

Beginner • A1



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The Jungle Book

Joseph Rudyard Kipling



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Joseph Rudyard Kipling

The Jungle Book

Adaptation, dossiers and activities by
Giorgia Canazza



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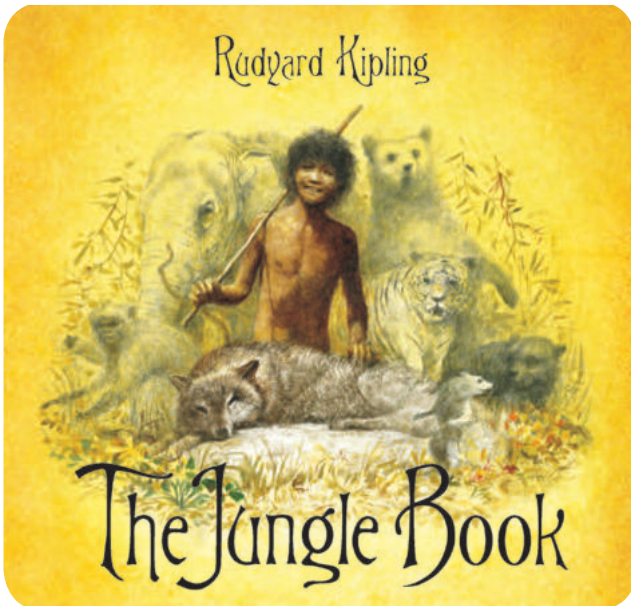
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The Author

Joseph Rudyard Kipling



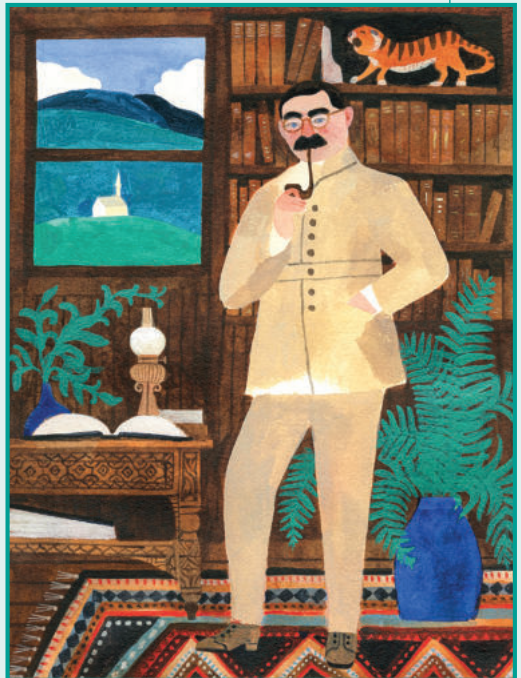
Joseph Rudyard Kipling was born in 1865 in Bombay (now Mumbai), India. Kipling's father, John Lockwood Kipling, is an artist and a scholar¹, and, with his wife, they are part of the upper² Anglo-Indian society.

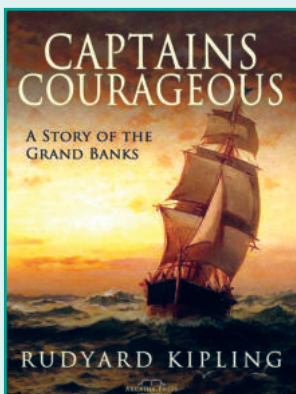
Kipling has a sister, Alice, and much of their childhood³ in England is unhappy because they live in a foster home⁴ without their parents.

When Kipling grows up, he travels a lot in England, the United States, South Africa, and India. He works as a journalist for seven years in India, from 1883 to 1889, then he returns to England, and in 1892 he gets married. He and his wife move to the United States where Mrs Kipling has a property in Vermont, but they decide to return to England in 1896.

He dies in 1936 in London, England. His ashes⁵ are in the Poet's Corner, in Westminster Abbey, London. That is a great honour because it means that he is a great writer.

1. *scholar*: a person who is good at learning by studying.
2. *upper society*: person in the highest social class who is generally rich.
3. *childhood*: the time when a person is a child.
4. *foster home*: house where children go for a limited time and people look after them.
5. *ashes*: soft, grey powder after you burn something.



