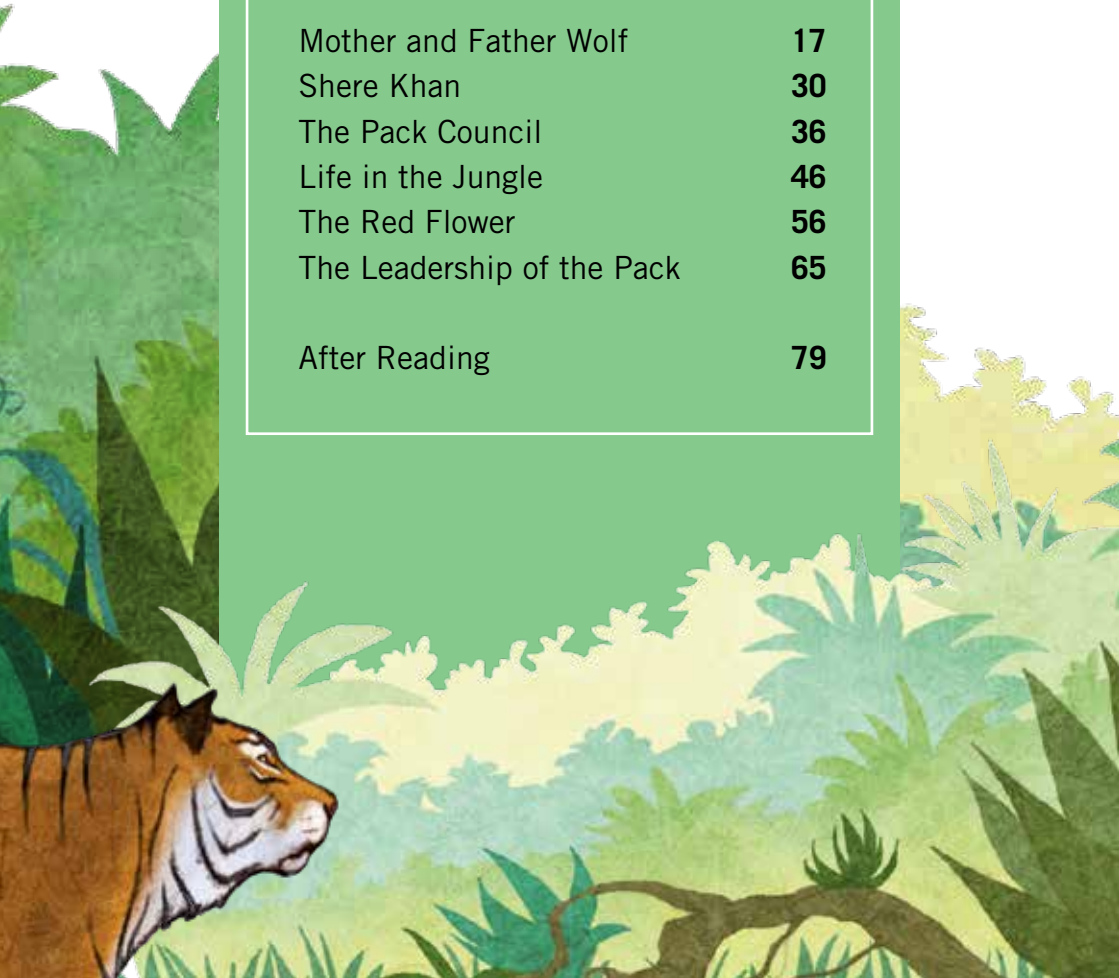


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# AND THE WINNER IS...

“The Swedish Academy, in awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature this year to Rudyard Kipling, desires to pay tribute to the literature of England, and to the greatest genius in narrative that that country has produced in our times.”

These were the words spoken by Carl David af Wirsén, the Secretary of the Swedish Academy, during the Nobel Award ceremony on December 10th, 1907. Although Kipling is not considered to be a classical writer in the tradition of English novels, he was the first English author to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. And, at the age of 41, he is still the youngest author to have won this prize. For almost three decades (from 1890 to 1920), Kipling was the most popular English writer in the English-speaking world. Plus, to quote af Wirsén, Kipling's works played an important part in bringing India 'nearer home to the English nation than the construction of the Suez Canal'.

## Just for children?

However, the English critical tradition preferred to ignore the satirical aspects of *The Jungle Book*, as well as the political ideology of *Kim*, and to consider Kipling as the author of inspirational fables for children. Indeed, many of his stories talk about children, just think of Mowgli, who live without their parents. And they are set in real, yet almost magical places, in this case, the jungle, where only the laws of nature rule.



