

Classic Readers

# Mowgli

Rudyard Kipling

retold by Jenny Dooley



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they look like. When they know their faces, they cannot kill them by mistake—any wolf who kills a cub must die himself. Then the cubs are free to run where they please until they are old enough to kill for their own food. This meeting was held every month, under the full moon at Council Rock.

On this night, there were about forty wolves of every size and colour at the meeting place. Akela was the leader of the pack. He was a great grey wolf who hunted alone and so was known as The Lone Wolf. When it was time, Father Wolf pushed Mowgli into the centre of the circle. The baby sat there, laughing and playing with some small stones.

Then, out of the dark, they all heard the voice of Shere Khan.

“This baby is not a wolf! He’s mine! Give him to me!”

There was much growling and snarling, but they listened to Akela. His eyes moved around the circle of wolves.

“Look well, O wolves! Look well! Remember the face of this cub and keep him safe! Remember, too, that we do not take orders from anyone outside the pack!”

Just then, a four-year-old spoke up.

“Indeed, what do we need a human baby for?”

“The Law of the Jungle says that if there is an argument about a cub joining the pack, two others of the pack who are not his father or mother must speak for him. Who speaks for this baby?”

There was only one other animal the wolves let speak at the Council meetings and that was Baloo, the sleepy brown bear who taught new cubs the ways of the jungle. He slowly stepped forward into the circle.

“I speak for the Man’s baby. Let him run with the pack! I myself will teach him.”







# Activities

## The Man-Cub

### Comprehension

Read or listen to Chapter 1 and match the beginnings and endings to make true sentences.

- A**
- 1 A small baby entered
  - 2 Mother Wolf and Father Wolf talked about keeping
  - 3 The leader of the Pack was
  - 4 Only the wolves and Baloo, the bear, could speak at
  - 5 Bagheera bought Mowgli's life with



- B**
- a ... the Pack Council.
  - b ... a bull.
  - c ... the baby.
  - d ... the cave.
  - e ... Akela.

### What do you think?

**A** Discuss the following questions.

- 1 Why do you think Mowgli pushed his way in beside the other cubs and ate with them?
- 2 What are laws? Why do you think we have them? Discuss.
- 3 What is your favourite wild animal? Why do you like it?

**B** Find the following extracts from Chapter 1 and discuss their meanings.

- 1 p. 8: '... Father Wolf was not happy. The Law of the Jungle says an animal can kill or eat Man only when teaching its children.'
- 2 p. 8: '... Father Wolf carefully picked up the baby in his mouth and put it down next to his own cubs.'
- 3 p. 9: '... Shere Khan understood too and backed out of the cave, still hungry and growling.'



Language Practice

I Match the correct phrases to the pictures.

wake up      look up      pick up      back out of



1 .....      2 .....      3 .....      4 .....

II Read the following sentences from Chapter 1. Then re-write them using your own words.

e.g.	“What brings you here, Shere Khan?”	Why did you come to our cave?
1	‘Mother Wolf looked in wonder at the baby.’	
2	“How little! Yet, how brave.”	
3	“Let him run with the Pack!”	
4	‘His eyes moved around the circle of wolves.’	

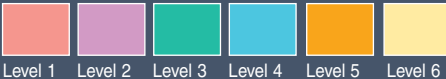
III Match the words from the box to the characters.

grey      brave      hungry      sleepy      clever      surprised

e.g. Mowgli ..... *brave* .....  
 1 Father Wolf .....  
 2 Shere Khan .....  
 3 Akela .....  
 4 Baloo .....  
 5 Bagheera .....

# Mowgli

*A human baby is raised by a family of wolves and taught to follow the laws of the jungle by a big brown bear and a great panther. But as the boy grows into a man, his human nature begins to surprise him. Meet Mowgli's amazing jungle friends and share their adventures in this heart-warming story of friendship, loyalty and love.*



Level 1   Level 2   Level 3   Level 4   Level 5   Level 6

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