Baloo was with them, but he had not yet reached the Cold Lairs. "Good hunting!" said Kaa grimly and glided away.

The cloud reached the moon! All was dark. Mowgli was in the centre of a big circle of monkeys and could not run away. Suddenly there was a commotion as Bagheera jumped into the mass of monkeys and started striking right and left with his huge paws. The monkeys were startled and some of them grabbed Mowgli and thrust him into a deep pit. They threw him through a hole in the top and the fall would have badly hurt a boy, who had grown up among men, but fortunately Baloo had taught Mowgli how to fall and so he landed safely. Then he heard a hissing, which grew louder and louder. The place was full of snakes! Quickly Mowgli gave the snake call, taught to him by Baloo. "We be of one blood, you and I". Then he called again, to make sure the snakes understood him.

"Sssstand sstill little brother", said the cobras in the pit. "If you move about you may stand on us and do us harm." Up above them the noise of the battle grew even louder. Bagheera was fighting for his life. Mowgli called out "Go to the water tank Bagheera, roll and plunge. The monkeys will not follow there." Bagheera heard and fought his way to the reservoirs. Just then there was another roar – the battle cry of Baloo. He arrived panting and immediately disappeared under a wave of monkeys, fighting desperately. Bagheera meanwhile reached the water and, ignoring the noisy monkeys, gave the snake call, "We be of one blood, you and I".





Kaa had just arrived at the opposite wall and after flexing his long body to make sure it was working properly he made his way into the centre of the old city. When the monkeys saw him they panicked and started running about trying to get out. There was a tremendous din. The monkeys were shrieking, Baloo was roaring, Kaa was hissing, Bagheera in his tank was the centre of a circle of chattering monkeys, Mang the Bat flew over the jungle crying out the news of the great battle, so that even Hathi the elephant trumpeted.

Then in came Kaa, fast and anxious to kill. A python like Kaa rears up and uses his head to swing at his enemy employing the strength and weight of his huge body. It would be like a huge hammer weighing half a ton, with a cold and calculating mind in the middle of it issuing directions. A four-foot python could knock a man down, so you can imagine the power of a 30-foot snake like Kaa. In he came and with one blow he knocked several monkeys away from Baloo. The rest of the monkeys ran. "It is Kaa, run, run!"

Then Bagheera called out "Let us go. Get Mowgli out of the pit and let us go before they come back to attack again." Bagheera was exhausted, Baloo was sore all over. Kaa hissed so loudly that the monkeys froze where they were. "They will not move until I tell them they can", he hissed.

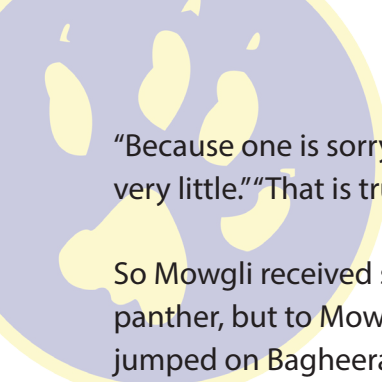
Then they looked for Mowgli and found him in the pit amongst the cobras. "Take him away" they said. "He'ssss moving about and damaging our young." Mowgli was too far down to be lifted out easily. Kaa looked about carefully and found that there was a crack in the side of the pit. After judging the distance carefully he reared up and once again sent his body forward in a mighty swipe, and broke the wall further. Mowgli leaped through the opening and flung himself between Baloo and Bagheera – an arm round each big neck.

They asked if he was hurt, but, of course, he was all right, but he soon discovered that both Bagheera and Baloo were very much battered. He tried to thank them, but they told him that the fight was won by Kaa and it was he who should be thanked. "We be of one blood you and I", said Mowgli to Kaa. "My kill shall be your kill if ever you are hungry." "All thanks", said Kaa, his eyes twinkling "but what can a person your size kill?" "I cannot kill as yet, because I am too small, but I can drive wild goats towards you next time you are hungry. Also, if ever you are in a trap, I may be able to repay the debt I owe you."