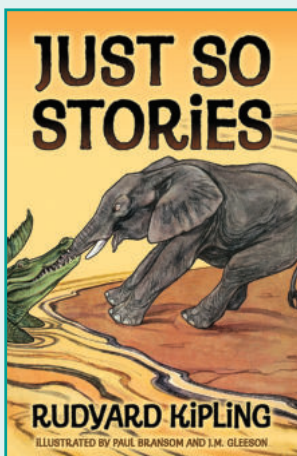
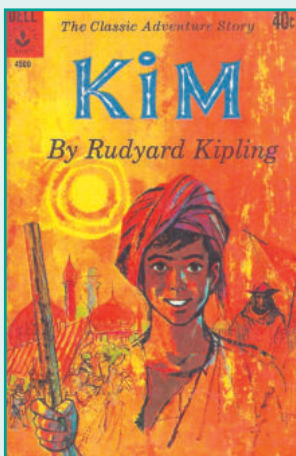


Kipling is an English short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He receives the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907. His native country is very inspiring to him and it is the setting for many stories in his books.

His first book of short stories is *Plain Tales from the Hills* (1888) and his most famous book is *The Jungle Book* (1894). Other books are *The Second Jungle Book* (1895), *Captains Courageous* (1897), *Kim* (1901), and *Just So Stories* (1902).

Captains Courageous is an adventure romance about the sea adventures of the teenager Harvey Cheyne Jr.; *Kim* is a spy romance about the life of a poor Indian orphan called Kimball O'Hara, and *Just So Stories* is a collection of stories for children with animals as protagonists.

Kipling's books are about the celebration of British imperialism, tales and poems of British soldiers in India, and tales for children.













BEFORE READING

1 Circle what you already know about the setting and the characters of *The Jungle Book*.

- a. The story is set in *Russia / India / America*.
- b. Mowgli is a *snake / a black panther / a boy*.
- c. Baloo is a *bear / a wolf / a tiger*.
- d. The name of the tiger is *Raska / Shere Khan / Bagheera*.
- e. The setting is a *big town / the jungle / the mountains*.

2 You will read these words about nature in the first chapter. Match them to the correct picture.

a.		hill		e.
b.		cub		f.
c.		jackal		g.
d.		rock		h.
		stone		
		root		
		bull		
		deer		

3 Read the sentences and match the verb in bold with the right Italian infinitive.

ridere • nascondere • arrampicare • cacciare • catturare • urlare • ruggire

- a. The wolf is **hunting** a rabbit. → *cacciare*
- b. The squirrel is **climbing** the apple tree. →
- c. Baloo usually **catches** salmon in the river. →
- d. Don't **shout**! I can hear you. →
- e. Mowgli **laughs** at Raksha. →
- f. When the lion sees an elephant, it **roars**. →
- g. Father Wolf and Raksha **hide** their cubs in the cave. →

The Jungle Book

Mowgli's Brothers

Chapter 1

Dear young readers, I'd like to tell you an extraordinary story set in a far away and wonderful country. Are you ready?



One hot evening in the hills of south India, the moon is big in the sky. Father Wolf is sleeping in his cave with Mother Wolf and their four cubs.

He wakes up and says,
“It’s time to hunt¹ again.”
“Hello!” says a voice.

It is the jackal Tabaqui. Wolves do not like jackals; they are afraid of² them because they are dirty, always angry and they eat the rubbish near the villages, too. They also tell lies³ and create problems for the other animals.

“Tabaqui! Why are you here?” asks Father Wolf.

“Good morning, chief of the wolves, have you got something for me to eat?”

“There’s nothing here for you,” Father Wolf answers.

Looking at the cubs, Tabaqui says,
“Your children are so beautiful!” but this is not a good thing to say. In India, people and animals believe it is unlucky⁴ to tell children they’re beautiful in front of them.

“Shere Khan the tiger is coming here to hunt,” says Tabaqui.

“What? He can’t do that. He must respect the Law of the Jungle, he must tell us first,” says Father Wolf, surprised.



1. *to hunt*: to kill animals for food.
2. *to be afraid of*: to feel fear or worry about something or someone.

3. *lie*: something that is not true.
4. *unlucky*: when good things do not happen to you frequently, unfortunate.

“Shere Khan wants to hunt food in new territory because the people of the village are angry at him. His leg is bad, and he can’t run fast so he can only kill bulls,” says Mother Wolf.

Tabaqui leaves, and soon after Mother Wolf says,

“The woods! Listen! It’s his voice... you can hear Shere Khan!”

Father Wolf listens and says,

“Shere Khan is not a clever animal! He’s making a lot of noise. All the animals are running away and hiding⁵ in the jungle. I can’t look around for food now!”