**WEB**

Find the 1907 literature speech on the Nobel Prize website. And find out more about Alfred Nobel, the inventor and scientist who created the prize.

## Inspiration

In his autobiography, the author said that he got inspiration for his books from the stories he loved when he was a child. However, his time in India and the wonderful things he saw there played an important role in making Kipling's writing so fascinating.

**WEB** Find out more about Kipling's life online.

## GLOSSARY

- **construction:** act of building
- **desires:** wishes; wants
- **ideology:** (here) theories; things that people think are true
- **pay tribute to:** show respect and admiration for
- **quote:** (here) use the words of
- **satirical aspects:** parts that show satire (way of criticizing people or things using humour)
- **yet:** (here) but

## Did you know?

- Kipling was so popular in America that two towns in Michigan were named after him: Rudyard and Kipling.
- Kipling was the first English author to own an automobile, and he was very interested in all kinds of machines.

# MOWGLI'S BROTHERS

SHERE KHAN



BALOO



BAGHEERA



MOWGLI



**AKELA**

**TABAQUI**

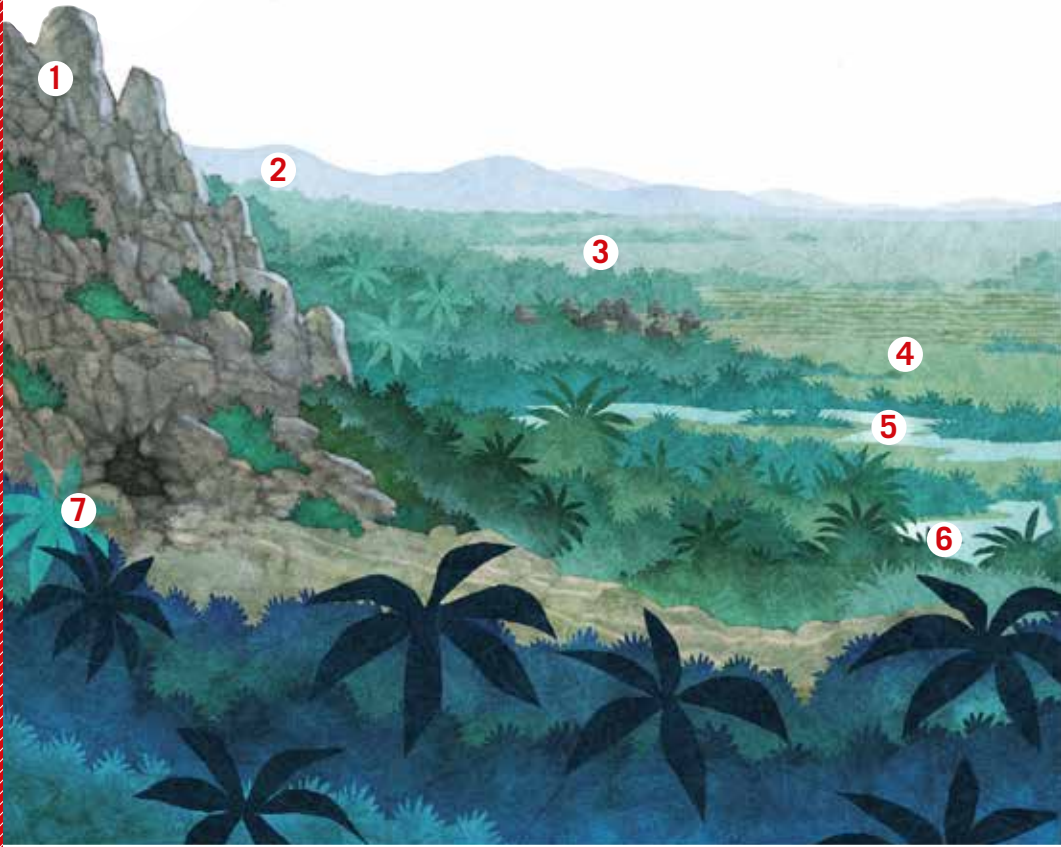
**FATHER  
WOLF**

**MOTHER  
WOLF**

# BEFORE READING

---

1 Look at the picture. Match each word to the numbers.



- a  cave
- b  pond
- c  rocks
- d  huts
- e  stream
- f  ploughed fields
- g  hill



**2 Now use the words to complete the sentences below.**

- a** It was covered with stones and ....., and a hundred wolves could hide there.
- b** Are there not enough frogs in the ..... that he must eat Man?
- c** He ran to the ..... that flowed at the bottom of the valley.
- d** He looked very curiously at the villagers in their .....
- e** The moon shone into the mouth of the ..... where the wolves lived.
- f** He ran into the ..... near where the villagers lived.
- g** Halfway up the ..... he met Bagheera.