"Now," said Kaa "it is time for you all to leave". As they were about to go Kaa called out to the monkeys "Do you see me?" "We see you O Kaa," they replied. Then Kaa began his dance in the centre of the ring of monkeys. He turned and swayed and the monkeys watched and were unable to move. Then he told them to approach him, which they did, although they didn't want to. Bagheera and Baloo moved towards him too until Mowgli pulled at them and made them turn away. "Why do you go towards him?" asked Mowgli "He is only doing a silly snake dance. And his nose was all sore, ho ho."

That made both Bagheera and Baloo angry. "His nose is sore on your account. Baloo's neck and shoulders are bitten on your account. My ears and sides and paws are bitten on your account. We will feel the pain for several days," said Bagheera. Baloo said "But we have the man cub back again." "True", said Bagheera, "but Mowgli has cost us heavily in time, pain, and dignity because the monkeys made fools of us and we had to call on Kaa for help. What says the Law of the Jungle, Baloo?"





“Because one is sorry that doesn’t mean that punishment does not follow!” said Baloo. “But he is still very little.” “That is true”, agreed Bagheera, “but he has been mischievous and must be punished.”

So Mowgli received six love taps from Bagheera, which would not have even woken up a baby panther, but to Mowgli they were like a severe beating. When it was over Mowgli got up, sneezed and jumped on Bagheera’s back for the ride home.

4. THE KING'S ANKUS

Kaa, the big python, had just changed his skin for perhaps the two-hundredth time. Mowgli had come to see him and to congratulate him on his new shiny appearance, and was lying amongst the great snake’s coils very comfortably.

The two of them talked about this, that and the other, then played a wrestling game, which ended, as usual, with Kaa knocking Mowgli across the clearing in the jungle, even though he used one-tenth of his great strength. Afterwards, they made their way to a rock pool and had a bathe, lying there luxuriously in the warm water. Pythons, as same as human beings, like a swim occasionally.

A cobra slipped over a nearby rock and had a drink and then rushed away hissing “Good hunting!” as he went. “That reminds me!” exclaimed Kaa, “of an encounter I had recently. After I had hunted and eaten, I met a pure white cobra near the cold lairs, and he showed me interesting things.”

“Was it good food?” asked Mowgli. “No, no.” replied Kaa “It was something that White Hood said that men would give anything for!”

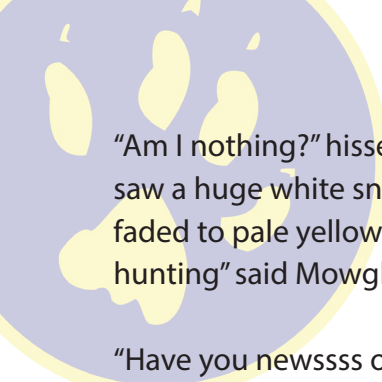
“Show me these things”, said Mowgli.

“Slowly, slowly” replied Kaa, “I spoke to White Hood for a long time and told him about you, and he said that you could come with me to the place to see the things, which are all dead things, but that he is the keeper of them now and is their guardian.”

Mowgli swam to the bank, rolled in the grass to dry himself, and the two set off to the Cold Lairs. Mowgli was not in the least afraid of the monkey people, but they regarded Mowgli with horror after their severe defeat when they captured him. However, that evening the monkeys were in the jungle searching for nuts and fruit.

Kaa led Mowgli to the ruins of one of the palaces, slipped over the piles of stones, and went down the half choked staircase that went underground. Mowgli gave the snake call “We be of one blood, you and I” and followed on his hands and knees. They crawled a long way down a sloping passage and turned and twisted several times and at last came to where the root of an enormous tree had forced out a solid stone in the wall. They crept through the gap and found themselves in a large vault. “A good hiding place,” said Mowgli, “And now what do we see?”





“Am I nothing?” hissed a voice nearby. Mowgli peered in the darkness of the cavern and after awhile saw a huge white snake – the biggest cobra he had ever seen. The markings on his spread hood had faded to pale yellow and his eyes were red as rubies. Altogether a most spectacular creature. “Good hunting” said Mowgli quickly.