“Shut up, listen! There’s a noise...” says Mother Wolf.

Father Wolf is ready to jump to defend his family, but Mother Wolf says,

“It’s the noise of... a man!”

“What...? A man?” shouts⁶ Father Wolf.

The Law of the Jungle says that animals must not kill men because many men with guns can come to the jungle and then all the animals are in danger.

“Look!” says Mother Wolf. “Someone’s coming near the cave. Be careful!”

Father Wolf sees a baby in front of him under the leaves of a tree. The baby is chubby⁷ and brown. He has no hair and clothes. He can’t walk very well. The small baby looks at Father Wolf and laughs⁸.

“What’s that? Is that a man cub?” says Mother Wolf curiously. “I want to look at it, bring it here, please.”

Father Wolf carries it to Mother Wolf carefully⁹. The baby starts drinking her milk with the other cubs.

Mother Wolf says happily,

“He’s not afraid, look! He’s drinking my milk with our cubs.”



5. *to hide*: to go in a place where people can't see or find you.
6. *to shout*: to speak with a very loud voice.

7. *chubby*: a little fat, in a pleasant way.
8. *to laugh*: to smile and make sounds of happiness.
9. *carefully*: with a lot of attention.



Illustration by Christian Broutin, *El Libro de la Selva*, Ediciones Gallimard, 1994



“Look, he is happy here, he is well with us.”

Shere Khan arrives and puts his big head inside the cave. It is immediately dark. Tabaqui is with him.

“We’re really pleased to see you, Shere Khan. What do you want?” says Father Wolf with his angry eyes.

“I want the man cub, it’s mine! Give it to me!”

‘Shere Khan can’t fight... he can’t enter the cave because he’s too big’, thinks Father Wolf.

“The man cub is ours and you have no right to have him,” says Father Wolf. “Wolves obey¹⁰ the leader of the pack¹¹... He can decide what to do with the cub, not you.”

Shere Khan starts roaring¹² and his eyes are very angry.

“The man cub is mine!” repeats Shere Khan and his voice is like thunder¹³ in the cave. “His parents and men are afraid of me, and they run off¹⁴ when they see me! Now I can eat the child!”

Raksha, Mother Wolf, quickly jumps in front of Shere Khan to defend her cubs and shouts,

“No! He’s my son! The man cub is mine and you can’t kill him! Go away!”

10. *to obey*: to act following rules.

11. *pack*: group of animals that live and hunt together.

12. *roaring*: making a loud sound like that of lions.

13. *thunder*: loud noise that comes from the sky during a storm.

14. *to run off*: to leave someone by running away.

Father Wolf is really surprised at Mother Wolf's reaction, but then he remembers that Raksha was very strong and brave¹⁵ when she was young; her nickname¹⁶ was "The Demon".

Shere Khan goes away because he knows he can't fight Mother Wolf in the cave.

"One day that cub will be mine... the pack must decide for him..." he says, angry.

"He's right," says Father Wolf when Shere Khan leaves. "We must show the man cub to the pack on the next full moon. Do you really want to keep¹⁷ him? Are you sure?" he then asks looking at Mother Wolf.

"Yes, I do. I'm sure! Look, he is happy here, he is well with us. I want to call him Mowgli the frog."

The Law of the Jungle says that the pack must see all the wolf cubs when they can walk during the pack council¹⁸, then the cubs are free to go where they want. All the wolves meet for the council once a month at full moon. They look at all the wolf cubs carefully so that they can recognise them.

The Law of the Jungle also says that an adult wolf can't kill a wolf cub before the wolf cub kills a deer¹⁹. The punishment is death.

After some time, when their four cubs can walk, Father Wolf and Mother Wolf take them and Mowgli to the Council Rock²⁰ – a high hill with big stones where all the wolves meet.

Akela, the leader of the pack, is sitting on a big rock. He is a grey wolf, strong and brave. He lives alone. Many wolves of different ages are around him and all the wolf cubs are in front of him inside the circle of their parents. For each wolf cub Akela says,

"Look carefully, wolves! You know the Law of the Jungle. Look carefully!"

15. *brave*: showing no fear of danger.

16. *nickname*: a name given by friends or family based on your character or personality.

17. *to keep*: to continue to have.

18. *council*: group of wolves elected to make decisions.

19. *deer*:



20. *rock*:





Finally, Father Wolf pushes²¹ Mowgli in front of Akela and the other wolves and says,

“This is Mowgli, the frog.”

Mowgli, in the centre of the circle, is laughing and playing with some little stones.