**3 Listen and tick (✓) if they like 😊 or dislike ☹️ Mowgli.**



😊 ☹️



😊 ☹️



**4 Listen again and tick (✓) true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (D).**

- |  | T                        | F                        | D                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Mother Wolf is going to protect Mowgli from Father Wolf.    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>b</b> Mother Wolf is afraid of Shere Khan.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>c</b> Mother Wolf is going to be Mowgli's mother.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>d</b> Shere Khan is going to make a trap for Mowgli.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>e</b> Mother Wolf thinks that Shere Khan is going to kill Mowgli. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>f</b> Shere Khan wants to kill Mowgli.                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



## MOTHER AND FATHER WOLF



Now Rann the Kite• brings home the night  
That Mang the Bat sets free  
The cows are shut in barn• and hut  
And out till dawn are we.  
This is the hour of pride• and power,  
Talon• and tooth and claw•.  
Oh, hear the call! Good hunting all  
That keep the Jungle Law•!

*Night-Song in the Jungle*

It was seven o'clock on a very warm evening in the Seeonee hills when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest. He scratched himself, then he yawned•, and he stretched• his paws one after the other to stop the sleepy feeling in their tips. Mother Wolf lay with her big grey nose dropped across her four noisy little cubs.

### SEEONEE HILLS


Is this a real place?

**WEB** Check online.



### GLOSSARY

---

- **barn:** building on a farm where animals sleep
- **claw:** thin sharp nails on an animal's foot
- **kite:** bird
- **Law:** official rules
- **pride:** feeling good about oneself
- **stretched:** held out straight
- **talon:** claw on a bird of prey 
- **yawned:** opened his mouth wide (when tired)

The moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived. 'Augrh!' said Father Wolf. 'It is time to hunt again.' He was going to run off down the hill when a little animal with a bushy tail came into the cave and whined: 'Good luck go with you, Oh Chief of the Wolves. And good luck and strong white teeth for your noble children. They must never forget the hungry in this world.'

It was the jackal – Tabaqui, the Plate-licker. The wolves of India hate Tabaqui because he runs about causing problems and telling tales. He eats things from the village rubbish heaps. But the village people are afraid of him, too. Because Tabaqui (more than anyone else in the jungle) can go mad. When Tabaqui goes mad, he is afraid of no one, and he runs through the forest biting everything in his way. Even the tiger runs and hides when little Tabaqui goes mad, because madness is the worst thing that can happen to a wild creature.



- **biting:** putting his teeth into
- **bushy:** (here) thick and untidy
- **cave:** hole in the side of a mountain
- **heaps:** large quantities of something
- **jackal:** (see picture on page 19)
- **shone:** gave out light
- **telling tales:** talking about others
- **whined:** made a high sound (see page 15)

‘Enter, then, and look,’ said Father Wolf. ‘There is no food here.’  
‘There is no food for a wolf,’ said Tabaqui. ‘But for a jackal like me, a bone is a good feast•. We are the Gidur-log (the jackal people). And we can’t pick and choose•!’ He ran to the back of the cave, where he found the bone of a deer with some meat on it. And he sat eating it up happily.



• **feast:** great meal

• **pick and choose:** decide what one wants and doesn't want


‘All thanks for this good meal,’ he said, licking his lips. ‘How beautiful are your noble children! How large are their eyes! And so young! The children of kings are men from the beginning.’

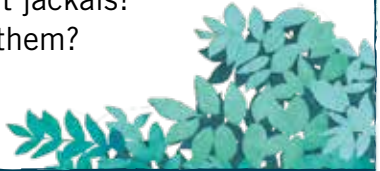
Now, Tabaqui knew as well as anyone else• that the most unlucky thing you can say is to compliment• children to their faces. It pleased him to see Mother and Father Wolf look uncomfortable.

Tabaqui sat still•, pleased with the problems he was causing. Then he said spitefully•: ‘Shere Khan, the Big One, has moved his hunting grounds•. He is going to hunt among these hills for the next moon, so he told me.’