“Have you newssss of the city above?” asked the white snake. “It is a long time since I have heard the noisssse of their elephants and horsesssss and cattle, and lissstened to the sssssound of their war drumsss and trumpetsss.” “I know of no city above” answered Mowgli. “There is nothing there but a pile of stones. There are no horses and the only elephants are wild ones led by Hathi.”

“But the great city can never passsss” said the cobra. “It wassss built before my father’ssss father came from the egg and it shall endure when my ssson’s ssssons are as old as I am.”

“It is no good,” said Kaa “I tried to tell him when I met him before that the city was no longer there. He is very old.” He turned to the white cobra “Father of Cobras, there is on the jungle here as it has been from the beginning.”

The cobra rustled. “And who iss he?” he asked Kaa “Talking through a man’ssss lipsss, but speaking with a snake’sss tongue.” Mowgli introduced himself and explained his friendship with Kaa and then asked “But Father of Cobras, who are you?”

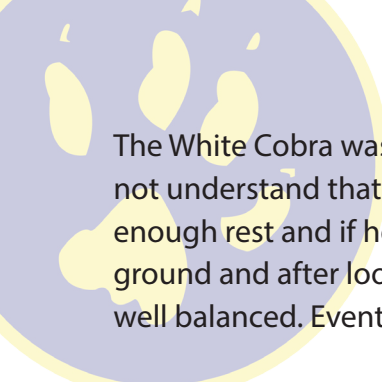
The White Cobra told them he was the warden of the king’s treasure, installed in his place by the Brahmin, and was there to guard it and kill all those who might come to steal. The snake said that five times men had come to lower more treasure into the vault, but had never taken any away and so there was a great amount of treasure in his care.

In spite of both Mowgli and Kaa insisting that there was no city above, the snake would not believe them. He said “Until the Brahmin come down, sing the songs I know, and feed me with warm milk again, I will never leave my duties. Sometimes men have come down here in the dark and I have heard them groping about trying to discover the treasure, but I have attacked and they have never gone away with anything. But you say there is no city, so if you want anything that is here, take it and if you can find your way out of the vault it is yours.”

“But there is nothing here that I want!” said Mowgli. “Are you mad?” said the cobra. “Look about you!”

Mowgli looked and eventually saw that all around were heaps of glittering metal. The floor of the vault was covered with sacks of coins, which were layered up to two meters in depth. On the coins and amongst them were other items. There were saddlers of silver encrusted with jewels, made for men to ride on elephants; saddlers for carrying queens studded with turquoises, adorned with plates of hammered gold; gold and silver armour; statues; helmets beaded with rubies; shields bossed with emeralds; swords, daggers and knives, all decorated heavily with diamonds and other gems; jade cups; golden bracelets and necklaces; decorated combs; perfume pots of gold and jewels; rings; and so many other items, made of gold, silver, garnets, rubies, amethysts, diamonds, sapphires, Emeralds and other jewels.





The White Cobra was right – no amount of money could pay for all this treasure. But Mowgli did not understand that sort of value. Mowgli was happy if his stomach was full of good food, if he had enough rest and if he was friend with everyone. However, he looked around him at the things on the ground and after looking at the knives he rejected them, because although beautiful, they were no well balanced. Eventually, he came across an item that interested him.

It was a one meter tall ankus. An Ankus is an elephant-goad, something like a small boat hook. The top was one round shining ruby and nearly half of the handle was studded with blue turquoises close together, giving a most satisfactory grip. Below them was a rim of green jade with a flower pattern running about it, made of emeralds and rubies. The rest of the handle was made of pure ivory and on the shaft were engraved pictures of elephants. It was the pictures of elephants which interested Mowgli, who saw that they had something to do with his friend Hathi, the leader of the elephants in the jungle.

The White Cobra was watching Mowgli with interest. “Are these things not worth dying to behold?” he asked. Mowgli did not understand. “They are not good to eat”, he said “and are hard and cold to touch, but” he added “I would like to take this away so that I might see it in the sunshine. Will you give it to me?”