Akela repeats the same sentence,

“Look, wolves, look carefully,” but suddenly the wolves hear Shere Khan’s voice behind the hill.

“The man cub is mine! Give him to me!” he shouts.

Akela does not move and says,

“Look carefully! Who speaks for this man cub? Two voices must speak for him, but not his father and mother.”

A big, brown, sleepy²² bear appears in front of Akela.

“Baloo!” says Akela with surprise.

Baloo teaches the Law of the Jungle to wolf cubs and can speak at the meetings of the Council. Everyone likes him because he doesn’t hunt, and eats only roots²³, honey and nuts.

“I speak for the man cub... I can teach him the Law of the Jungle with the other wolf cubs...” says Baloo with his low voice.

“Very well,” says Akela, “but it’s not enough... another animal must speak for the man cub. Who speaks for Mowgli?”

A black shadow²⁴ jumps down into the circle. It is Bagheera, the black panther. He is brave, strong and clever.

“Akela, can I speak?” asks Bagheera gently²⁵.

“Yes, you can,” answers Akela.

21. *to push*: to use physical pressure to move something into a different position.
22. *sleepy*: tired and wanting to sleep.

23. *roots*:



24. *shadow*: dark area that appears near all things on the ground when there is light.
25. *gently*: with calm.

Mowgli's Brothers

“The Law of the Jungle says that it is possible to buy the life of a cub. I can give you a fat bull²⁶ to eat. Don't kill the man cub, he can't hurt²⁷ you. Let²⁸ him live!” says Bagheera.

“Very good,” says Akela. “Look carefully, wolves! Look carefully!”

All the wolves walk in a circle around Mowgli and look at him carefully. Then they go down the hill to take the bull because they are very hungry.

Only Akela, Baloo, Bagheera and Mowgli's family are at the Council Rock, and they can hear Shere Khan roaring angrily in the night under the full moon.

“I'm very happy. Men and their cubs are clever,” says Akela. “One day this man cub can help us. Now take him away with you all and teach him everything he must know.”

Thanks to Baloo's good words and Bagheera's fat bull, Mowgli is now a member of the Seeonee Wolf Pack. He can grow up²⁹ in the wolf family and learn the meaning of all the things in the jungle.

Baloo and Bagheera are very good teachers. Bagheera teaches Mowgli that he must never kill bulls even when there is nothing to eat because Bagheera's bull saved his life.

Mowgli also learns to climb³⁰ trees, swim in the river and hunt for his food. When he is not learning, he sits in the sun and sleeps. Sometimes, at night, he leaves the forest and goes to the village, but he does not trust³¹ men because they catch animals and put them in square boxes. He takes his place at the Council Pack meetings, too. He is a very happy boy and grows up quickly.



26. *bull*:

27. *to hurt*: to cause someone pain.

28. *to let*: to give someone the permission to do something.

29. *to grow up*: to become an adult.

30. *to climb*: to go up.

31. *to trust*: to think that someone is good and honest.

WORKING ON THE TEXT

1 Say if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Mother Wolf and Father Wolf have got five cubs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Tabaqui is always hungry. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Shere Khan can run very fast. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Mowgli is a frog. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Shere Khan wants to eat Mowgli. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. An adult wolf can't kill a wolf cub before the wolf cub kills a bull. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Akela is a black wolf, strong and brave. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Baloo is a bear and Bagheera is a black panther. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Baloo offers a bull for the life of Mowgli. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Mowgli can't swim. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Complete the description of Mowgli with the correct words.

milk • well • chubby • hair • baby • wolf • cubs • leaves • small • drinking



Father Wolf sees a **a.** in front of him under the **b.** of a tree. The baby is **c.** and brown. He has no **d.** and clothes. He can't walk very **e.** The **f.** baby looks at Father **g.** and laughs. The baby starts **h.** **i.** with the other **j.**

WORKING ON VOCABULARY

3 Anagram these words from the story.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. omon → M _ _ _ | e. wal → L _ _ |
| b. sevlow → W _ _ _ _ | f. dealer → L _ _ _ _ |
| c. glejun → J _ _ _ _ | g. xebos → B _ _ _ _ |
| d. capk → P _ _ _ | h. seret → T _ _ _ _ |

- 4** Use the words from activity 3 to complete these sentences.
- Akela is the of the Seeonee wolf pack.
 - don't like jackals.
 - All the wolves meet at the Council Rock once a month at full
 - Mowgli learns to climb
 - Baloo teaches the of the Jungle to wolf cubs.
 - Men catch animals and put them into square
 - All the members of the meet at the Council Rock.
 - The Law of the says that animals must not kill men.