### TABAQUI

- a Why do the wolves of India hate Tabaqui?
- b When are the wolves afraid of Tabaqui?
- c What unpleasant things does he say to Father Wolf?

 What do you know about jackals?  
What do you associate with them?  
Discuss with a partner.



### GLOSSARY

---

- **anyone else:** any other person
- **compliment:** say nice things about
- **his hunting grounds:** where he hunts
- **spitefully:** in a mean and unpleasant way
- **still:** not moving



Shere Khan was the tiger who lived near the Waingunga River, twenty miles away.

‘He has no right to do this!’ Father Wolf said angrily. ‘By the Law of the Jungle, he has no right to change his hunting grounds without warning• everyone. He is going to frighten• every animal within ten miles, and I have to kill for two, these days.’

‘Shere Khan’s mother did not call him Lungri (the Lame• One) for nothing,’ said Mother Wolf quietly. ‘He was born with one bad foot. That is why he only kills cattle•. Now the villagers of the Waingunga are angry with him, and he has come here to make our villagers angry. They are going to search for him all over the jungle. They are going to set fire to the grass.’



- **cattle:** cows
- **frighten:** make afraid/scared

- **lame:** who cannot walk well
- **warning:** telling about a possible danger

Then we and our children must run when the grass is burning. Oh yes, we are very grateful• to Shere Khan!

‘Do you want me to tell him of your gratitude•?’ asked Tabaqui.

‘Go out!’ snapped• Father Wolf. ‘Go out and hunt with your master. That is enough harm• for one night.’

‘I’m going,’ said Tabaqui quietly. ‘You can hear Shere Khan below in the bushes.’



- **grateful:** pleased because of what he did (here: said to mean the opposite)
- **gratitude:** thanks
- **harm:** damage; something that has a bad effect
- **snapped:** said angrily

Father Wolf listened. Below, in the valley that ran down to the river, he heard the dry, angry growl• of a hungry tiger. A hungry tiger who does not care• if all the jungle knows that he is there.

‘The fool•!’ said Father Wolf. ‘To begin a night’s work with that noise! Does he think that our animals are like• his fat cows from Waingunga?’

‘Hush. Be quiet. He is not hunting cows or other animals tonight,’ said Mother Wolf. ‘He is hunting man.’

The growl changed to a humming purr• that seemed to come from everywhere in the jungle. It was the noise that confuses woodcutters• and gypsies sleeping in the open•, and makes them run into the very mouth of the tiger.



- **does not care:** it is not important to him
- **fool:** stupid person or animal
- **growl:** angry sound (see page 15)
- **humming purr:** low sound a cat makes (see page 15)
- **in the open:** outside; not in a house
- **like:** (here) the same as
- **woodcutters:** people who cut trees, etc.

‘Man!’ said Father Wolf, showing all his fangs. ‘Faugh! Are there not enough frogs in the ponds that he must eat Man? And on our ground, too!’

The Law of the Jungle forbids all animals to eat Man, except when they are showing their children how to kill. Then the animal must hunt outside the hunting grounds of his pack or tribe. The real reason for this is that when you kill one man, sooner or later, more white men arrive on elephants, with guns, and hundreds of brown men walk beside them with drums and torches. Then everybody in the jungle suffers. There is another reason why animals don’t hunt man. Man is the weakest and most defenceless of all living things, and it is unsportsmanlike to touch him. Animals say, too – and it is true – that animals who eat man become mangy, and lose their teeth.

## THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

What does the Law of the Jungle say about man?



With a partner, discuss other possible Laws of the Jungle.

- 
- **forbids:** does not allow
  - **frogs:**



- **mangy:** with spots and holes in their fur

- **torch:**
- **unsportsmanlike:** not right to kill him because he is too weak
- **weakest:** least strong





The purr grew louder, and ended in the terrible ‘Raarh!’ of the tiger’s charge•.

Then there was a howl• from Shere Khan. ‘He missed•,’ said Mother Wolf. ‘What is it?’

Father Wolf ran out and heard Shere Khan muttering• savagely• as he fell into the bushes.

‘The fool is so silly that he jumped at a woodcutter’s fire and he burned his feet,’ said Father Wolf with a grunt•. ‘Tabaqui is with him.’

‘Something is coming up the hill,’ said Mother Wolf, twitching• one ear. ‘Get ready.’