The cobra hissed his laughter and said that Mowgli could take what he liked until he went away. “I am going now” said Mowgli. “This place is cold and dark”. The cobra told him to look down by his feet “What do you ssee?” he hissed. Mowgli bent down and picked up the smooth white thing. “It is a man’s bone” he said, “and here are others.” The cobra said “These men came to take away the treasure many years ago. They could not get away.”

“But what do I need of this thing called treasure?” demanded Mowgli. “If you will let me have the Ankus it is good hunting, if not, it does not matter. I do not fight with the poison people, and I know the master word of your tribe.”

“There iss only one Masster here” hissed the snake “and it iss me!”

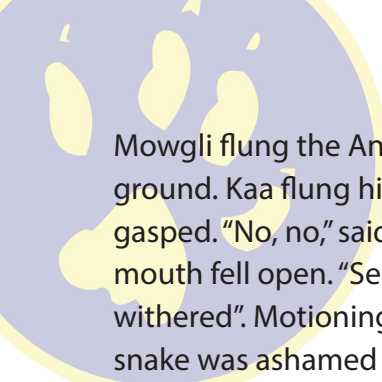
That annoyed Kaa. “You told me to bring the man cub,” he said. “I cannot go back to the jungle and leave him to his death!”

“I will not kill until the time comes” replied the cobra, “you can leave when you like – there is a hole in the wall. I have only to touch your neck and you will die. No man ever came here that went away alive!”

“But there is no city above” said Kaa again. The cobra replied “There is still the treasure. Wait a while Kaa and we will have fun with the man cub and you will see him run!” Kaa was furious.

Mowgli put his hand on Kaa’s head quietly. “This white thing has dealt with men of the man-pack, but he does not know me” he said. “He has asked for a bit of fun – let him have it”.





Mowgli flung the Ankus away from him. It landed just behind the cobra's hood pinning him to the ground. Kaa flung himself on top of the white snake preventing him from moving. "Kill him" he gasped. "No, no," said Mowgli "I will not kill except for food" He lifted up the cobra's head whose mouth fell open. "See", said Mowgli "His poison-fangs are no longer working – they are black and withered". Motioning Kaa away, he picked up the Ankus, and set the White Cobra free. The white snake was ashamed to have lost the battle, but warned Mowgli as he and Kaa left the cave "Beware that the thing does not kill you! It is death! Men will kill, and kill again for the sake of the Ankus!"

Mowgli and Kaa were glad to see the light of day once they had left the cave and when Mowgli saw the Ankus shining and glittering in the sun's rays he was delighted with his pretty plaything. "Do you want to hunt with me?" asked Kaa. Mowgli refused, he wanted to show the Ankus to his friend Bagheera. So Kaa went off to find food, and Mowgli went to find the panther.

He came across Bagheera drinking in his favourite part of the river. He had just eaten and was ready to have a nap. Mowgli told him all his adventures and showed him the Ankus.

Now Bagheera had been born in captivity and had been kept in a cage, so he knew something about men. He knew that men would kill just to possess such a beautiful thing, though he couldn't understand why. Mowgli couldn't understand either. He said "It is pretty when it flashes, but it is heavy to hold and not good to eat. Why was it made?" Bagheera was very sleepy after his huge meal and told Mowgli that men used an instrument such as that to make elephants do their bidding. He was talking about the friendly elephants that did very heavy work for men in the villages. The Ankus had a point that the men used to push into the elephants so that sometimes they bled. Mowgli was horrified. "Everything man makes is tainted with blood" he exclaimed.

With that, he threw the Ankus away as far as he could, and it landed in the undergrowth beside a pathway through the trees.

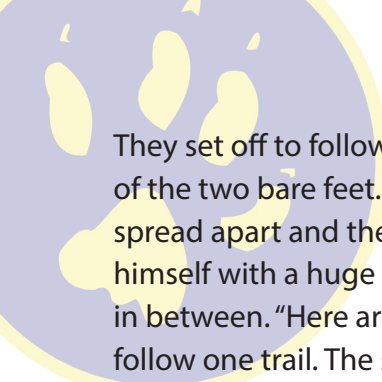
Bagheera went off to sleep and Mowgli climbed a tree to have a rest. When he woke, it was evening and he thought he would have another look at the thing he had thrown away. Bagheera was already in the place and was sniffing at the ground. "Where is the pointed thing?" asked Mowgli.