WORKING ON GRAMMAR

- 5** *Can or can't?* Write the right form of *can* in these sentences.
- Shere Khan hunt in the pack territory without telling the wolves.
 - Shere Khan run fast so he only kill bulls.
 - Father Wolf look for food because Shere Khan is making a lot of noise and all the animals are running away.
 - Akela decide what to do with the man cub at the Pack Council.
 - Baloo speak at the meetings of Council and teach the Law of the Jungle to wolf cubs.
 - Bagheera give a fat bull to the pack. He thinks that Mowgli hurt the other wolves.

WORKING ON SKILLS

Writing

- 6** Choose a character from the first chapter, draw and describe it in your notebook. Use about 40 words.



Speaking

7 Mowgli lives in the jungle with his family of wolves and has some animal friends. Talk to another student about your family and friends. Follow the prompts.

- Have you got any brothers or sisters? If so, describe them.
- Have you got any pets? If so, describe it/them.
- How many friends have you got? Have you got a best friend? Describe him/her to the class.

Listening

8 Listen to the four rules of the Law of the Jungle you can find in this chapter. Fill in the missing words.

1. Shere Khan can't change his **a.** territory without telling it to the animals that live in the **b.**
2. Animals must not kill **c.** because many men with **d.** can come to the jungle and then all the animals are in **e.**
3. The pack must see all the wolf cubs when they can **f.** during the **g.** council, then the cubs are free to go where they want.
4. An adult wolf can't kill a **h.** before the wolf cub kills a **i.**



THE JUNGLE BOOK AND SCOUTING

Sir Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941, British Army officer) with his sister Agnes, was the founder and first “Chief Scout” of the *Scout Movement* (1907).

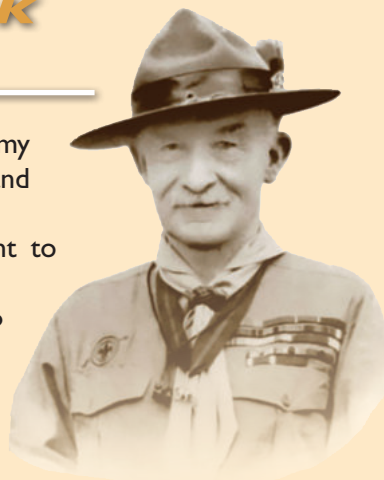
The *Scouts* welcome girls and boys aged eight to about twenty.

There are more than 31 million Scouts in 216 countries and only six countries in the world have got no Scouts: Cuba, Laos, China, North Korea, Myanmar, and Andorra. They wear a uniform to erase¹ differences among the various members, and a coloured neckerchief² around their neck to indicate the group they belong to³.

The organisation is based on loyalty⁴, friendship, kindness, obedience, adventure, and fun and its objective is helping boys and girls to become better adults in their future. Members are always challenged⁵ to learn new things and behave⁶ well, to help other people and improve their characters. For every success, they earn badges⁷, which decorate their shirt.

During his life, Baden-Powell writes some books to explain his method of working with the Scouts, and one in particular is very similar to *The Jungle Book*. He and Rudyard Kipling live in the same period and in the same places in India and Africa and are friends, so Baden-Powell takes inspiration from the history and universe of *The Jungle Book* and in 1917 he writes *The Wolf Cub's Handbook* for the junior members of the Scout Movement.

Following the stories in the book, the young Scout members re-live Mowgli's adventures thanks to the help of their Scout leaders (the names of *The Jungle Book* characters are still used for Cub Scout Leaders, for example Akela for the Leader of a Cub Pack) to grow up and work in a cooperative way.



1. *to erase*: to remove something.
2. *neckerchief*:



3. *to belong to*: to be part of something, a group.
4. *loyalty*: feeling of support.

5. *challenged*: when someone asks to do something difficult.
6. *to behave*: to act in a particular way.
7. *badge*:





The Jungle Book

Many people would like to talk to animals and understand what they say. It is impossible, but not for “man-cub” Mowgli. He lives with a family of wolves, is part of a pack and can talk to his great friends Bagheera (a black panther) and Baloo (a big, brown bear). They all help him in the dangers of the jungle. Read these classic stories by J.R. Kipling and follow Mowgli’s exciting adventures in the jungle, among noisy monkeys, a big snake and a dangerous tiger!

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