The bushes rustled• a little in the thicket•, and Father Wolf dropped with his back legs under him, ready for his jump. Then, the most wonderful thing happened. Father Wolf stopped in the middle of his jump. He jumped before he saw what he was jumping at, and then he tried to stop himself. The result was that he jumped straight up into the air for four or five feet, and came down almost where he left the ground.

‘Man!’ he snapped. ‘A man cub. Look.’

## MAN CUB

What is a man cub?



Tell a partner what you think.

## GLOSSARY

---

- **charge:** attack
- **grunt:** low sound made when one is unhappy or not interested
- **howl:** sound (see page 15)
- **missed:** did not catch
- **muttering:** talking quickly in a low voice
- **rustled:** (of leaves) made noise
- **savagely:** in a wild way
- **thicket:** group of bushes
- **twitching:** moving



Directly in front of him, holding on by a low branch•, stood a naked• brown baby. He was small and soft. He looked up into Father Wolf's face, and laughed.

'Is that a man cub?' asked Mother Wolf. 'I have never seen one. Bring it here.'

A wolf can, if necessary, hold an egg in his mouth without breaking it. And although Father Wolf's jaws• closed down on the child's back, he did not even scratch• his skin as he laid• him down among the wolf cubs.

## GLOSSARY

---

• **branch:**



- **jaws:** bones of mouth
- **laid:** put; placed
- **naked:** with no clothes; nude
- **scratch:** break; cut

‘How little! How naked! And how brave!’ said Mother Wolf softly. The baby was moving between the cubs to get close to their warm skin. ‘Aha! He is taking his meal with the others. And so this is a man cub. Now, was there ever a wolf that could say she had a man cub among her children?’

‘In the past, I heard of such a thing<sup>•</sup>, but never in our pack, or in my time,’ said Father Wolf. ‘He is without hair, and I could kill him with a touch of my foot. But see, he looks up, and he is not afraid.’

### THE MAN CUB

- a** How do Father and Mother Wolf react to the man cub?
  - b** How does the man cub react to the wolves?
  - c** What do you think is going to happen next?  
Tick (✓).
- 
- The wolves take the man cub to his village.
  - The wolves accept the man cub as their own child.
  - The wolves attack the man cub and kill him.



---

• **of such a thing:** of a thing like this

## AFTER READING VOCABULARY

---

### 1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

farewell    pleasant    prime    nature  
coward    bull    twilight    twice

- a 'It's time for me to go to men. But first, first I must say ..... to my mother.'
- b Someone who doesn't have any courage is called a .....
- c Mowgli remembers fire as being warm and .....
- d The soft light of the ..... is caused by the sun's rays below the horizon.
- e Mother Wolf was not called The Demon because of her friendly .....

### 2 Write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

### 3 Choose the correct prepositions from the box to complete the sentences.

onto    from    across    through    on    among    in

- a Mother Wolf lay with her big grey nose dropped ..... her four little cubs.
- b We can imagine the wonderful life that Mowgli led ..... the wolves.
- c The growl changed to a humming purr that seemed to come ..... everywhere in the jungle.
- d Mother Wolf had the advantage: she was ..... her home ground.
- e 'Every dog barks ..... his own yard.'
- f At first, Mowgli hung ..... the branch like an insect, but then he learned to jump ..... the branches almost as boldly as the grey ape.

## **K** A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

### **1** Read the sentences and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1 'What is the Law of the Jungle? Strike first ..... then talk.'  
**A** and                      **B** better                      **C** but
- 2 'We are the jackal people. And we can't ..... and choose.'  
**A** pick                      **B** take                      **C** come
- 3 The trap was so ..... hidden that Mowgli nearly walked into it.  
**A** very                      **B** much                      **C** well
- 4 They were going to ..... fire to the grass.  
**A** give                      **B** set                      **C** get
- 5 'Tell them in the jungle never ..... forget me!'  
**A** they                      **B** will                      **C** to
- 6 The wolves began to gather round Shere Kahn, ..... tail was beginning to move.  
**A** whose                      **B** which                      **C** its
- 7 'Do I have to stand nosing ..... your dog's den for my food?'  
**A** on                      **B** into                      **C** for
- 8 'I know I have no right to speak here, but I ask your ..... to speak.'  
**A** permission                      **B** permit                      **C** allowance
- 9 Bagheera killed right and ..... when he felt hungry.  
**A** wrong                      **B** then                      **C** left
- 10 'It is certain that I must die. My life is ..... no worth.'  
**A** of                      **B** with                      **C** by
- 11 Tabaqui sat ....., pleased with the problems he was causing.  
**A** quiet                      **B** on                      **C** still