"A man has taken it. Here is the trail", answered Bagheera.

"Now we will see if the White Cobra spoke the truth and the man who picked it up will die" said Mowgli.

"We will eat first", said Bagheera. "Nobody can work properly on an empty stomach." After they had eaten, Mowgli and Bagheera were ready to follow the trail. It was nearly three hours later, but the jungle people know that nothing is gained by hurrying over meals.





They set off to follow the trail of a man, walking alone. They ran along together following the marks of the two bare feet. Then they saw that the man had started to run as the tracks showed the toes spread apart and then the man had moved away from his route. "Wait" said Bagheera, and he threw himself with a huge bound over the trail and arrived on the other side without marking the ground in between. "Here are the tracks of another man coming to meet him." They decided that each should follow one trail. The second man evidently had smaller feet than the first. Bagheera followed the original track and Mowgli followed the new one. They discovered that the first man had hidden behind a huge rock, standing very still. The second man waited on the other side of the rock. "Now what happened?" said Bagheera. "The first man waited here for a long time and rested the Ankus on the rock – here is a scratch on the stone." Mowgli studied the ground and came to the conclusion that the second man had heard the noise of the Ankus touching the rock and had moved away making a rustling in the undergrowth as he went, then he had stood near the rushing waters of the river very quietly and waited for the first man to come up to where he was hiding.

Bagheera continued to follow the trail of Big Foot and Mowgli tracked Little Foot. They raced on – the trails went through the jungle alongside each other, though the people making them could not see the other person because of the dense undergrowth. Mowgli then called out to Bagheera "They have met! Look, here stood Little Foot with his knee on a rock – and there is Big Foot!" And there Big Foot was! Lying dead on the ground with an arrow through his back. There was no sight of the Ankus.

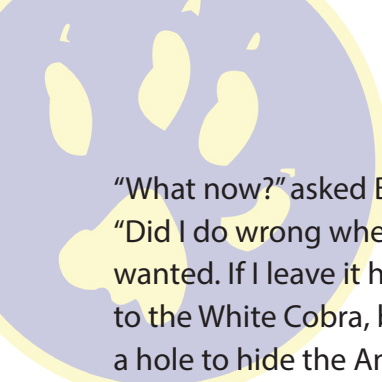
Bagheera said "Little Foot has it perhaps." They continued to follow the trail of the second man, who was running quickly and bearing a burden on his left shoulder. Neither Bagheera nor Mowgli spoke until they arrived at a spot where the ashes of a camp fire were hidden in a ravine. "Again!" cried Bagheera. The body of the second man lay on the ground. Once again, the Ankus was not in sight.

Mowgli looked at the man. He had been killed by a blow from a large bamboo pole. There were the tracks of four men, wearing shoes. Bagheera and Mowgli decided to follow these new tracks to see what had happened.

They ran quickly through the jungle following the four men for an hour and Bagheera said "I smell smoke." Then he said "Here is another one." The third man lay on the ground dead. He had also been hit by the bamboo pole. Mowgli thought to himself "I will go to the White Cobra and give him a present of food. He was right about the Ankus bringing death to men. But I still do not understand why."

They continued to follow the remaining three men and then heard Ko, the crow, singing in a tree. He was telling the story of three dead men. When Mowgli and Bagheera reached where they were, they discovered a new camp fire and the three men lying beside it, having apparently just eaten some bread. "What happened here?" asked Bagheera. Mowgli went forward and sniffed at the bread. "It is laced with poison, the apple of death" he said. The first man of this group must have poisoned the flour to make the bread, but before he could give it to the others to eat, they killed him. Now, all are dead for the sake of the Ankus."





“What now?” asked Bagheera, “Must you and I kill each other for the Ankus?” Mowgli was afraid. “Did I do wrong when I threw it away? It cannot harm us because we do not desire what these men wanted. If I leave it here surely it will kill other men.” He thought a bit and then said “I will return this to the White Cobra, but first we must sleep. We have gone far today.” Then he asked Bagheera to dig a hole to hide the Ankus so that if anybody came past they would not suffer the same fate as the first six men.

Two nights later, as the White Cobra sat in the darkness of his vault, ashamed of not guarding his treasure cleverly enough, the Ankus whirled through the hole in the wall and clashed on the floor amongst the golden coins.

“Father of Cobras” said Mowgli from the other side of the wall, “Get a young person of your own people to help you guard the king’s treasures.”

“Aha!” responded the snake “It hassss returned then. I said the thing wasss death. How isss it that you are still alive?”

“I do not know! That thing has killed six in one night. Do not let it go out any more.”

5. MOWGLI AND THE FIRE

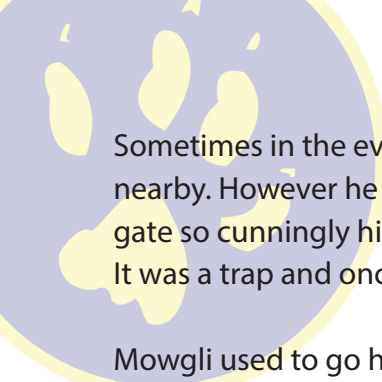
Mowgli grew up with the wolf pack and obeyed all the rules and regulations as he became older. Of course everybody knew he was a man cub, and his cave brothers grew up and became adult wolves long before he was even two years old. Father Wolf taught him about the meaning of things in the jungle, and it was not long before he knew what every rustle, every bird call, every smell, and every splash in the little rivers meant. In fact he knew as much about the jungle as a business person knows about the office in which he/she works, or the housekeeper about his/her home.

When Mowgli was not learning he sat or slept in a sunny glade, and ate and went to sleep again. When he felt dirty or hot he swam in the forest pools. When he wanted honey he climbed a tree where there was a bees’ nest. Baloo taught him these things and also taught him that nuts and fruits were as important and just as nice to eat as raw meat, which was the diet of the wolves.

Bagheera taught Mowgli how to climb trees. Bagheera would lie on a branch high above the ground and call out to Mowgli “Come along, little brother”. At first Mowgli would hold on tight and crawl along the branches slowly like a sloth. But later he found out that he could fling himself through the canopy, jumping from tree to another tree just like the monkeys.

He would make himself useful to the wolves too, and would pick the long burrs and thorns out of their thick coats.





Sometimes in the evenings he would go out of the jungle and look at the people living in villages nearby. However he mistrusted men because Bagheera once showed him a square box with a drop gate so cunningly hidden amongst the undergrowth in the jungle that he very nearly walked into it. It was a trap and once inside he would have been unable to escape.

Mowgli used to go hunting with Bagheera and when he felt hungry he used to kill small animals as Bagheera did. However, Bagheera taught him never to kill cattle because he had been brought into the Seeonee Pack at the price of a bull's life.

Mother Wolf told him that Shere Khan was never to be trusted and that one day he would have to defeat Shere Khan in battle. Mowgli often came across signs that Shere Khan was about and in fact the tiger made friends with many of the younger wolves who used to follow him about to take scraps of meat from his kills. Shere Khan used to flatter the young wolves and say that he was surprised that they still followed the old Akela and a man cub.

Bagheera heard about this and warned Mowgli that one day Shere Khan would try to kill him but Mowgli laughed and said "I have the Pack, and I have you and Baloo to protect me. Why should I be afraid of Shere Khan?" In spite of the fact that both Bagheera and Baloo constantly warned him, Mowgli was never worried about Shere Khan. Even the jackal Tabaqui told him that one day Shere Khan would claim Mowgli as his dinner. He was even told that one day the wolves themselves might not help him. This astonished Mowgli because he said that the wolves were his brothers, members of the same pack. He had helped them, he had removed thorns from their paws and he had always obeyed the laws of the jungle.

"Little brother", said Bagheera. "Feel under my jaw." Mowgli did so, and found a rough lump there. "There is no one in the jungle that knows that I, Bagheera, was once caught by men. That lump was caused by the tight collar they had bound about my neck. I was kept in a cage until one day I felt that I was Bagheera – the Panther – and no man's plaything. That night I broke the lock with one blow of my paw and ran away; and because I had learned the way of men I became more terrible than Shere Khan. – I returned to the jungle, which was my true home, and you must eventually return to men who are your real brothers, if you do not want to be killed by the council."

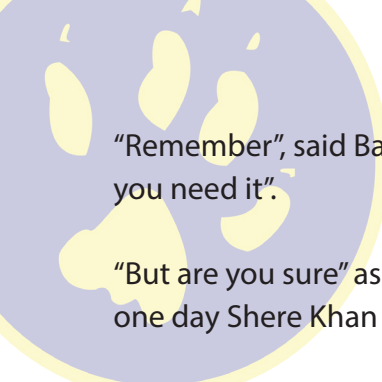
"Why should they wish to kill me?" said the astonished Mowgli. Bagheera answered "Look at me". Mowgli did so quite fearlessly. Bagheera turned away his head after a second or two. "That is why" he said. "No animal can look at you between the eyes. I love you little brother, but I am unable to meet your eyes. The others hate you because they know that you are wise and clever, because you have helped them and because you are a man.

"Be wise, little brother, I am sure that when Akela misses his kill and cannot supply his own needs for meat he will be challenged as leader of the pack and the new leader will not know you as he does and the wolves may want to eject you from the pack."

Then Bagheera suddenly jumped up. "I have it!" he cried, "Go down to the men's huts in the valley and take some of the Red Flower they grow there, so that when the time comes you will have an even stronger friend than even Baloo or I!"

The Red Flower meant fire. Every beast went in deadly fear of it. "I will get some," declared Mowgli.





“Remember”, said Bagheera “That it grows in little pots. Get one quickly and keep it near you until you need it”.

“But are you sure” asked Mowgli “That Shere Khan will do as you say?” But Bagheera was certain that one day Shere Khan would take his opportunity and kill Mowgli.

Mowgli ran through the forest, going fast, and when he reached the cave he was breathing hard. Raksha, the mother wolf heard him and asked “What is wrong, son?” for she knew something was troubling her “frog”. “I am going to hunt in the ploughed fields tonight!” As he went he heard the wolf pack hunting a deer for their supper. Some of the younger wolves, who were followers of Shere Khan, were challenging Akela. “Let the leader of the pack make the kill. Spring Akela!” Mowgli heard Akela jump and he must have missed, because he heard the snap of the old wolf’s teeth and then a yelp as the buck knocked him over as he made his escape. Mowgli then realised that things were as serious as Bagheera had said and he dashed on even more quickly.

Eventually Mowgli arrived at the villagers’ fields and crept up close to one of the huts. He saw the fire in the centre of the hut and he watched as the woman in the hut got up and fed it with black lumps. In the morning her child picked up a pot plastered inside with earth and carefully filled it with lumps of red hot charcoal before he went outside to look after the cattle. Mowgli thought it would be easy to look after the fire if a small boy could do that, so he walked round the hut and met the boy, and took the pot away from him and then disappeared into the early morning mist.

Mowgli did as he had seen the woman do and blew into the pot, which made the charcoal brighten up with red flames. “This thing will die if I do not feed it” said Mowgli to himself and so he dropped twigs and bits of bark on the red stuff. On the way back home he met Bagheera.

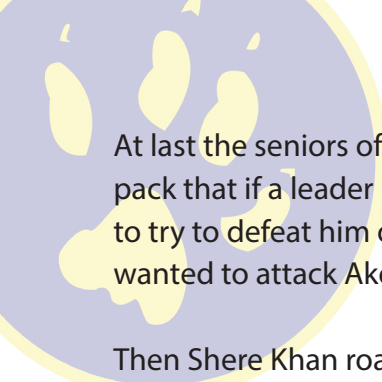
“Akela has missed” said Bagheera. The pack were going to kill him last night, but they were waiting for you”. “I am ready!” answered Mowgli and showed him the fire-pot. “Aren’t you afraid of the Red Flower?” “No”, said Bagheera “Don’t forget that I grew up near its warmth and felt how good it was in the cold evenings.”

All that day Mowgli sat in the cave looking after his fire-pot. He tried dipping dry branches into it to see how they looked. Eventually he found one that was suitable for the plan he had in mind.

That evening Tabaqui, the Jackal, came to tell him that he was wanted at the Council Rock. Mowgli laughed and followed him to the Rock. Akela was there but was not in his usual place on top of the leader’s rock. That meant that the leadership of the pack was open. Shere Khan was also there with his following of young scrap-fed wolves. When everybody was assembled, Shere Khan began to speak – a thing he would not have dared to do when Akela was in his prime. “He has no right!” whispered Bagheera. “Say so – he will be frightened.”

Mowgli jumped up and called out “Free people, does Shere Khan lead the Pack? What business is it of his who leads the Wolves?” This caused quite a lot of argument among those present. Some said that Shere Khan should speak, and some agreed with Mowgli. Some said that Mowgli was only a man cub and others said he was a full member of the Pack, recognised by them all.





At last the seniors of the Pack said that Akela should speak. Akela reminded them of the law of the pack that if a leader missed his kill, as he had the night before, then it was the right of the members to try to defeat him one at a time. That made everyone keep quiet for a while because nobody wanted to attack Akela.

Then Shere Khan roared. He was determined that Akela should go so that he could have the man cub. Once more the wolves started arguing amongst themselves because some of them were frightened about what Shere Khan might do if he was not given his way. At last Akela lifted up his voice: "Mowgli has eaten our food, he has slept with us, he has driven game for us, and he has never broken the Law of the Jungle."

Then Bagheera stepped forward and said "Also I bought the life of Mowgli with the bull given to Shere Khan. The price of a bull is little, but the honour of Bagheera is great." "What do we care" snarled some of the wolves "For a bull given so long ago?"

The wolves continued to argue amongst themselves and Shere Khan's huge tail began to swish from side to side – a sure sign that he was getting annoyed and ready to spring. "Now," said Bagheera to Mowgli "We can do no more except fight".

Mowgli stood up with the fire pot in his hands. He was very upset because he had thought that the wolves would be his friends until the end of his days. But it was not to be! He said "If you want me to be a man – that I will be. Tonight I have brought you something everybody except man fears – the red flower." He flung the fire pot on the ground and some of the red coals lit a tuft of dried moss that flared up. All the wolves, Shere Khan, Tabaqui, Bagheera jumped back.

Mowgli thrust his dead branch into the smouldering moss until it caught fire. He whirled it above his head and told the wolves that since they no longer wanted him he would go to his own people. "But" he said, "There is one debt I will pay" and he caught Shere Khan, who was looking stupidly into the flames, by the tuft of his beard. "Up" he cried. "Up!" Shere Khan shut his eyes so that he would not see the flames. Mowgli hit him time and time again with the flaming branch and Shere Khan whimpered with fear. "Now" said Mowgli "You are just singed. Go and never return. If I find you again I will kill you." Shere Khan turned tail and ran. The wolves cowered in fright and some ran away, but a group agreed with Mowgli that they would not harm Akela and they stayed.

Then Mowgli knew that the Seeonee Pack was safe and that Akela would continue to lead it for a while. But something was hurting inside him and he caught his breath and sobbed. "What is happening" he cried. "Am I dying?" "No, no" said Bagheera. "Those are just tears of sorrow that men have. They are a sign that you are now ready to return to your own people".

So Mowgli then made his way towards the village nearby. But first he had to say goodbye to Father Wolf and Mother Wolf and the brothers and sisters of his wolf family. He had to promise that he would visit them again and they said they would never forget their little frog. The dawn was breaking when Mowgli went down the hill, out of the jungle to start his new life as a man amongst men.

